7. Thematic Review

1 Introduction

1.1 As the name implies, Thematic Review is designed to identify and evaluate University-wide practice in relation to a particular theme. A Thematic Review may be prompted by common issues identified by the University Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (UQAEC), the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Quality), the Academic Quality Unit (AQU), a College, or another mechanism. Alternatively, it may focus on an area where practice could usefully be shared across Schools and Colleges.

2 Scope, Aims and Objectives

2.1 Thematic Review is likely to be reserved for significant issues which are not addressed within other University processes. Past Thematic Reviews have included anonymous marking and peer observation of teaching. Where appropriate, an issue may be referred to other Corporate Services for investigation.

2.2 Thematic Review is normally a University-level review. Where a potential issue for Thematic Review is identified within a College, advice should be sought from the UQAEC or the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Quality) as its Chair before the review is initiated.

2.3 Thematic Review is designed to:
- Facilitate discussion between Schools and Colleges on subjects of common concern
- Disseminate good practice and identify and eliminate weaknesses
- Clarify and/or articulate principles and policy
- Determine action or support required at institutional level.

2.4 Thematic Review is therefore primarily concerned with the development and enhancement of practice in Schools and Colleges, but does also perform a role in assuring the quality of systems.

3 Process

3.1 A Thematic Review will normally be supported by the Academic Quality Unit and led by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching, Learning and Quality), one of his Deputies, or a Director of Quality Assurance and Enhancement (DQAE). The Review will explore relevant issues in dialogue with Schools and Colleges, and make recommendations on that basis to the UQAEC.

3.2 Where necessary, actions/recommendations will be referred to the appropriate University committee(s) and individuals for approval and implementation. Progress against actions/recommendations will be monitored by the AQU.