

SFU

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

SFU & QAPA



QAPA Forum
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- Operates under Guidelines from Senate
- Every academic 'Unit' (Department and non-departmentalized Faculty) reviewed ever 7 years
- Includes:
 - Self-study document from the Unit including learning outcomes @ program level (Minor, Major, Master and Doctorate).
 - Standard data set from Institution
 - Visit by 3 or more external reviewers and an internal reviewer
 - Unit Action Plan
 - Endorsed by Dean of Faculty, discussed and approved by Senate
 - Unit Progress Report
 - Progress report to Senate 3.5 years following the review

SFU – External Review Process

- Quality of the Unit's programs (grad & u/grad)
- Quality of faculty research
- Participation of members in the administration of the Unit
- Workplace environment is conducive to the attainment of their objectives
- Review of future plans of the Unit
- Issues of specific interest to the University and/or the Unit

Terms of Reference for External Reviewers include:

- Steering Committee (President, all VPs and all Deans)
- Working Group (4)
- Self Study development
 - Inventory of Policies – review for impact on Quality
 - Survey of Deans, Chairs. Faculty involved in external review process recently
 - Draft document according to template provided
- Visit planning
 - Preparation and distribution of briefing note for SFU participants
 - Availability of pertinent documents on an online document repository
 - Creation of SFU QAPA website
 - Space reserved for meetings, including dedicated workroom for assessors

Preparing for QAPA

- SFU Quality Assurance Processes are good
 - ‘Assessors concluded that SFU meets the highest contemporary standards and practices in academic quality assurance’
 - Positive view of the assessors on SFU’s focus on defining and assessing learning outcomes linked to external reviews
- Areas of improvement
 - 8 recommendations made and being implemented

Lessons learned

- Streamline the template - answers are duplicated given the structure of the institution report template
- Consideration should be given to the including research in a quality process audit at research universities, as research is a large component of quality at research universities

Suggested Changes to QAPA Process

- Opportunity to review policies and processes related to academic QA
- Injection of energy/interest in quality assurance at SFU
- Nice to know we doing well!

Unintended Outcomes/Benefits of QAPA