EXTERNAL REFERENCING OF STANDARDS (E.R.O.S.) PROJECT

Simon Bedford
Assessment and Feedback, Learning, Teaching and Curriculum, University of Wollongong.

Peter Czech
Senior Policy Manager, Office of the Dean, Learning and Teaching, RMIT University.

Higher Education Compliance and Quality Network
Emeritus Professor Kwong Lee Dow AO is the Patron of HECQN
TEAM

Simon Bedford  
UOW

Peter Czech  
RMIT

Jon Yorke  
Curtin

Judith Smith  
QUT

Toni Ward, Tori Funnell, Lotte Latukefu, Verity Morgan, Lesley Sefcik, Subject Coordinators, Academic Quality and Standards etc.
TEQSA standards require external referencing and benchmarking activities to evidence quality assurance and quality enhancement - HES Framework.

Influence of league tables ranking universities

Focus on quality of university programs nationally through several OLT funded projects (Kerri-Lee Krause 2014)

Initiatives already underway in the Group of Eight Verification (QVS) and Innovative Research Universities (e.g. Dr Sara Booth UTAZ)

Current work is a collaboration between RMIT, Curtin University, QUT, and the University of Wollongong to establish a external referencing process.
THE PROCESS

- **Design Stage**
  - Several face-to-face & online meetings of key stakeholders to establish the process.
  - Timeline & milestones
  - Referencing Framework (reviewers & reviewees)
  - Supporting Documentation (e.g. sampling work, glossary)

- **Implementation Stage**
  - Memorandum of understanding
  - Institutional Stakeholder engagement strategy (Call for E.O.I)
  - “Matchmaking” – triangulation of programs
  - Referencing of standards and reporting

- **Evaluation and Review Stage**
- Pilot Phase - validating our process of external referencing
- Assessments that assure PLO’s (avoiding capstones)
- Spring Session 2015 (300 or 400 level units)
- Sharing of unit outlines and initial staff meeting to check matching and expertise.
- Assembling Assessment Pack & Collecting student work at various grade boundaries.
- Completing draft frameworks, sharing of information, online discussions, finalisation of reports.

TRIANGULATION
INSIGHTS

- Shared Language
  - Glossary
  - Guides
- Sharing of student work
  - Redaction
  - Non Simple
- Communication
  - Triad Coordination
  - Centralised management
  - Data collection for evaluation

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**External Referencing of Standards (EROS) project**

**Selection of student work examples:**

**Example 1**

University X has five grade bands within their institution, as follows:

- High Distinction 80-100
- Distinction 75-79
- Credit 60-69
- Pass 50-59
- Fail 0-49

Unit X has the following distribution of marks for the final assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Grade Band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example 2**

University Y also has five grade bands, but with different boundaries compared with University X:

- High Distinction 85-100
- Distinction 75-79
- Credit 65-74
- Pass 50-64
- Fail 0-49

Unit Y has the following distribution of marks for the final assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade Band</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**

Program: Program / Course (collection of units of study leading to an award or qualification)

Unit: Unit / Subject / Course (individual unit of study)

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Fred Blogg
Evaluation methodology is divided into two parts:
- Evaluation of the academic methodology for QA & QE
- Templates to track the time input of staff undertaking the external reference work
PROCESS EVALUATION

- Important to establish the cost of the process and hence efficiency and sustainability?

- Universities participating in the pilot have a total number of programs ranging between 250 and 500.

- We have agreed to an honorarium of $600 per program review to help establish and evaluate the process.

- However, then it would become “business as usual” and be rolled into workload; for a University reviewing 50 programs per year this would have costs.
My University web site shows there are ~7000 U/G programs, and ~7000 P/G

This indicates the scale of activity nationally and the amount of work required.

Even with the most efficient process it will be a substantial undertaking.

How will the various initiatives like EROS and those past and future be integrated together and built upon?
We must do the works of Eros, when Eros is not present.... And all good people know that this programme, modest as it sounds, will not be carried out except by humility, charity and divine grace; C.S. Lewis 1960