
To	Te Poari Whai Kounga Quality Alignment Board	From	The Academic Risk Working Group
Title	Academic Risk Report	Date	17 August 2020

Recommendation/s

That Te Poari Whai Kounga:

- Receive the August 2020 Academic Risk Summary
- Note:
 - o the improved engagement with the academic risk management process across most programmes
 - o the need for further development of the PAQC Quarterly reporting mechanism to ensure it provides greater assurance regarding the effective management and oversight of Academic Risk
- Approve the following recommendations put forward by the Academic Risk Working Group:
 - o That relevant Heads of School be requested to provide an explanation as to why registers in their schools were not reviewed/updated within the required timeframe and to provide assurance that this matter will be addressed
 - o That the recommendations relating to highlighted risk areas within the *August 2020 Academic Risk Summary* report be approved.

Purpose

To provide Te Poari Whai Kounga with an update on the management of programme level academic risk and a number of recommendations associated with academic risk.

Commentary

The Academic Risk Working Group (ARWG) met on 17 August to review the *August 2020 Academic Risk Summary* (appended) produced by Te Korowai Kahurangi on 10 August. The consideration of the report was deferred to ensure consideration could be given to any commentary in the PAQC Chairs' reports.

The ARWG had a wide-ranging conversation about the purpose of the group and how it could best meet its mandate, including to:

- Consider institution level themes emerging from the programme level risk registers and the actions required to mitigate these
- Provide assurance that PAQCs are effectively managing the risks within their programmes

Key points of discussion were:

- PAQCs' role was not to *manage* risk (refer above) but to be assured that the APM/Programme team was effectively managing the risks
- How best to gain assurance that PAQCs had effective oversight of the risks to their programmes

- Additional training was needed for PAQCs and APMs/Programme teams on how to determine the appropriate level of risk (i.e., not just what components there are to each risk area, but what considerations were needed in determining the rating for each risk)
- The PAQC Quarterly Chairs' reports were variable in providing assurance that PAQCs had appropriate oversight of key matters (in this case, Academic Risk)
- Effective ways in which PAQCs could efficiently and effectively maintain oversight of key risks relating to each of their programmes – by utilising the *APM to PAQC Risk action report SAMPLE (appended)*

The ARWG also reviewed the key risks outlined in the August report and referred to the PAQC Chairs' reports to inform the discussion. As a result of the analysis, the group made the recommendations noted at the top of this memorandum and in the August report.

There has been significantly better engagement with the reporting of academic risk following earlier concerns around the currency of the risk assessment:

	Date data last changed	Date worksheet last opened
May	13	7
June	6	3
July	2	2
August	59	68
Grand Total	80	80

The level of engagement provides assurance that APMs are engaging in the assessment of risk. There have been a small number of programmes wherein the 'last changed' and 'last opened' dates did not automatically update as intended. This issue is being worked through with more permanent solutions being explored.

Attachments:

- *August 2020 Academic Risk Summary 20200817*
- *APM to PAQC Risk action report SAMPLE*