11   ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP: SUBJECT NETWORKS

INTRODUCTION

11.1   The university has implemented a horizontal structure of subject networks, each of which belongs to a faculty. Each subject network is led by a subject network leader, normally located within an academic partner, and reporting to the relevant dean. Each faculty is supported by faculty officers. The two faculties are situated within the Academic Directorate, with the deans reporting to the Deputy Principal.

11.2   Subject network leaders have overall responsibility for the management of their subject network. They will develop, implement and maintain a subject network operational plan which is grounded within faculty, academic partner and corporate strategic plans and priorities.

11.3   Subject network leaders will also be responsible for the development, delivery and quality of academic provision for their subject network, framed within the university's academic structures and strategic priorities. This will include implementing, monitoring and reporting on agreed performance indicators for the subject network.

11.4   Through liaison with academic partners, subject network leaders will ensure that the operational direction of the subject network is appropriate to all stakeholder needs. They will also liaise closely with programme leaders operating within the subject network, and from time to time with module leaders on particular issues.

PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUBJECT NETWORK

11.5   The purpose of subject networks is to establish and develop subject-focused academic communities for development, review and enhancement of academic provision.

11.6   Through the collective and collaborative actions of its members, led and co-ordinated by the subject network leader, the primary responsibilities of subject networks are to:
   a. plan and develop curriculum in line with university and faculty strategic priorities
   b. keep under review the portfolio of programmes and modules / units, and rationalise and consolidate where appropriate
   c. develop learning materials and assessments and share them freely within the network or more widely, in online and other formats
   d. monitor the currency and content of modules within the subject network and modify as appropriate
   e. ensure that academic provision and development are supported by staff who are appropriately engaged with scholarship and / or research
   f. contribute to annual monitoring and audit processes in accordance with the regulations
   g. participate in periodic subject review, including preparation and follow-up activities
   h. co-ordinate internal and external moderation processes for SQA programmes
   i. share good practice on subject-related and pedagogic issues
   j. engage with, and report on, quality enhancement initiatives and activities at subject level

k. disseminate information on subject-related regional / national / international developments

l. liaise with the nominated subject network librarian about resource purchase and availability, including electronic resources

m. liaise with regional / national employers and stakeholders

n. develop and promote progression and articulation opportunities internally and externally.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUBJECT NETWORK LEADER

11.7 The responsibilities of the subject network leaders will be to:

a. lead the subject network in undertaking its primary responsibilities as listed above

b. be a member of the relevant Faculty Executive and Faculty Board of Study and attend meetings as scheduled, and to attend meetings of other subject networks or academic groups when this would be of benefit

c. undertake annual action planning and target setting with the subject network

d. be accountable for annual monitoring and audit processes at subject network level, in accordance with the regulations

e. lead preparations and follow-up activities for subject review

f. plan and organise staff development activities for the subject network on subject-related and pedagogic issues, as appropriate

g. act as key university liaison point for national subject-focused organisations and networks and other professional / academic bodies, including SQA.