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Examination Board Review

*Innovative change improving academic
and administrative assessment
processes.*

Muriel Campion

**Registrar, Academic Registry,
Student, Library and Academic Services.**





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Background and Objectives

Rigour, Efficiency, Agility and Safeguarding Standards



Project Sponsors

- Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education)
- Academic Registrar

Project Pilot

- Pilot June – September 2025 to improve and streamline examination board processes.
- No Progression PABS at First-Sit in June-August 2025.
- Extended to include Award PABS at First-Sit and/or Re-sit in September 2025.

Challenges in Examination Boards

- HE faces pressures from:
 - increasing students,
 - complex academic provision,
 - cost reduction needs
 - pressure to continuously improve whilst creating efficiencies.
 - staff and External Examiner feedback questioned added value of examination boards.

Future Review Phases

- Non-standard provision e.g. apprenticeships, partnerships,.
- Moderation Policy
- External Examiners Roles/Responsibilities



Scope and Faculty Participation



Pilot Program Scope

- All undergraduate and postgraduate taught standard provision.

Faculty Participation

- Participation across all four Faculties (18 Departments) providing broad representation:

Exclusions and Future Phases

- Apprenticeships
- Educational Partnerships (including TNE).

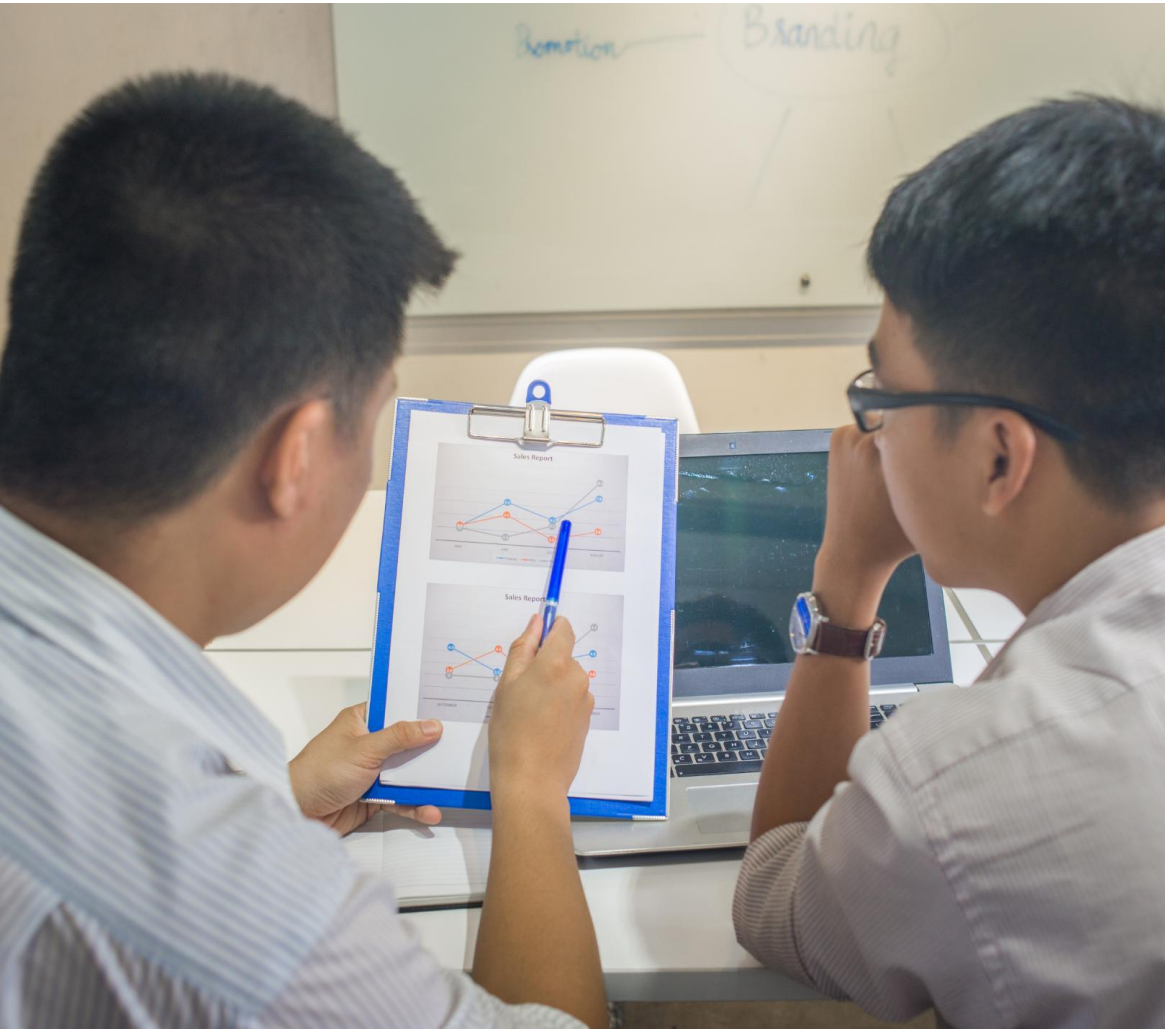
Strategic Objectives

- Streamline assessment processes while maintaining and bolstering academic rigour and regulatory compliance.



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Programme Assessment Boards (PABs)



Single Tier Examination Boards

- PABS review *'exception'* academic profiles for progressing and awarding students.
- *'Exceptions'* - PECs, Academic Misconducts, Borderlines.
- Pre-PAB Scrutiny
- No module level examination boards

Automated Standard Decisions

- Academic Regulations for Taught Awards (ARTA) are fully integrated and automated with SITS for **all** students (including ARTA variations due to PSRB requirements).

Handling PECs in Standard Decisions

- Standard decisions applied even with Personal Extenuating Circumstances under ARTA.
- First-sit PABS – all students offered a Refer/Defer.

Discretionary Review for Exceptions (Non-Standard Decisions)

- Complex profiles or misconduct cases require discretionary PAB review to uphold academic integrity.

Centralised Review Process

- Final Departmental 'Award' PAB centrally reviewed progression *'exception'* profiles where discretion may be applied for fairness and consistency in application of Regulations

