

QUALITY ASSURANCE CHRONICLES: Q2 2024 EDITION



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Benchmarking Exercise with the University of the Witwatersrand and the Walter Sisulu University (WSU).

The Quality and Academic Planning Office (QAPO) from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) visited the Quality Management Directorate (QMD) on the 25th of March for a benchmarking exercise. QMD showcased our quality management systems (QMS) and quality assurance activities. Mr. Zitha, the Head of QAPO from Wits, commended QMD for their excellent QMS. He remarked that the meeting was a great learning experience that he will take back to Wits.

Mr Chris Khoza, Director of the Quality Management Directorate at WSU, noted that they will adopt certain key best practices for implementation at WSU and appreciated QMD for hosting the benchmarking exercise. The benchmarking exercise presented a valuable opportunity for the CPUT QMD to engage with sister universities.

It was satisfying to know that CPUT QMD is championing the quality space of the landscape of South Africa Higher Education.



CPUT team with the WSU QMD team.



CPUT QMD team with the WSU QMD team.

Institutional Quality Forum

The Institutional Quality Forum (IQF) which constitutes the Assistant Deans from each faculty who are Chairpersons for the Faculty's Quality Forum, the Directors from the various support units and students met on the 5th of April 2024 to deliberate on key issues to enhance learning and teaching in each faculty and amongst students. All Assistant Deans shared the quality initiatives and frameworks of their faculties.

IQF members received an update on the CPPD QMPS workshop that took place on 15 February 2024. Members discussed the draft implementation protocol for EQA in QAF and QMD provided feedback on the progress of QMA policy which is currently under review.



Quality Management and Assurance Policy

The Quality Management and Assurance Policy which is currently under review is a policy that utilizes a consolidated approach by integrating the current quality assurance policy taking into consideration the CPUT vision 2030. Although there have been guidelines over the years to support quality management systems at CPUT, this policy is being reviewed to serve the following purposes: compliance with legislation, creation of an enabling environment and ensuring continuous commitment to quality improvement.

Quality Reviews

The QMD successfully hosted 2 qualification reviews namely Retail Business Management (RMB) and Entrepreneurship and Business Management (EBM).

The RBM qualification review took place on the 9th and the 10th of April 2024 with the following topics discussed -Research, Institutional support. The panel were thorough and knew what they were looking for. They made the CPUT interviewees comfortable and responsive to the questions.

The EBM qualification review on the other hand took place on the 23rd and the 24th of April 2024 with full participation from staff, advisory board and students. It was encouraging to hear from students that they needed more time to spend with the panel. The panel asked relevant, valid, and fair questions and most of the students found the session to be very interesting.

The QMD appreciates the CPUT staff that played a role as the internal panel. Their support and guidance for the external panel are highly appreciated.



Student Engagement

QMD actively involved students in quality assurance activities. Student briefing sessions were conducted to engage both undergraduate and postgraduate students to prepare them for the panel interview and to put them at ease for the two qualification reviews that took place. They were also debriefed after the sessions to determine if students perceived the review as providing a platform for open and transparent engagement.

The QMD had independent critical reflection sessions, attended by students from various disciplines within the applied design department. Discussions revolved around programme awareness, curriculum feedback, teaching methods, and challenges. Students shared diverse learning pathways about the programme.

Promotion of Smart and Transformative Quality Culture

In an attempt to promote institutional culture, QMD has started embarking on quality promotion workshops within faculties. The first workshop organised was with the Faculty of Business and Management Sciences (FBMS) on 15 April 2024. The theme for the workshop was 'Unlocking Excellence: Quality Promotion Workshop for a Transformative Culture Shift'.

The workshop aimed to instil a quality-conscious mindset in all faculty activities, as well as to encourage a commitment to continual improvement and excellence.

Meet the QMD Team

