**REPORT ON VISIT BY DIRECTOR QAC-UGC TO**

**WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA, 2019**

Prof Nilanthi de Silva, Director, QAC-UGC, visited the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka on 4 September 2019 to participate in meetings on quality assurance related activities in the University. Arrangements were facilitated by Prof Renuka Silva, Director, Internal Quality Assurance Unit.

The first meeting, from 9.30 am to 11.30 am, was the **quarterly meeting of the Quality Assurance Management Committee**, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof E M P Ekanayake (see Annex 1 for list of attendees). The following matters were discussed:

1. **Preliminary announcement** by the Director IQAU regarding award of a multi-centre grant to WUSL and the Ministry of Higher Education in partnership with an Italian university and several other Asian universities, on ‘Regional Cooperation in Asian Universities’ for mutual recognition of qualifications
2. Brief **overview of the university**, presented by the Vice-Chancellor
3. **Confirmation of the minutes** of the previous meeting held on 3 April 2019
4. **Matters arising from the minutes**: (i) the **QA By-Laws** have been approved by the Senate and are now awaiting Council approval; (ii) Owing to lack of space in the main administration block, the IQAU has no **permanent office space**. Owing to limitations in **staff cadres**, the Director IQAU is supported by only a work aide, and a shared Senior Assistant Registrar. At present the IQAU has a temporary office in the Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries & Nutrition in the Makandura Campus. Some new office space may become available in the near future, in the Faculty of Applied Sciences in the main campus at Kuliyapitiya. The need for a centrally located office was re-iterated by the Director QAC.
5. **Programme Reviews in the Faculties of Agriculture & Plantation Management, and Livestock, Fisheries & Nutrition**: dates have been fixed for site visits in September and November 2019. How to cope with a possible non-academic staff strike, due to start on 10 Sept, was discussed.
6. **Programme Reviews in the Faculty of Applied Sciences in 2020**: the Director QAC explained that a final decision has not been reached on the question of clustering degree programmes.
7. **Progress in implementation of the WUSL Academic Quality Enhancement Framework**: Prof Renuka Silva presented the AQEF briefly and explained the interaction between internal and external QA activities
8. Progress in implementation of **action plan based on institutional review**: Prof Renuka Silva described the process of how the Action Plan was developed. Recommendations in the IR Review Report were placed before the relevant administrative entities, who in turn identified the appropriate activity, and the officers / committees most suitable to implement it. This has then been aligned with the overall University Action Plan for 2019, which was facilitated and led by the Director IQAU. The University Action Plan now includes all QA related activities as well as the university’s budget estimates for 2019. Several activities are already being implemented, particularly the establishment of an information system to computerize examination results, and student registration.
9. Finally, the Director QAC briefly explained the current status regarding the **Quality Assurance and Accreditation Commision for Higher Education Bill**, and the changes that will take place when it is enacted.

The second meeting took place from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm, with the Dean of the **Faculty of Business Studies and Finance**, the five Heads of Dept, and members of the Faculty Quality Assurance Cell (see Annex 2 for list of attendees).

The Dean, Dr S K Gamage presented a brief overview of the Faculty, the main recommendations made in the four reports on the Programme Reviews conducted in 2018. It was noted that overall, they received one A grade, two B grades, and one C grade (which was not accepted by the Faculty and the Dept concerned). The lack of concordance in scores awarded by the 4 review teams for review criteria that are common to all 4 degree programmes was highlighted. The Director QAC stated that while the relevant review report would not be made public because of the absence of concurrence from the Faculty, the recommendations in the report should be considered in preparation of the Action Plan.

The Programme Review Action Plan for implementation of the recommendations in all four reports has already been sent to the UGC and received in the QAC. It was noted that there are two recommendations that the Faculty is unable to implement (to conduct repeat examinations, and to offer early exit qualifications/ fall back options), and that there are many barriers to implementation of the planned actions. The heavy teaching work load (only 51 academic staff, and over 2000 students) and deficiencies in physical infrastructure were highlighted.

However, it was noted that the Faculty was recently awarded a grant of Rs 100 million from the AHEAD operation, which will be utilized to implement several of the planned activities. Other means of overcoming funding difficulties and obtaining increased cadre allocations were discussed.

Prof Nilanthi de Silva

Director, QAC-UGC

4 Sept 2019

**Annex 1. Meeting of the Quality Assurance Management Committee**

1. Prof E M P Ekanayake, Vice-Chancellor
2. Prof Renuka Silva, Director, IQAU
3. Prof Udith Jayasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture & Plantation Management
4. Prof B P A Jayaweera, Dean, Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries & Nutrition
5. Dr L D R D Perera, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, and Acting Dean, Faculty of Technology
6. Dr S K Gamage, Dean, Faculty of Business Studies & Finance
7. Mr W A D Chithrananda, Registrar
8. Dr D A U Dharmadasa, Bursar
9. Mr W Punyawardana, Librarian
10. Prof Anoma Chandrasekera, Coordinator FQAC/FLFN
11. Dr B L W K Balasooriya, Coordinator FQAC/FAPM
12. Dr Asankha Pallegedera, Coordinator FQAC/FAS
13. Dr R A N Ranathunga, Coordinator FQAC/FM
14. Ms WAN Priyadhashani, Coordinator FQAC/FBSF
15. Eng Mr M Kesavan, Coordinator, FQAC/FT
16. Ms K G I Udayangani, Convenor / Secretary, IQAU (SAR – In attendance)

**Annex 2. Meeting with FQAC, Faculty of Business Studies and Finance**

1. Dr S K Gamage, Dean
2. DHSW Dissanayake, Head, Dept of Accountancy
3. K M Dissanayake, Head, DELT
4. W A I Lakmal, Head, Dept of Banking & Finance
5. T K Karandakatiya, Head, Dept of Business Management
6. W A N Priyadarshanie, Faculty Co-ordinator, QAC
7. H M A K Herath, Dept Representative, Dept of Banking & Finance
8. W R P K Chandrarathne, Dept Representative, Dept of Insurance & Valuation
9. D M T D Dissanayake, Dept Representative, Dept of Business Management
10. G K N Priyadarshani, Dept Representative, Dept of Accountancy
11. M K S M Samaranayake, Dept Representative, Dept of English Language Teaching
12. U E S Kumaran, Chair, Research & Publication Committee