Chair's Action

- Streamlined list of PAB outcomes requiring formal PAB Chair's Action approval.



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Internal and External Moderation



Moderation Policy Review

- Moderation Policy and External Examiner roles/responsibilities to be reviewed to align with sector standards and compliance.

In the interim:

Module Marks Assurance

- Process to ensure confidence of module marks was introduced to verify confidently internal moderation completion.

Internal Moderation Focus

- Internal moderation policy/processes were re-socialised emphasising key policy requirements.
- Refreshed academic guidance.

External Moderation Continuity

- External moderation processes unchanged.



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Evaluation and Next Steps



Pilot Implementation and Review

- June 2025 pilot reviewed to assess effectiveness and guide future assessment initiatives.
- Pilot was extended to both First-sit and Re-sit PABs in September 2025.

Subsequent Pilot Planning

- Comprehensive review of the full pilot is currently in progress to inform its evolution in 2025/26.

Examination Board Review Aims 2025/26

- Implementation of a consistent and rigorous exam board framework with a move to institutional level boards for all exception profiles, for **all** provision.
- Fundamental review of Moderation Policy and the role/responsibilities of External Examiners.
- Exploration of how AI might assist us.



Feedback Flavour



- **Streamlined Process** - Significant reduction in unnecessary work in preparing examination board documentation.
- **Reduction in No. of Exam Boards** – less time spent in exam boards meant more time to concentrate on critical issues.
- **Flexibility** - Reminder of how much the conduct of the exam boards accreted layers of bureaucracy. By allowing more flexibility with deadlines and reducing the amount of time required for the production of the paperwork the pilot allowed us to successfully navigate the September resit period. I do not believe we would have been able to do so using previous year's approach.
- **Time** - More time to manage results processes - get decisions right first time
- **Accuracy** – improved data accuracy (see above) so less student and academic queries post results release.
- **Module Marks Assurance** - What value was added? Meetings were of variable quality dependent on the individuals concerned.
- **Academic Input** - Concern regarding diluting academic input and lack of PL input in new exam board processes. Who represents students' issues?
- **Chair's Actions** – Volume greatly reduced, saved lots of time.



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