

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Board Meeting

25 June 2020

Title	EER Update on School of Trades & Services; School of Applied Business
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Authored by:	
For:	Information

Recommendation

That the Board notes this updated information on EER progress in the Schools of Trades & Services and Applied Business.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to report back to the Board on the Action Point arising from the meeting on 28 May 2020. The action arising was to provide the Board with further information on Plumbing and Gasfitting and the School of Business.

Key Points

Unitec has an Academic Quality Action Plan, which is reported on monthly to the Board. This Plan comprises (a) specific responses to the 9 formal recommendations in the External Evaluation and Review Report from NZQA, and (b) more far-reaching actions focused on improving academic quality. Many of these actions are not related directly to recommendations in the EER report and it is important the Action Plan update is read in that context, i.e. it is our plan for academic quality at Unitec and for a return to EER Category 2, then Category 1.

All EER recommendations will be fully actioned prior to our next EER in October 2020. A small number of wider improvements and actions will not be completed by October, generally because they are ongoing rather than finite actions, e.g. building teacher capability.

The next Academic Quality Action Plan update will also include reporting on progress towards outcomes, to provide better oversight of our EER goals.

NZQA's EER report included conclusions and recommendations on two EER focus areas that the Board sought further information on, as follows:

Focus Area: Delivery and Outcomes in the Business Pathway

NZQA did not make any formal EER recommendations on this Focus Area and does not require a response from Unitec. However their report noted a number of areas for improvement, including that programme reviews were overdue for the Master's and Bachelor's programmes. We resolved that those issues should be addressed prior to the October 2020 EER. Progress on actions has been checked with Head of School. Some entries in the Action Plan require revision and updating as follows:

- Programme reviews are completed for all programmes – 100%
- Redevelopments are now complete for both the Master of Business and Master of Professional Accounting, with approvals pending at NZQA – 100%
- Redevelopment planning for the Bachelor of Business planning is underway but will not be completed until 2021 – 40%
- Improvements to the quality of teaching and learning and student support – 60%
- Development of an Industry Stakeholder Strategy – 50%

Focus Area: Delivery and outcomes in the Building and Construction Pathway (including Plumbing)

NZQA made one formal EER recommendation on this Focus Area, that "Unitec work with the relevant standard-setting body to resolve any outstanding matters regarding assessment and moderation practices". That matter was fully resolved in 2019.

The NZQA report noted other areas for improvement, including that self-assessment practices were variable and consequently that some issues in the pathway were not well-understood or sufficiently responded to.

Since the EER report, a restructure has moved the relevant programmes into the School of Trades & Services. That School has undertaken a whole-of-school review 'Project Takohanga', which is being reported in the Academic Quality Action Plan. This is a very extensive project. All actions under Project Takohanga are scheduled to be completed by end of 2020. NZQA does not require a response on any of these actions.