QUALITY REVIEW FOLLOW-UP REPORT

BCOMM DEGREE PROGRAMME

Introduction
A meeting to discuss progress made in implementing recommendations for improvement arising from the review of the BComm Degree Programme was held on 23 October 2007.

Present: Professor Denis Lucey, Acting Head, College of Business and Law
Professor Neil Collins, Dean, Faculty of Commerce

Dr Edward Shinnick, Director, BComm Degree Programme

Dr Norma Ryan, Director, Quality Promotion Unit
Ms Deirdre O'Brien, Administrator, Quality Promotion Unit

Abbreviations
PRG: Peer Review Group   *VP: Vice-President*
QPC: Quality Promotion Committee   *QIP: Quality Improvement Plan*
HR: Human Resources   *College BL: College of Business and Law*

PRG Recommendation	QPC Recommendation	Follow-up Report Oct 07
That the uncertainties and controversies about funding and staffing within the Faculty of Commerce be resolved as a matter of urgency, in particular as applies to the BComm Degree, so that effective long term financial planning and management of the BComm Degree can be undertaken.	Recommendation endorsed. The QPC noted that the introduction of the RAM for the academic year 2006 has made transparent the funding for the BComm Degree and that the allocation of the funding is a matter for the Head of College. The Head of College now has all the details of income generated by the BComm degree.	Not implemented The RAM has yet to be implemented fully and the uncertainties surrounding the funding of the programme are still outstanding.
That the BComm Degree should have a Programme Director, formally appointed, and that this role should be undertaken by the Dean of the Faculty initially, in order to ensure appropriate strategic and operational development of the Programme, and proper integration of the Faculty and courses required.	Recommendation that the BComm degree should have a Programme Director was endorsed. The QPC strongly recommended that a single Director be appointed for both the BComm and BComm (European) Degree Programmes, with the aim of enhancing the development and proper integration of both programmes.	Not implemented The lack of clear funding mechanisms needs to be addressed by the University before the programme can strategise for the future. The structures and funding of interdisciplinary degrees is an issue for consideration at University level.

PRG Recommendation	QPC Recommendation	Follow-up Report Oct 07
That the BComm Degree should be re-assessed for its place in changing markets, for its intellectual coherence and potential for more integrated design of modules and practical assignments	Recommendation endorsed. The QPC noted the comments of the PRG in relation to the good standing of the programme and also the need to continually benchmark the programme against other similar programmes offered in Ireland and elsewhere and endorsed the view of the reviewers that the design of the course should be re-examined with a view to the present requirements of the market place.	Implemented and ongoing The Board of Studies has established a subgroup to ensure the ongoing assessment of the programme. Proposals up for discussion include (i) the formation of teaching teams for each year of the programme to drive module coordination, (ii) restructuring years 1 and 2 into more integrated foundation design, and (iii) creating a capstone module in the final year. Transferable skills now form a key element of the degree and these have proved extremely successful, with both employers and students expressing significant satisfaction.
That the curriculum of the BComm Degree Programme should be aligned with the curricula of leading Western European and North American universities and should aim to broaden its base of student applications to reflect this.	Recommendation strongly endorsed. The QPC welcomed the comment of the Board of Studies would look at best practice internationally and benchmark the programme against leading western European and North American universities.	Ongoing The Board of Studies is looking at best practice internationally and their study will be completed at the end of this academic year. As part of this study two international benchmarking trips will take place before end of 2007/08.
That an External Advisory Board for the Faculty of Commerce be established.	Recommendation endorsed. The QPC recommended strongly that a College Advisory Board be established for all the programmes offered in the College. The QPC suggested that this recommendation be considered immediately and that the views of all Departments and staff in the College be sought.	Not yet implemented – is under active discussion. There is an ongoing dialogue regarding the establishment of Advisory Boards within the College and the number of boards that are necessary and useful for the College as a whole.

PRG Recommendation	QPC Recommendation	Follow-up Report Oct 07
That there needs to be an improvement in the physical and training facilities for both students and staff.	Strongly endorsed recommendation. It would have been more useful if the PRG had specified the types of facilities that were needed.	Not yet implemented – is under active discussion. The Board of Studies has established a sub-group to draw up a list of key facilities required for the BComm Degree. Once completed, these will be presented to the Head of College. The first priority for the BComm is a central location for its students. This issue is critical for their sense of programme identity. The Head of College is aware that space is an issue for the BComm and the College as a whole. This is an issue that is on the agenda of UMG and continues to be debated.