Information Technology in External Quality Assurance

Heather Kirkwood
Deputy Director
Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities

AQA | Academic Quality Agency For New Zealand Universities

Te Pokapū Kounga Mātauranga mō ngā Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa

New Zealand case studies – but global themes

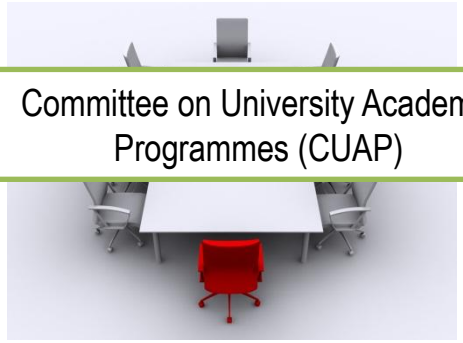
1. Autonomy
   - of institutions
   - of individuals
2. Dynamic information
   - versus static review
   - archival requirements
3. Cost-benefit
4. Change management
5. Training and capability
6. Security (of information)

Education Act 1989

AUT University | University of Auckland | University of Waikato | Massey University | Victoria University of Wellington | Lincoln University | University of Canterbury | University of Otago

TE PŌKAI TARA
UNIVERSITIES
NEW ZEALAND

Board of AQA



Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP)

AQA | Academic QualityAgency For New Zealand Universities

Te Pokapū Kounga Mātauranga mō ngā Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa

Undertakes academic programme approval

Undertakes regular institutional audits

Characteristics

1. Small system
2. Collectively self-accrediting, based on peer-review
3. Mature institutions
4. Stable model for external quality assurance (20+ years)

Responding to change: IT

- Need to respond to change coming from external and internal drivers
- Opportunities aplenty, including:
  - Transparency
  - Efficiency
- But also challenges – particularly associated with making change in an existing, mature system of QA

New Zealand case studies – but global themes

1. Autonomy
   - Of institutions and systems
   - Of individuals (preferences, BYOD)
2. Dynamic information
   - Versus static review
   - Archival requirements
3. Cost-benefit
4. Change management
   - Impact of increased transparency
5. Training and capability
6. Security (of information)

How are we responding to this?

1. Different approaches:
   - CUAP
   - AQA
2. Stage by stage, with consultation
3. Respecting preferences and autonomy where possible
4. Development of protocols – clarifying purpose and expectations
5. Learning from others

Thank you

Heather Kirkwood

comms@aqa.ac.nz

www.aqa.ac.nz