

Minutes, Board meeting 16-17 May 2023, Hótel Kríunes

In attendance: Andrée Sursock (Chair), Crichton Lang, Ellen Hazelkorn, Philip Winn, Riitta Pyykkö, Liv Teresa Muth, Ólöf Gerður Sigfúsdóttir, Þorgerður Edda Hall (Minutes).

Guests:

Members of the Quality Council (17 May 13:00-14:45): Alexandra Ýr van Erven, Edda Matthíasdóttir, Guðmunda Smáradóttir, Guðrún Ragna Hreinsdóttir, Kolbrún Lára Kjartansdóttir, Lydía Geirsdóttir, Katrín Frímansdóttir, Sigríður Geirsdóttir, Skúli Skúlason, Sóley Björt Guðmundsdóttir.

Student focus groups (16 May 10:00-12:15): Names not disclosed. No = 9.

Observers (17 May, 15:00-16:00): Alexandra Ýr van Erven, Kolbrún Lára Kjartansdóttir

Apologies received: Vaka Óttarsdóttir

Tuesday 16 May 9:00-12:00, Private meeting

The meeting convened at 9:00 at Hótel Kríunes

(1) Approval of the agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without modifications.

(2) Approval of the Minutes of February, March and April 2023 meetings

The minutes of the last Board meetings in February, March and April 2023 were adopted without modifications.

(3) Update on the Secretariat and the Board

The following updates were provided:

- i. ÓGS visited the ENQA Member Forum in Tbilisi.
- ii. Upcoming activities and tasks of the Secretariat are i.e., a gap-analysis for full ENQA membership, FINEEC visit in June, records management system implementation.
- iii. Membership update on the Board: Elsa Nunez will join the Board from September 2023 and Andrea Nolan and Jean-Marc Rapp from January 2024 (possibly joining the November meeting as observers). Andrea Nolan will take over as REAC Chair when she joins the Board.

(4) Update on QEF2 and annual meetings

- i. SLR delivery:
 - a. UNAK has delivered SLR for Nursing. SLR for Occupational Therapy has been postponed until May.
 - b. HU postponed delivery of SLRs for the department of Rural Tourism from autumn 2022 until August 2023, and the department of Aquaculture and Fish Biology from autumn 2022 until June 2023. SLR for the department Equine Science is due spring 2023 but will be postponed until autumn 2023.

- c. UI will deliver SLR for Management of Research in the School of Education in June 2023.
- ii. Delivery of Year-on reports before annual meeting in 2023: IUA (November), UNAK (November), UI (September).
- iii. RU will deliver a Mid-term report before the annual meeting in 2023 (September).
- iv. AUI IWR report has been published on the QB website.

(5) Annual conference update

50 participants had registered for the conference on the following day. The format will consist of an interactive session with short presentations by the three speakers followed by a chaired discussion. This will be followed by discussion groups which participants have signed up for, followed by a plenary feedback session at the end.

(6) IFS Review update

(7) Preparation of focus group discussion with students

A brief overview of the programme was provided.

(8) Focus groups with students

A brief welcome was made by CL, followed by a presentation on QA by LTM. LÍs representatives chaired discussions with students on their role in QA. Main points from discussions were shared with the Board at the end of the session. LÍs will also share the outcomes of discussions with the QC.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15

Wednesday 17 May 9:00-12:30, Private meeting

Meeting reconvened at 9:00

(9) Towards QEF3

13:00 – 14:45 Meeting with Quality Council

Members of the QC joined the meeting at 13:00

(10) Stakeholder discussion on QEF3

- i. A draft of the QEF3 timeline 2024-2029 was presented. The QEF3 launch, including the publication of the handbook and other supportive material online, is to be foreseen in March 2024, with the first IWR in spring 2025. Sequence of HEIs will be negotiated with each institution.
- ii. Presentation of key aspects of change in the QEF. Themes I-IV, the concept of *what 'good' looks like statements* along with indicative questions, as well as suggested phrasing of review outcomes.
- iii. Guidance and expectations for IQA will be set out by the QB but specific approaches will not be prescribed – the approaches taken to IQA will be in the hands of the HEIs (the QB will no longer monitor the SLRs as in QEF2). Instead, it is proposed that annual quality monitoring will take place through Annual Quality Dialogues, but these will not lead to any formal judgements.
- iv. Main points of feedback from the QC:

- a. There were some concerns about the timeline being too short for the first HEIs to prepare for their IWRs in spring 2025. Particularly considering the introduction of THEMES II and III as part of the judgement conclusion.
- b. Questions were raised about the *conditions*: How many will there be? How many for an institution to pass and how many conditions are too many not to pass?
- c. Some institutions were concerned about whether there is enough time for the HEIs to 'adapt' their IQA schedule to the QEF3 ahead of their next IWR (institutions having in the past aligned the processes to run directly into each other within the cycle).

Members of the QC left the meeting at 14:45

15:00-16:00 Public meeting

Observers (KLK and AÝE) joined the meeting

(11) Mutual updates

- i. Update from LÍS:
 - a. LÍS is involved with process on revising the student loan system.
 - b. LÍS has hired a student for the summer who will work on looking at experiences of student parents.
 - c. LÍS is concerned about the effects of shortening the upper-secondary school and would like to see an evaluation of how this has affected pupils and their transition into becoming higher education students.
 - d. LÍS is advocating for more funding for the HE system.
- ii. Update was provided on the new Board members coming in during the next few months (Elsa Nunez in September, as well as Andrea Nolan and Jean-Marc Rapp in beginning of 2024).

(12) REAC agenda and minutes

- i. An update was provided on the last REAC meeting which took place 15 May.
- ii. IRIS update.
- iii. Changes in the funding model for universities: Brief discussion about the Ministry's plans to use information from IRIS in funding model (such as impact factors and open access).
- iv. PW's discussion paper about capturing societal impact of research was well received. REAC members agree that universities need to make sure that all staff, students and stakeholders have a shared understanding of the concept. The template for capturing societal impact of research was well received and will be piloted by UI and possibly by IUA. This will provide a good comparison.

Observers left the meeting at 16:00

16:00-17:00 Private meeting

(13) AOB

- i. QEF3 discussion continued and next steps.

Meeting adjourned at 17:00