State Council of Quality (SCQ)
Agenda SCQ Meeting 117
Date: 20.09.2023
Regular Meeting
Time: 08:30

Meeting minutes

Present in the meeting:

Hasnije Ilazi – President
Klemen Miklavic – Vice President
Maja Martinovic - Member
Gezim Tosuni – Member
Jaakko Kauko – Member
Naim Gashi – member ex-officio
Arianit Krasniqi – KAA staff

1. Approval of agenda

   It was suggested to add a point on ENQA progress visit under *others*.

   After including the extra item, the agenda was approved with all votes in favour.

2. Approval of minutes of SCQ meetings 111, 112, 113, 116

   Regarding minutes of SCQ meeting 111, SCQ was informed that the two previous SCQ members who were present in the meeting have agreed with the content of the minutes. Based on this information, SCQ approved minutes of meeting 111 with 4 votes in favour.

   Regarding minutes of SCQ meetings 112 and 113 which took place while SCQ did not have quorum, following the opinion by the legal officer that those were statutory meetings and no decisions were made, therefore they can be approved, SCQ approved them with all votes in favour.

   Minutes of SCQ meeting 116 were approved with all votes in favour.

3. Approval of evaluation reports for programme accreditation

   AAB College: Study programme German Language – Translation and Interpretation BA 180 ECTS: The expert report rekomended 3-year accreditation with a student quota of 80 per academic year. SCQ approved the report with all votes in favour.

   SCQ suggested that in the agenda for the November meeting we include a point to discuss the plan of work for the next year and avoid situations where we have to approve reports after the start of the academic year.

4. Revision of monitoring reports

There were two monitoring reports postponed from the last meeting (UBT college and University of Mitrovica), because they lacked the names of people who were met during the monitoring visit. After the list of persons was added to the report, they were presented again to the SCQ and they were approved with all votes in favour.

5. Requests

5.1. University of Mitrovica, request for replacement of programme holder

The request was to replace a programme holder who is retired. After reviewing all documentation, SCQ decided to reject the request on the grounds that the person who was assigned by the institution to replace the retired programme holder was not in the field of the study programme. In addition, he is already a programme holder in another study programme, and removing him from this position would constitute breach of accreditation standards in an already accredited programme.

5.2. UP Faculty of Philology, request for replacement of programme holder

The request was to shift 23 programme holders across 11 study programmes. The reasons for this changes were mainly due to the establishment of two new study programmes, but also due to termination of contract and retirement.

After long discussion SCQ agreed that the council policy is to accept program holder changes during an accreditation period for only very forcing reasons, typically retirement or resigning of programme holders. SCQ suggested that changes for other reasons must take place only when accreditation is renewed.

Based on this discussion, SCQ approved two points of the request for replacement of two retired programme holders, and all other points of the request were rejected.

5.3. University of Prizren, request to withdraw programme holder

This request was submitted only in Albanian, SCQ decided to postpone the request and as the institution to send it in the English version.

5.4. UP Faculty of Economics, request for replacement of programme holder

The request was for shifting 3 programme holders between two study programmes. The request was rejected on the grounds that the proposed programme holders were already assigned in other study programmes and moving them would constitute breach of accreditation standards.

5.5. University of Prizren, request for replacement of programme holder

This request was submitted only in Albanian, SCQ decided to postpone the request and as the institution to send it in the English version.

5.6. UP Faculty of Medicine, request for replacement of programme holder

This request was to replace a programme holder in the study programme Preclinical Medicine PhD who was retired. SCQ approved the request with all votes in favour.

5.7. Request by mr. Astrit Kuqi, request to withdraw programme holder

SCQ decided to ask the institution to provide additional information and clarification related to this issue.

5.8. Request by mr. Alban Maliqi, request for interpretation of professional profile

SCQ decided to respond to mr. Maliqi explaining that the request must come from the institution and that SCQ evaluates programmes as a whole and not individuals staff.

5.9. Request by mr. Avni Alidemaj, request for interpretation of professional profile

SCQ decided to respond to mr. Alidemaj explaining that the request must come from the institution and that SCQ evaluates programmes as a whole and not individuals staff.

6. Establishing the working group for development of bylaws that derive from the KAA

The working group for development of bylaws for KAA consisting of 10 members was approved with all votes in favour. Working groups consists of representatives form SCQ, KAA, Appeals Committee, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Rectors' Conference, UPCO Cluster institute and the Civil Society.

7. Notifications

7.1. Notification on withdrawal from programme holder

Since this notification was sent by the programme holder himself, SCQ decided to ask the institution to provide additional information and clarification related to this issue.

7.2. Notification regarding a case of plagiarism

SCQ considered that this is a case for the ethics committee of the higher education institution, however it was decided to inform the institution that KAA is aware of this issue and suggests the institution to address it in line with their internal procedures.

8. Information on list of experts

The list of experts was presented to the SCQ. The new list has been organised in groups according to ESAC codes whereby SCQ members could see in which areas KAA needs more experts to cover this year's accreditation procedure.

9. Appeals

There was one appeal for which SCQ agreed to pass it to the Appeals Committee.

10. Other

Discussion regarding ENQA progress visit to KAA

On this point SCQ discussed about the ENQA progress visit to KAA which took place on 11 October 2023. SCQ members expressed their concerns related to the organization of the visit, specifically regarding the agenda and the meetings. It was pointed out that the agenda was not prepared with due diligence and that the timing of the meetings was not respected, therefore there were prolongations and delays of meetings which caused some participants to wait for hours before entering in the meetings.

SCQ suggested that a joint meeting is organised where SCQ and KAA staff could discuss on the ways how to avoid such shortcomings in the organization of events in the future.

Minute keeper   Prof. Asoc. Dr. Hasnije Ilazi,
Arianit Krasniqi   President State Council of Quality

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