Introduction and context

1. PSRB is an umbrella term for a diverse group of bodies, including many professional bodies, regulators and those with statutory authority over a profession or group of professionals.

2. As a group, PSRBs are variable in terms of status, authority and role. A general distinction may be drawn between professional bodies and regulatory bodies, although the terms are not mutually exclusive. Professional bodies are often membership organisations, acting in the interest of an individual profession to promote and support professional members who meet the standards for a profession.

3. A regulatory body acts in the public interest, regulating professional activity or individual professionals, and many statutory bodies or regulators have powers mandated by Parliament. These powers include regulating the use of professional titles (as a measure of technical and ethical competence), agreeing minimum standards and holding a single register of practitioners. Membership may be mandatory, for example, if there is a license to practice requirement. Many regulatory bodies set a core curriculum for the profession and accredit programmes. For professions regulated by statute, only graduates of accredited courses can practice.

4. This section of the Quality Manual is concerned with relationships with those bodies that have a prescribed statutory or regulatory responsibility to accredit programmes offered by SGUL and to determine standards. Its primary focus is on the management of quality assurance activities including approval, monitoring and review.

Principles

5. SGUL is responsible for maintaining the quality of the education it provides and the standards of its awards. This responsibility is discharged by means of the processes outlined in this Manual and extends fully to programmes that carry PSRB accreditation. With this as context, SGUL will:
   - ensure that potential students and enrolled students benefit from the advantages that result from the completion of programme accredited by a PSRB,
   - streamline quality assurance processes to ease the burden on the SGUL staff that work with PSRBs,
   - Adapt quality assurance processes to align with PSRB requirements for example by appointing PSRB nominees as members of approval and review panels, varying documentary requirements and structuring events to meet PSRB expectations,
   - Use PSRB reports and performance measures for enhancement purposes,
   - Provide PSRBs with information they need to carry out their statutory and regulatory roles,
   - Ensure that information published by SGUL about PSRB accreditation and recognition is clear, accurate and available to potential students and enrolled students[1].

Schedule

6. The Quality and Partnerships Directorate will maintain a schedule of PSRB activity. The schedule will include:

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[1] It is a requirement of the OfS that SGUL maintains an accurate record of PSRB accreditations which will be published alongside the other information required for Discover Uni.

- The name of the programme,
- The name of the accrediting body (drawn from the list published by [HESA](#)),
- The outcome of programme accreditation by a PSRB. This may include one or more of the following:
    i. graduates are able to practise as a professional in a specific field, and in some cases receive a license to practise that is required by law;
    ii. graduates are granted chartered status;
    iii. graduates are eligible for entry to membership of a professional association or learned society;
    iv. the programme is confirmed as meeting externally designated standards and quality.
- The date on which accreditation was granted and any renewal date.

Process

7. Each PSRB has its own process for granting accreditation, recognition and re-accreditation. Given the diversity of different PSRB requirements, there can be no "standard" process. Whatever the accreditation process, however, there are key responsibilities at programme and institutional-level for quality assurance of PSRB activity. These are outlined in paragraphs 8-10 below.

Programme level responsibilities

8. Programme teams are expected to understand the accreditation criteria of PSRBs and to work with PSRBs and support staff in QPD and Registry to achieve and maintain accreditation. The programme team is responsible for direct liaison with the PSRB. This includes (as a minimum):
    - day-to-day liaison with the PSRB,
    - setting up visits where this is required by the PSRB as part of the (re)-accreditation process,
    - responding to reports (*e.g.* via the production of an action plan) where appropriate,
    - maintaining the relationship with the PSRB post-accreditation (*e.g.* carrying out any particular requirements of the PSRB, such as annual monitoring)
    - contacting the relevant PSRB if the team intends to change the delivery of any elements of the accredited course,
    - liaison with the committee responsible for monitoring the programme (i.e. TPCC and UPC).
    - Liaison with Registry and QPD regarding institutional input to quality assurance processes.

Monitoring committee responsibilities

9. The monitoring committee (TPCC, UPC) shall be responsible for maintaining an overview of relevant PSRB activity. This will enable the Committee to determine how to support the programme team and provide commensurate oversight of the accreditation process. Support and oversight might encompass:
    - checking documentation prior to submission to the PSRB,
    - participation in meetings with the PSRB,
    - receiving reports and (if applicable) approving action plans in response to the reports,
    - the use of PSRB reports for enhancement purposes,
    - confirming that the requirements of any action plan have been met,

- making QAEC and Senate aware of PSRB accreditation issues that require an institutional response.

Institutional responsibilities

10. QPD is responsible for maintaining an overview of PSRB activity at SGUL. Specifically, QPD will:
    - Maintain and publish a schedule of PSRB activity,
    - will advise on SGUL quality assurance processes, policies and procedures and on variations to standard SGUL arrangements that may be necessary to align with PSRB requirements,
    - arrange accreditation and approval visits where these are a PSRB requirement,
    - receiving reports and disseminate beyond the monitoring committee level, if appropriate,
    - the use of PSRB reports for enhancement purposes,
    - ensure that programme specifications and the Discover Uni record describe the status of programmes accurately in terms of PSRB accreditation and recognition,
    - provide annual updates and report on issues of significance to QAEC.