

## ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 17/18

### Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

#### PgDip Veterinary Clinical Practice

This appendix contains Course Director's/Year Leader's responses to 2017/18 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from 2016/17 External Examiners' report (if applicable).

As Course Director/Year Leader please ensure you reflect on External Examiners' comments in the Course Review section. Please ensure that any actions to be taken in response to these comments have been recorded in your Annual Quality Improvement Report.

For support or advice please contact Ana Filipovic, Academic Quality Officer 'Standards', [afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk), 01707666938

Appendix 3 consists of:

a.	Updates to actions from previous years' reports
b.	2017/18 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

Updates to actions from previous academic year:

Question from the report	External Examiner's comment	Course Director Response	Update in 2017/18
<p>2.1 Students' performance in relation to those at a similar stage on comparable courses in other institutions, where this is known to you</p>	<p>Student performance is appropriate for this level of qualification - case studies were of a good standard overall. Comments on WPBA forms indicate a good level of attainment by the students, I did not observe any WPBAs.</p>	<p>If required/appropriate some work place based assessments could be recorded for review by the external examiner. <i>Action Required:</i> if this is feasible – need to resource people that are willing to be filmed for this purpose – could assist with student and assessor training. <i>Action Deadline:</i> will attempt one or two this year, though as these assessments are on the clinical floor in real time can be difficult to co-ordinate</p>	<p><i>Action closed</i> Have not been able to record a WPBA currently. Will endeavor, though limited resources are made available to achieve this. Combined with the student led WPBA makes timing challenging.</p>
<p>3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)</p>	<p>A good mix of WPBAs and case reports are used to assess students. This is good practice and aligns well with the curriculum. I would suggest that the skills the students pick for their DOPS are audited annually to ensure appropriate difficulty levels across the species.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. We will keep a record of this. <i>Action Required:</i> Discuss with course administrators previous submissions and record case vignette. <i>Action Deadline:</i> end of 2017-18 cohort <i>Action assigned to:</i> Course administration with course director/module leaders to help with defining them</p>	<p>Only two cohorts so far, will ask course administrator to collate this information.</p>
<p>3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous</p>	<p>There were no fails in the WPBA and at the exam board we discussed the challenges of supervisors also assessing students. This is something to be considered as the course develops, because each assessment is very high stakes. The MSF is often from only one or two assessors which is understandable, however consideration should be given to developing an online system which could potentially involve more assessors for a better level of reliability.</p>	<p>We have different ways that forms can be filled in, though an on-line system would have many benefits, though do not think that we have the infrastructure for this currently. <i>Action Required:</i> This would need to have significant funding for the College and would have to be a College wide initiative. <i>Action Deadline:</i> in discussion <i>Action assigned to:</i> Course directors</p>	<p>No available College funds for this at the moment. Discussions have been made to see if an existing programme could be modified for both the MVetMed and PGDip VCP WPBAs. Meetings were had at the beginning of last year, though were halted with direction of IT resources to other important College projects.</p>

# Individual Report

Exam board meeting: 21-Jun-2018

Pg Dip in Veterinary Clinical Practice , 2017/18

Dr Liz Mossop

## The Programme

Please comment, as appropriate, on the following aspects of the programme:

### 1.1 Course content

There has been little change from last year, two new pathways have been introduced and these are appropriate

### 1.2 Learning objectives, and the extent to which they were met

All appropriate and met by the candidates

### 1.3 Teaching methods

Students were very positive about the teaching they received which is mainly workplace based

### COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield

#### Course Director Response:

This is encouraging as it will be used for other post graduate clinical training programs run by the College.

#### Action Required:

#### Action Deadline:

#### Action assigned to:

### 1.4 Resources (in so far as they affected the assessment)

All adequate. There had been some confusion around one resource but this had been resolved

## Student performance

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 2.1 Students' performance in relation to those at a similar stage on comparable courses in other institutions, where this is known to you

Performance was appropriate - a good range of case studies was reviewed.

### 2.2 Quality of candidates' knowledge and skills, with particular reference to those at the top, middle or bottom of the range

Some case reports were excellent and perhaps could be more generously marked - top mark was 68% which seems quite low. Failing students were definitely poor.

#### **COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

##### **Course Director Response:**

This will be communicated to all the internal examiners.

##### **Action Required:**

##### **Action Deadline:**

##### **Action assigned to:**

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

Appropriate. Good range of tools utilised. Great to see extensive use of WPBA

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Encouraging as this is going to be used for other post graduate clinical training courses.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

There is inevitably a variability between assessors in the workplace and this is very hard to manage. Potentially more training for residents could be provided. Double marking of written work is excellent

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

Further training in assessing WPBA will be provided to all staff/clinicians involved in assessing. A training day has already been organised and this will hopefully continue annually.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 3.3 Consistency of the level of assessment with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

Consistent

### **3.4 Standard of marking**

Generally very good, and feedback has improved from last year. My once concern is the lack of marks above 68% as I believe the full range of marks should be applied if possible.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

This will be communicated to the internal examiners.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### **3.5 In your view, are the procedures for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted? (e.g. Briefing, Exam administration, marking arrangements, Board of Examiners, participation by External Examiners)**

Very sound, good information provided, chance to review scripts etc

### **3.6 Opinion on changes to the assessment procedures from previous years in which you have examined**

The introduction of a formative assessment is excellent

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

It is encouraging that this was used by most of the PG Dip VCP candidates, though not everyone.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.1 Comments I have made in previous years have been addressed to my satisfaction**

Yes

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

As this is still a new program we are continuing to learn from each year. As highlighted further training will be given to assessors for WPBA and we will encourage our educational team to help guide the interns in giving feedback and small group teaching.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.2 An acceptable response has been made**

Yes

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.4 I was able to scrutinise an adequate sample of students' work and marks to enable me to carry out my duties**

Yes

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.5 I attended the meeting of the Board of Examiners held to approve the results of the Examination**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

We would like to thank our external examiner for their time and help with the process and their suggestions.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.7 The standards set for the awards are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.8 The standards of student performance are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.10 I have received sufficient information to carry out my role (where information was insufficient, please give details)**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.12 The processes for assessment and the determination of awards are sound**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

## Completion

If you have identified any areas of good practice, please comment more fully here. We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:

**5.1 Do you have any suggestions for improvements based on experience at other institutes? We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:**

New formative

Better written feedback

Potentially a little more training in teaching could be given to candidates as they have a lot of contact with final year students

Students may benefit from "mid block" formative MSF but I appreciate this is resource intensive

Some more online tools around reflective writing and teaching skills could be useful

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dominic Barfield**

**Course Director Response:**

We will ask the rotation leads to provide more feedback to the PGDip VCP, especially if there are things to improve upon, prior to the end of their rotation. We will continue to encourage our educational team to discuss ways to better the PGDip VCP clinical instruction at different time points through the course. We look into the development of online tools as suggested.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

