

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Board Meeting

30 July 2020

Title	Academic Quality Action Plan Update July 2020
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Authored by:	
For:	Information

Recommendation

That the Board receives the update on progress with Unitec's Academic Quality Action Plan and EER response.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide information to the Board (and ELT and Academic Board) on progress with actions related to academic quality at Unitec, including our response to EER recommendations.

Information/Background

This is the twelfth monthly report on the Academic Quality Action Plan.

Progress overall is at **71% up from 68%** last report. All activity areas have made positive progress and we are on track with EER preparation. One area, 'Plumbing & Gasfitting' has increased to 100% completion due to a change in reporting (the removal of some items not directly related to EER).

Rec 1: Student Achievement targets – we will be able to report interim Semester One results next month. Anecdotal reports have us cautiously optimistic about having managed and mitigated much of the impact on student success of Covid 19 and the sudden switch to online learning.

Recs 2,4,6: Academic Board (and sub-committee) improvements continue. Committee members are engaging in planned capability development to better understand the governance role, and to ensure effective overview of issues such as compliance, student achievement data, and risk measures. The Academic Risk Register is less up-to-date than required and this is being addressed in Schools.

Recs 3 & 5: Student Support & Completion activities are well-underway. A group of approximately 15 low-performing programmes are working with the I See Me team on targeted initiatives to embed Māori and Pacific content and teaching practices. A significant programme of work is underway to better understand qualification non-completion and identify strategies and interventions. The data being generated is highly informative and should allow us to carefully target and tailor initiatives to specific cohorts of students.

Rec 7: Renewal Plan Progress – nothing additional to report.

Recs 8, 9: Māori and Pacific Success Strategies are well underway. Reporting is largely through the “I See Me” Initiatives in Recs 3 & 5. Priority Group Directors are likely to employ the new legislated Domestic Code of Practice with specific additions for Māori and Pacific learners.

Rec 10: Social Practice has resumed work with our consultant Judith Brown. A project team has formed for more intensive work at the Certificate level, where EER recommendations are not yet fully addressed.

Rec 11: Trades teams continue to make improvements via Project Takohanga. The original EER recommendations were covered in 2019. The focus of this wider project is to make school-wide improvements to staffing and teaching practices, organizational and compliance issues, and to better ensure learner needs are being met.

Rec 12: EER recommendations for the School of Business are embedded in much larger projects and are generally progressing well. However, the BBus review is delayed, meaning that some EER-related work at degree-level is now being addressed separate to that review.

Rec 13: Review resourcing for the Executive actions are all complete – nothing to report.

Preparation for the NZQA panel visit in October is in full swing. Our Self-Assessment Document (the main report to NZQA) will be available at end of August for Board consideration. The draft timetable for focus areas and other stakeholders should be ready by start of August.

Attachments

Academic Quality Action Plan Overview July 2019

Full Academic Quality Action Plan Project Plan Updated July 2019