

REPORTING ON PROGRAMME REVIEWS:
A research approach

SAAIR, October 2016



Overview

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1. Purpose of this presentation

The purpose is to share the process of developing institutional programme review reports in UJ and to elicit comments/recommendations.

2. Core QA functions

The following core QA functions were identified in a survey of 21 SA universities with established QA offices:

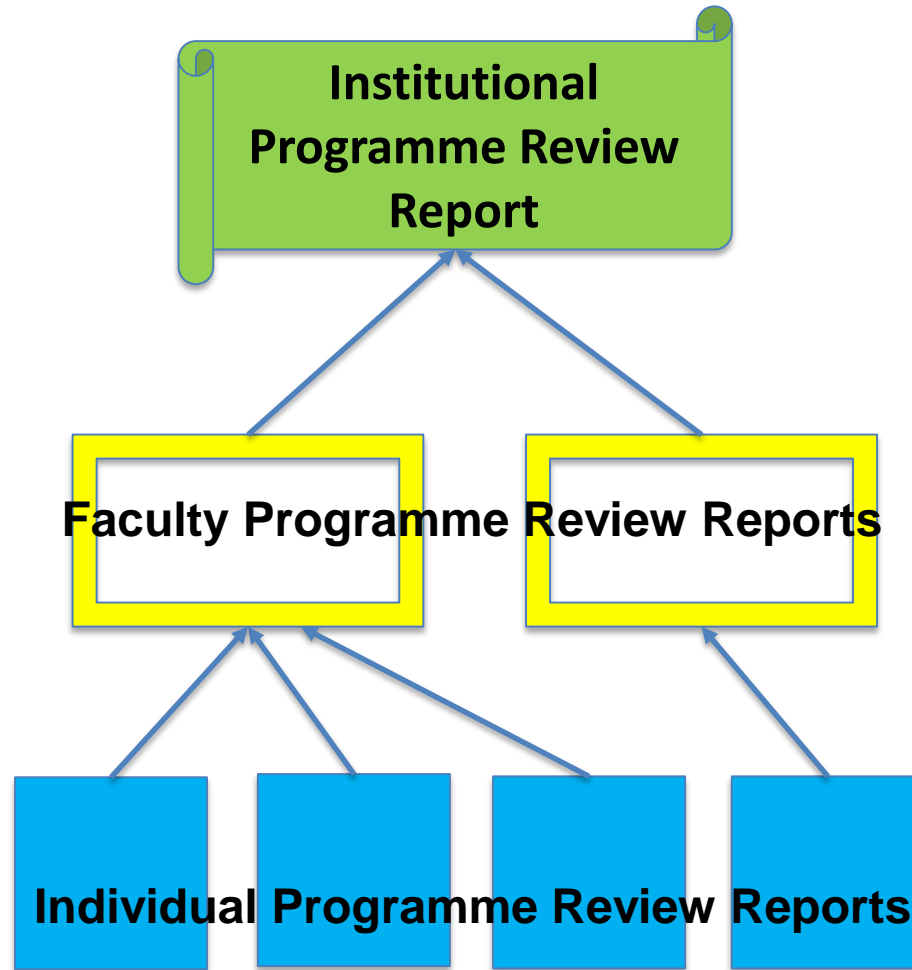
- Establishing and sustaining an institutional quality culture
- Review and monitoring
- Alignment with national and institutional quality imperatives
- Range of research-related activities

(Geyser, H.C. and Murdoch, N. 2016)

3. UJ context

- UJ has specific annual targets for programme reviews in its Strategic Plan 2025.
- After each programme review, a report is generated in consultation with the panel members i.e. Individual Programme Review Reports.
- A faculty specific Programme Review Report is developed annually by staff members of UQP.
- An Institutional Programme Review Report is generated incorporating all the faculty specific reports.

UJ context (continued)



4. Individual programme review reports

- The chairperson of the panel approves the report before it is distributed to the relevant department, dean and faculty quality structure.
- An Improvement Plan is developed by the department with support from UQP.
- The Quality Working Group screens all Improvement Plans. All UQP staff members are thus familiarised with all reports, not only those that we facilitated.
- The Improvement Plan and Programme Review Report are submitted to the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) after approval by faculty structures.

5. Faculty programme review reports

- Faculty Programme Review Reports are developed annually by UQP staff members.
- It includes progress made towards institutional targets per faculty.
- These reports also include an analysis of the external panels' commendations and recommendations per programme per faculty.
- Faculty specific trends identified using findings for 4 years.

6. Institutional Programme Review Report

- The report also focuses on strengths and areas in need of improvement on institutional level.
- Trends in these findings over the previous four or five years are also included.
- The Institutional Programme Review Report (with faculty specific reports attached) is submitted to individual faculties and the STLC.

