

## ACADEMIC BOARD

**Report title** ACADEMIC QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT TO ACADEMIC BOARD: MEETING 2, HELD ON 8 JUNE 2011

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**Reviewed by** Professor Simon Crowe, Chair, Academic Quality Committee

**Date** 14 July 2011

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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#### 1.1 Background

To report to the Academic Board on key items approved, considered, resolved and/or noted at the Academic Quality Committee meeting held on 8 June 2011.

#### 1.2 Summary

Items considered by the Committee at the May meeting included:

1. Self-Review of Committees
2. Methods to be used by this committee
3. Policies:
  - Access to Restricted Materials . . . Procedures
  - Animal Ethics Procedures
  - Genetically Modified Organisms Procedures
  - Human Ethics Procedures
  - Research Integrity Policy

#### 1.3 Issues (including any financial, legal or compliance issues)

##### Methods to be used by this Committee

The committee agreed that an initial 'desk-top' review of available documents would be undertaken as the first step, with comments and questions to be raised during the committee's meetings. Following discussion at a meeting, any unresolved questions would be referred to the committee in question, or to the author of the documents, for response to the following meeting of the AQC. Only after this method had failed to provide an adequate response would someone be invited to speak to the AQC, and they would be provided with the questions in advance to allow them to prepare.

The AQC also noted that it was important to make positive comments and commendations regarding the policy reviews, as well as to identify areas of concern.

When discussing evaluation of policy, the AQC also noted that many policies did not have identifiable outcomes, so measuring their success or failure would be difficult. In future, it might be advisable to include outcomes or targets in policy or procedural documents where possible.

Animal Ethics Committee Annual Report

The AQC received this report as part of its deliberations over the Animal Ethics Procedures. The Committee noted that the report of the AEC was comprehensive and has commended it for its careful reporting. The quality of the report also indicated that where a national code is available and followed, and the activities of the area are scrutinised regularly by outsiders, the work of the AQC is much easier as the procedures are followed carefully.

The AQC agreed to bring the AEC's difficulties in reaching quorum to the attention of the Academic Board.

#### **1.4 Recommendations**

*Academic Board is invited to note:*

- *The difficulties of the Animal Ethics Committee in reaching quorum at its meetings; and*
- *the report of the meeting of the Academic Quality Committee held on 8 June 2011.*

## **2. LIST OF DOCUMENTS ATTACHED**

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N/A