



Meeting: Qualifications Board
Location: Virtual - Zoom
Date: 9 April 2021, 10:30 – 14:00

PRESENT:

The Chair (Suzy Walton), Keith Brumfitt, Charlotte Gladstone-Millar, Cristina Gutu, Michelle Hourican and Nigel Spencer.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director – Regulatory Relations (Sundeep Takwani), Director – Skills and Assessment (Catherine Edwards), Director – Professional Qualifications (Judith Bennett) – items 1-5 only, Interim Director - Professional Qualifications (Ann Lamb), Director – Professional Conduct (Joe Johnson), Head of Education Recognition (Katrina Smyth), Qualifications Data Science Lead (Tom Laycock) – items 1-6 only and Regulation Officer (Jo Burns).

OBSERVERS:

Kate Ringham (Oxford Brookes University) – items 1-5 only.

APOLOGIES:

No apologies were received.

1. MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting of the Qualifications Board held on 15 January 2021. The Board requested that page numbers are added to the minutes.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

No apologies were received.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. MODERATION OF ACCA EXAMINATIONS

The Board noted a presentation from the Director – Skills and Assessment regarding the processes carried out during the moderation of ACCA Examinations.



5. EXAMINATION RESULTS GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Board received a presentation from the Director – Skills and Assessment regarding the results of the March 2021 exam session, including an update on any issues arising since the last examinations’ results governance review.

The Board also received a report from the Chief External Examiner on her review of the exam papers. The Board noted that the Chief External Examiner’s review of the exam papers was not impacted by Covid-19. The Board noted that the Chief External Examiner’s review of the exam papers was not impacted by Covid-19, and the Chief External Examiner confirmed the following:

- the Applied Skills exams were set at Level 6 and all exams were comparable in standard and that there were no overlaps;
- Strategic Professional were set at Level 7 and all exams were comparable in standard and that there were no overlaps;
- the breadth and depth of syllabus covered for the individual exams was appropriate; and
- that there were no aspects of the examinations that gave her cause for concern.

Following all evidence presented and subsequent discussion, the Board agreed to ratify the March 2021 examination results.

6. BOARD WORK PLAN

The Board noted its work plan for the Council year 2020-2021 and agreed to add to the agenda for the next Qualifications Board on 16 July 2021, a discussion on its Terms of Reference and on ‘Quality Assurance in Routes to ACCA Membership’.

7. LEAD REGULATOR UPDATE

The Board noted the update on ACCA’s interactions with its lead regulators from the Head of Education Recognition and that ACCA remains in good standing with its lead regulators.

ACCA agreed to contact Ofqual to find out when their thematic report on their audits of Awarding Organisations in relation to ‘errors in live assessment material’ will be released.

8. ACCA WIDE DEVELOPMENTS

The Board noted an update on ACCA developments from the Interim Director – Professional Qualifications.

9. KEEPING THE QUALIFICATION RELEVANT

The Board noted an update on how ACCA is keeping its Qualification relevant from the Director – Skills and Assessment.



Think Ahead

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted the dates of future meetings:

- Friday 16 July 2021 – Full day
- Friday 15 October 2021 – Half day (AM)