

# **Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)**

## **Note of meeting of 05 September 2022**

*via*

### **Microsoft Teams**

- Present: Barbara Brittingham (Chair); Brendan O’Dea; Seán Rowland; Mary Meaney; Gerard Morgan; Alex Keys (Key Executive)
- Apologies: Mary Danagher, Mark Kane
- In attendance: Michelle Gallagher (QQI), Laura McNamee (QQI – Observer), Laura Flynn (QQI – Item 8.1)

#### **1. Minutes of meeting of 17 December 2021**

The minutes of the PAOC meeting on the 17 December 2021 were AGREED.

#### **2. Conflict of Interest**

One conflict of interest was noted and discussed. Gerard Morgan excused himself from the meeting for Item 3.1.3.

#### **3. Negative Decisions taken by the PAEC on Programme Validation for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC**

##### **3.1 Validation Refusals**

###### **3.1.1 Dublin Business School**

- 3.1.1.1 PG24799, Master of Science in Supply Chain Management, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits
- PG24803, Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Supply Chain Management, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits (Exit Award) *(PAOC/A1-2022/3.1.1.1)*

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC’s decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

### 3.1.2 IBAT College

- 3.1.2.1 PG24538, Certificate in Digital Transformation for Organisations, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credit  
PG24537, Certificate in Cyber Security for Managers, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 30 Credit  
PG24536, Certificate in Digital Marketing Management, Level 7, Special Purpose Award, 25 Credit (PAOC/A1-2022/3.1.2.1)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

### 3.1.3 Independent Colleges

- 3.1.3.1 PG24643, Master of Science in Digital Marketing, Level 9, Major Award, 90 Credits (PAOC/A1-2022/3.1.3.1)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

## 4. Oral Report of PAOC representations at PAEC meetings

*Brendan O'Dea (10 February 2022 PAEC), Mary Meaney (14 July 2022 PAEC)*

Brendan O'Dea represented the PAOC at the PAEC meeting of 10 February 2022.

Specific points that Brendan noted:

- Long meeting, exceeding three and a half hours
- Good meeting – went well, Chaired very well
- Steady stream of discussion, all items got attention
- Issues discussed at sectorial level
- Impressive, through and detailed explanations
- Committee has in-depth knowledge
- A lot of work done by the QA Awards unit, and it's a credit to the team

Suggestion:

- Recommend exploring possibility of having an external observer at PAEC meeting for transparency.

Mary Meaney represented the PAOC at the PAEC meeting of 14 July 2022.

Specific points that Mary noted:

- Concur with colleague points
- Professional meeting
- Impressive workload to get through

5. **Statistical Overview of Validation Process in 2021**  
(PAOC/A1-2022/5)

The Key Executive introduced the item and gave a brief overview of the paper. The item was discussed. The committee raised an error on the paper. It was agreed that this error would be corrected.

6. **Draft PAOC Annual Report to Board 2021 (for approval)**  
(PAOC/A1-2022/6)

The Key Executive introduced the item and gave a brief overview of the paper. The item was discussed. The committee requested an additional point commending the strength of the panel compositions be added to the paper. It was agreed that once this point was included, the paper will be presented to the QQI Board at its next scheduled meeting.

7. **Draft Annual Self-Assessment Evaluation 2021 (for approval)**  
(PAOC/A1-2022/7)

The Key Executive introduced the item and gave a brief overview of the paper. The item was discussed. In response to a query raised in the feedback regarding the need for the sub-committee in place of an appeals process, the Key Executive confirmed that there is a separate appeals process which can occur after the PAOC's decision. The Key Executive gave an in-depth overview of the QQI appeals process, and the purpose of the PAOC in the governance of QQI. A committee member suggested that a review of QQI's governance systems be undertaken to ensure that the process does not become overly bureaucratic.

It was agreed that this paper will be presented to the QQI Board at its next scheduled meeting.

8. **Matters Arising from the Minutes –**

8.1 **QQI Anniversary Conference – Verbal Update**

Laura Flynn was introduced to give a verbal update on the upcoming QQI conference. A brief overview of the plans for the QQI conference was presented, and the session leaders and speakers were discussed. The committee thanked Laura for the presentation and her time.

9. **Any Other Business**

It was noted that the executive would be in touch to confirm the next PAOC meeting.

It was noted that this was the last scheduled meeting in the appointed term of the office for Committee member Gerard Morgan.

The committee member thanked the Chair and Secretariat for the support over his term and reiterated the above point that it might be useful to review the QQI governance systems to ensure they do not become overly bureaucratic.

The Chair, committee members and Key Executive extended thanks and appreciation to the committee member whose term in office is ending.

As there was no other business, the meeting ended.