

NAQA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2021

Present:

Advisory Board members. Alison Johns, Tricia Bertram Gallant, Ian Welch, Irine Darchia, Jean-Hugues Chauchat, Lennart Stähle, Olgun Cicek, Tomáš Foltýnek, Zbigniew Marciniak.

NAQA representatives: Nataliia Stukalo, Iryna Zolotaryova, Mykyta Yevstifeiev, Kateryna Kunytska, Albina Tsiatkovska.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Declaration of any business interests and conflicts of interest pertinent to the agenda
3. Any urgent matters to be considered for inclusion under any other business
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Agreement of Terms of Reference
6. Comments from pre reading of NAQA Self Assessment report
7. Receive comments from NAQA regarding prospective ENQA application
8. Receive schedule from NAQA of upcoming topics for discussion
9. Clarification of agreed actions
10. Any other business

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

All AB members are present at the meeting.

2. Declaration of any business interests and conflicts of interest pertinent to the agenda

No declarations.

3. Any urgent matters to be considered for inclusion under any other business

Nataliia Stukalo declared her intention to update the AB members on the results of Parliament hearings that were held on March 11, 2021.

Jan Welch proposed to include the discussion on the way of working with the Bill On academic integrity to “Any other business” point.

5. Agreement of Terms of Reference

AB members expressed their comments and suggestions on TOR.

Decided to amend the article on the duties of the AB, stating the role of AB to “support NAQA in the delivery of” instead of “establish”.

AB Chair and Vice-Chair set the agenda.

NAQA is responsible for the operational side on call for the meeting.

Quorum is set in the Regulations (at least half of AB members).

By mutual agreement AB members and/or NAQA may invite additional experts to discuss particular issues if needed.

Short minutes have to be published after each AB meeting on NAQA website.

AB members aims to reach a compromise while deciding different issues, however if there is a disagreement, all the existing opinions should be published in the minutes as a part of AB advice.

Jan Welch will make appropriate amendments and circulate

6. Comments from pre reading of NAQA Self Assessment Report

AB members expressed their comments and suggestions on NAQA SAR. SAR is a big and complicated document, very important for analysing NAQA activity.

Those of AB members who have not manage to go through the SAR will do it near time and leave their comments.

It is important that NAQA sets a number of priorities coming from the SAR for AB to concentrate their work on.

NAQA will summarise and consider AB members comments after all comments will be received and then plan the future activity regarding issues raised in the SAR.

7. Receive comments from NAQA regarding prospective ENQA application

Nataliia Stukalo reported on the steps NAQA plans to accomplish in order to apply for ENQA full membership. During 2020 NAQA will carry forward legislative changes to make up NAQA Appeal Committee consistent with ENQA requirements, to include international experts in NAQA expert groups.

Nataliia Stukalo told AB members about the debates in Parliament regarding one year accreditation, challenges, advantages, disadvantages and perspectives. She said that the meeting was successful as the discussion was constructive and the participants outlined the main problems they will focus on.

The three main priorities are: institutional accreditation; law On Academic Integrity; accreditation of independent evaluation agencies in Ukraine.

AB members decided to divide in groups according to the three priorities. Each group will work separately and demonstrate their results on each AB meeting. However, each AB member may additionally work on every issue. NAQA will appoint one representative for each working group.

Institutional accreditation (Olgun Cicek, Irine Darchia, Zbigniew Marciniak);

Law “On Academic Integrity” (Tomáš Foltýnek, Tricia Bertram Gallant, Jean-Hugues Chauchat);

Accreditation of independent evaluation organisation in Ukraine (Alison Johns, Ian Welch, Lennart Stähle).

NAQA will form email groups for communication of AB subgroups.

8. Receive schedule from NAQA of upcoming topics for discussion

Three topics were outlined above. Each subgroup will report on the progress at each meeting.

9. Clarification of agreed actions

Ian Welch will circulate the amended TOR.

Each AB will take another look on SAR and leave comments.

NAQA will convey the subgroups.

The subgroups will report on each meeting.

10. Any other business

It is useful to have NAQA representatives during the meeting.

Mykyta Yevstifeiev outlined one more issue that may be discussed within AB – PhD reform. As soon as NAQA will know that the draft law passed in the Parliament NAQA would notify the AB that this issue needs to be included to the next meeting agenda.

Next meeting:

Date: TBC. A poll is sent to all Advisory Board members.

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