

# History of Quality Assurance Process at Universities

- Preparatory Workshop (February 2001)
- Committee of QA under the CVCD (2002)
- Standing Committee for QAA/UGC (December 2004)
- Department of QAA (December 2004)
- Internal QA Units in Universities (February 2005)
- **Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of the UGC** (September 2005)
- **UGC Circular No 04/2015 of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 for Establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU) at Universities.**

# Activities undertaken on Quality Assurance

## Under **IRQUE** Project

- Subject Reviews
- Institutional Reviews (1<sup>st</sup> Cycle of Review)

## Under **HETC** Project

- Programme Reviews
- Institutional Reviews (2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of Review)

## Publications of Manuals by UGC on Quality Assurance

- Quality Assurance Handbook for Sri Lankan Universities (July 2002)
- Manual for Institutional Review of Sri Lankan Universities and Higher Education Institutions (April 2015)
- Manual for Review of Undergraduate Programmes of Sri Lankan Universities and Higher Education Institutions (December 2015)
- Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF)

# Establishment of Internal Quality Assurance Systems in Universities

- UGC has issued a circular (No 04/2015) on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 to assure quality in Universities since QA is statutory function of the UGC
- The Council of Universities is expected to appoint a central body (IQAU) within the University to assure quality according to the guidelines given by the UGC.

# Functions and Responsibilities of the IQAU

- Coordination of all QA related activities within the University
- Liaising with the UGC through its Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council (QAAC) and other external QA agencies
- Implementation of QA Reviews/Audits and follow up action
- Preparation of Institutional SER, Programme or Subject Review Reports etc, where necessary and applicable
- Provision of advice on QA to all faculties and departments
- Monitoring and guidance in faculty level QA activities
- Quality and QA aspects in the institution's Corporate Plan

## Functions and Responsibilities of the IQAU, Conti....

- Facilitation of identification and sharing of good practices between academic departments
- Preparation of QA-related guidelines and manual for use within institution (e.g. academic regulations, equipment manuals, laboratory manuals, etc)
- Ensure the necessary Academic Regulations/By-laws are in place, and if not, make recommendations for remedial action
- Conduct, with the support of Staff Development Centre of the University, faculty level awareness programme among staff members
- Establishment of Faculty QA cells and defining their duties and responsibilities

# Governing Structure of the IQAU

(IQAU is placed directly under the VC)

## Management Committee of IQAU

- Director-IQAU (DVC or Senior Academic): **Chairperson** of IQAU
- Deans of all faculties (and/or a nominee from each faculty)
- Registrar (or nominee)
- Bursar (or nominee)
- Librarian (or nominee)
- Director-SDC
- Convener/**Secretary** to the IQAU (Assistant Registrar)

# Reporting Procedure

- The Director-IQAU should report directly to the VC
- The IQAU should prepare an Annual Work Plan and submit it to the University Senate and Council for approval before commencing a calendar year
- The Director-IQAU should report its activities and progress of the unit to the Senate on monthly basis
- VC is invited to attend meetings that discuss issues of particular importance
- The UGC through the “Standing Committee on Quality Assurance” in Universities will coordinate and regularly review quality assurance related programmes implemented across universities
- All IQAUs shall develop by-laws that would define operation procedures with respect to governance and management of the respective IQAU and submit it to the Council for Approval



# Status of IQAU of the University of Peradeniya

- Date of Establishment: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016
- Appointment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Director-IQAU: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016
- Members of IQAU

Faculty	Name
Agriculture	Dr Janak K Vidanarachchi
Allied Health Science	Dr Lalani Yatawara
Arts	Rev (Prof) M.Gnanananda
Dental Sciences	Dr Roshan Peiris
Engineering	Dr MCM Nasvi
Management	Mr Richard Wickramaratne
Medicine	Dr Kosala Marambe
Science	Dr Gehan Jayasuriya
Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science	Dr Madura Munasinghe

## Major Responsibilities of the IQAU

- Established good practices as indicated in the quality assurance manuals published by the UGC
- Facilitate the preparation SER for Institutional Reviews and Programme Reviews (in view of the Accreditation of degree programmes).

# Institutional Review

## Criteria to be reviewed

No	Criteria	Number of Standards
1	Governance and Management	29
2	Curriculum Design and Development	15
3	Teaching and Learning	10
4	Learning Resources, Student Support and Progression	14
5	Student Assessment and Awards	15
6	Strength and Quality of Staff	11
7	Postgraduate Studies, Research, Innovation and Commercialization	25
8	Community Engagement, Consultancy and Outreach	6
9	Distance Education	13
10	Quality Assurance	7
	Total	<b>145</b>

# Programme Review

## Criteria to be reviewed

No	Criteria	No. of Standards
1	Programme Management	27
2	Human and Physical Resources	12
3	Programme Design and Development	24
4	Course/Module Design and Development	19
5	Teaching and Learning	19
6	Learning Environment, Student Support and Progression	24
7	Student Assessment and Awards	17
8	Innovative and Healthy Practices	14
	Total	<b>156</b>

# Concluding Remarks

- The mandates and structure of Faculty sub-committees need not be changed
- The Faculty QA Cells cuts across almost all the activities undertaken and implement by various sub-committees
- Therefore, the Faculty QA Cells has a coordinating role to ensure that good practices recommended by QA Processes are internalized within the Faculty

# Thank You

*By Prof. E.R.N. Gunawardena*