

Quality Management Directorate (QMD) going virtual with the Departmental Quality Improvement Plans (DQIPs)

Introduction

The Quality Management Directorate is excited to introduce its initiative to start working SMART in conducting validations for the Departmental Quality Improvement Plans (DQIPs). In line with the Covid-19 regulations, this process will eliminate the physical contact meeting with HoDs.

DQIP validation is done in academic departments to assess their progress towards the quality improvement activities needed for their department. The activities and progress needed are planned and monitored through the departmental quality improvement plan and the actual progress attained is validated by QMD in a meeting between the HoD and a QMD representative. In the past this engagement was conducted physically in each of the academic departments and each validation took two to three hours. HoDs and some academic staff were required to be physically present and the QMD representatives drove between academic departments and campuses during a three-week period. QMD believes the virtual process will run more efficiently and more cost effective. As the departments are still required to produce their evidence during the virtual engagement, it is considered that this will be done without compromising the integrity of the validation process.

Quality Improvement is one of the cornerstones of quality management, it is conducted in order to institutionalise a quality culture and to provide for better quality than existed previously.

The first cycle of the virtual DQIP validation will commence from 08 March 2021 to 19 March 2021. QMD will thereafter conduct the analysis of DQIPs in preparation for the meeting with Faculty Deans to give feedback on progress made in addressing areas in need of improvement and then a final report will serve at the Quality Assurance & Risk Management (QARM) committee meeting scheduled for 04 May 2021. QARM is a joint committee of Senate and Council.

The Directorate is enthusiastic to be embarking in this initiative during the 2021 academic year and invites academic departments to share in the enthusiasm.

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