7. Methodology

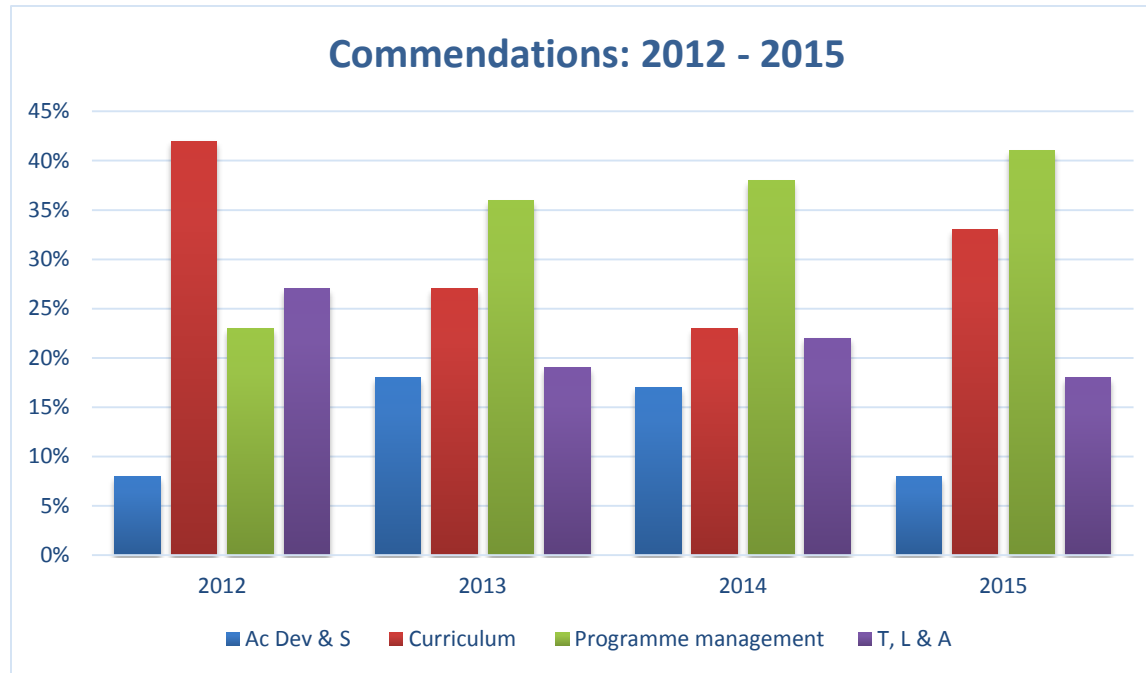
- Research project: all UQP staff members involved.
- Analysis of qualitative data to identify categories of commendations and recommendations as independent analysts. At least two staff members analyze the same reports: independently - consensus.
- Identify emerging categories, then clustering into themes.
- Reports: Faculty-specific and institutional.
- Presentations: different audiences.
- Long, tedious process!

8. Results

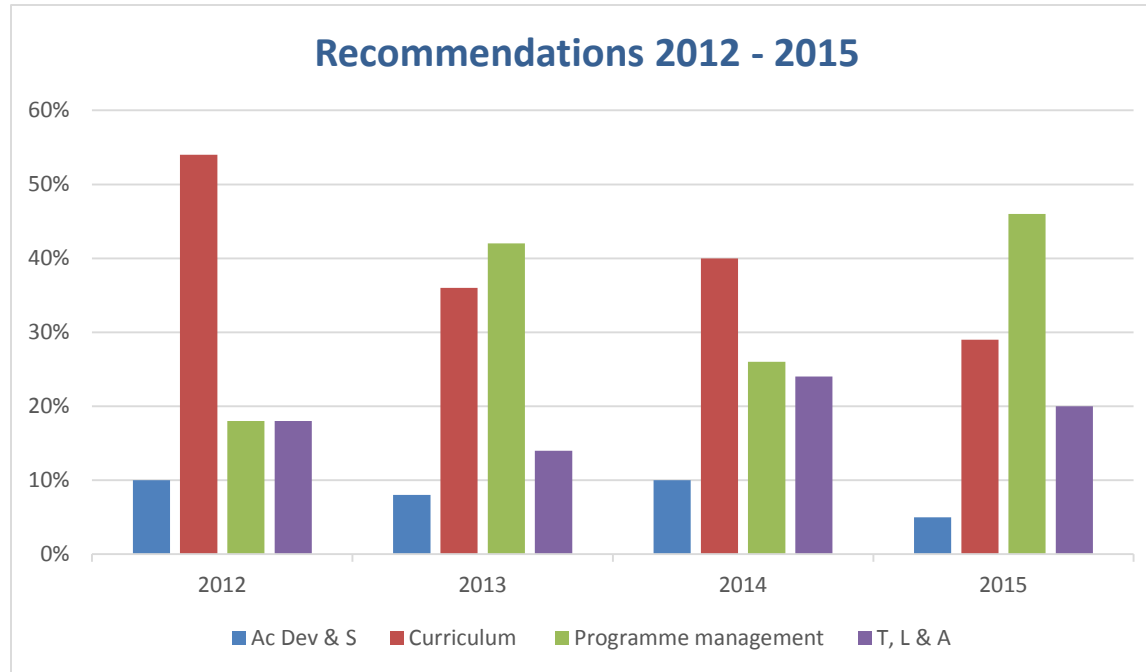
For the last four years the commendations and challenges emerging on an institutional level were:

- teaching, learning and assessment,
- curriculum,
- academic development and support and
- programme management.

8a. Commendations 2012-2015



8b. Recommendations 2012-2015



9. Observations

1. Skills sets required of staff members in UQP include:
 - Research: qualitative data
 - Interpretation skills
 - Report writing
 - Presentation skills
 - Institutional knowledge
2. In-service training required:
 - Consultative process: internal and external.

10. Conclusions

1. The experience of staff members differ with respect to research skills. Therefore:
 - Process is time consuming
 - Standardised format and content of individual programme review reports important.
2. Value added by programme reviews? Some evidence of slow progress as presented to STLC recently:
 - A Head of Department presented on how they do programme management.
 - A Dean presented on the value of programme reviews in his faculty. According to him:
“The more the quality improves, the better the market responds.”

Questions?

Comments?

Recommendations?

THANK YOU!!

