Individual Report

MSc in Intensive Livestock Health and Production (Distance Learning), 2013/14

Ms Carole Brizuela

The Programme

Please comment, as appropriate, on the following aspects of the programme:

1.1 Course content

The course content in the PgC award seems highly appropriate for those working in this sector of the livestock industry and allows them to reflect on the input of various members of the food production chain into these systems and expand on their own roles.

Response from college requested: NO

1.2 Learning objectives, and the extent to which they were met

These are appropriate for the modules observed and were met using the assessment methods within the modules.

Response from college requested: NO

1.3 Teaching methods

The mode of delivery by distance learning allows this course to be accessed by people in industry which provides an excellent opportunity for them to expand their professional roles and apply the material taught directly to their employment.

Response from college requested: NO

1.4 Resources (in so far as they affected the assessment)

not applicable

Response from college requested: NO

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

It will be good to see students moving on to complete the PgD / MSc in the future.

Response from college requested: NO

Student performance

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

2.1 Students' performance in relation to those at a similar stage on comparable courses in other institutions, where this is known to you

The students have performed well / satisfactorily and are demonstrating reflection and evaluation at level 7.

Response from college requested: NO

2.2 Quality of candidates' knowledge and skills, with particular reference to those at the top, middle or bottom of the range

It is not possible to comment on this aspect due to the small numbers who undertook module assessment this year.

Response from college requested: NO

2.3 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the students' performance

At the Exam Board meeting and on written feedback when approving exam scripts I did comment that I thought the duration of the written examinations for two of the modules (1 hour duration; two essays to complete)in the PgC award was too short to allow students to develop a good answer at level 7. On scrutiny of the examination papers I did note that some of the answers were very superficial and perfunctory. The College may wish to consider whether this format is disadvantaging performance.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Prof Stephen May

Course Director Response:

The general feeling of the Examinations Board was that we did not want to excessively time limit candidates. Therefore we would be happy in principle to extend the length of time allowed for the essay paper. This could be usefully discussed at CMC and checked for consistency with the other Masters programmes at the RVC.

Action Required:

To be discussed at CMC

Action Deadline:

31st December 2014

Action assigned to:

Mandy Nevel/Paul Charlesworth

Assessment Process

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

The assignments set for the modules are allowing students to meet the learning objectives.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.2 Extent to which assessment processes are rigorous

It is clear that the assignments / exams are being second marked.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.3 Consistency of the level of assessment with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

I am satisfied this is being met.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.4 Standard of marking

The markers are using the Common Grading scheme well. I personally think the marking scheme awards a higher level of mark than I considered appropriate for the some of the written exam answers I read. It is slightly strange that the descriptors used for awarding marks are common to both MSc and FdSc awards.

Response from college requested: **NO**

These comments will be fed back to the examiners. The Common Grading Scheme is designed to be used at all levels of study with examiners interpreting the descriptors appropriately.

3.5 Opinion on changes to the assessment process from previous years in which you have examined

not applicable

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.6 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the assessment process

No comment.

Response from college requested: NO

COURSE DIRECTOR: Prof Stephen May

Course Director Response:

Why requested?

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

4.1 In your view, are the processes for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted?

Yes

Response from college requested: NO

4.2 Opinion on changes to the procedures from previous years in which you have examined

It was excellent to see extensive feedback on the assessments for People in the System. This is extremely helpful for guiding external examiners in assessing where/why those that teach the module are awarding marks given.

Response from college requested: NO

4.3 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Can all exam scripts please be made available for scrutiny.

Response from college requested: YES

COURSE DIRECTOR: Prof Stephen May

Course Director Response:

This is standard practice. On this occasion, one set of scripts was unavailable.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

General Statements

5.1 Comments I have made in previous years have been addressed to my satisfaction

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.2 An acceptable response has been made

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.4 I was able to scrutinise an adequate sample of students' work and marks to enable me to carry out my duties

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.5 I attended the meeting of the Board of Examiners held to approve the results of the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.7 The standards set for the awards are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.8 The standards of student performance are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.10 I have received sufficient information to carry out my role (where information was insufficient, please give details)

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.12 The processes for assessment and the determination of awards are sound

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

Completion

If you have identified any areas of good practice, please comment more fully here. We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:

Do you have any suggestions for improvements based on experience at other institutes? We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:

As mentioned previously the extensive feedback comments on assignments and written exam scripts in particular for the People in the System module was extremely good practice. Whether by coincidence or design the linking of the assignments throughout the PgC where students built on their previously submitted work to evaluate and expand on the systems they work with was very good practice. It allowed them to consider areas of their industry in some detail where procedures and processes could be improved.

Response from college requested: **NO**

External Examiner comments: For College information only (Responses to External Examiners are published on the College's website. Please only use this box to add any comments that you wish to remain confidential, if any)

Response from college requested: **NO**