

## **SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD**

### **Notes of the 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration**

Date: 7 Jan 2020  
Time: 7:35 p.m.  
Venue: Conference Room, 26/F Eastern Commercial Centre, 83 Nam On Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong.  
Present: Dr. KWOK Ngai-kuen, Alvin (Convenor),  
Ms. CHAK Tung-ching (co-opted member),  
Ms. CHEUNG Lai-yi, Kathy,  
Ms. FAN Yee-kwan (co-opted member),  
Ms. LAU Chiu-man (co-opted member),  
Dr. LEUNG Chuen-suen, Zeno,  
Dr. NG Yut-ming,  
Dr. TING Wai-fong  
Mr. YAU Tat-yu (co-opted member)  
Secretary: Mr. LEE Wing-po, Eric (Registrar),  
Ms. CHAN May-shan, Emily (Assistant Registrar)

#### **Confirmation of the notes of last meeting**

1. There were no proposed revisions to the notes of last meeting, that they were confirmed the true records of the said meeting.

#### **Matters arising**

##### Special arrangement of class teaching and fieldwork practicum of social work programmes among Tertiary Institutions in response to the recent social situation

2. With the endorsement from the Board of the four principles proposed by the Committee at the last meeting, all Tertiary Institutions (“TIs”) were informed of the principles applied in this social situation. Follow up phone calls were made to the three TIs with special concerns raised before, in order to make sure their understanding of our rationale.

*(Ms. Fan arrived and joined the meeting at this juncture.)*

#### **Progress report**

(Business information deleted)

3. (Business information deleted)

*(Ms. Chak arrived and joined the meeting at this juncture.)*

##### Review of the Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work (“PCS”)

4. The Committee took note of the revised draft of the PCS (CQAR78-4) prepared by the Board Office. The Secretary pointed out the need for clarification of the terms like “teachers of Field Practicum” and “Fieldwork Supervisor” written in sub-sections 1.1, 4.2.6, 5.2.2(c), 5.3.6(c), 5.4.4(b)(ii). Other wordings like fieldwork placement (sub-section 4.1.(c)(ii)), field practicum (sub-section 4.1.3(c),) and fieldwork education should also be reviewed for consistent use throughout the document. Members agreed to make a review from international documents for reference before aligning the use of the terms. The Board Office would follow it up.
5. Regarding the initial period of recognition granted after the assessment of new qualification listed in sub-section 5.3.5, the Secretary pointed out that the existing specification of a 3-year period for a degree qualification would result in the first recognition review lacking feedback from the employers as by then there is no graduates from the programme. He suggested making reference to the HKCAAVQ that the initial period of recognition is the number of years for obtaining the qualification plus one year (i.e. N+1). Members were hesitant in adopting the suggestion as an earlier first review would allow early identification and intervention of problems, if any, for new programme. Though members also acknowledged the importance of collecting employers’ opinion, they preferred staying with the 3-year period as a play safe approach.
6. For the continual period of recognition granted after a review listed in sub-section 5.3.6, members agreed to keep the existing practice of granting up to a maximum of 8 years. Besides, it was suggested to add the wordings “but not limited to” to the factors listed out for consideration of determining the length of the period.
7. For the form of assessment and evaluation mentioned in sub-section 5.5.5(b), members agreed not to prescribe any criteria or specific score of getting passed.
8. Concerning the protocol for conducting assessment or review in sub-section 5.6, members had an in-depth discussion on the proposal of direct sending of interim report to TIs by the Assessment Team (“AT”) without prior approval from the Board via the CQAR. In view of the advantages of enhancing efficiency and more importantly, ensuring a clear division of power and responsibilities between the AT, CQAR and the Board, the Committee adopted this proposal after careful consideration. Amendment of wordings should be made in sub-section 5.6.4 in order to highlight the advisory role of CQAR during the drafting process of interim report by the AT.
9. Regarding the period of making appeal listed in sub-section 6.2, members agreed that 20 working days after the Board has delivered its notice of decision in writing should be adopted. For the composition of Appeals Panel under sub-section 6.3, members agreed to adopt the 5-member Panel composition.
10. The Committee noted that this document would go through legal vetting before final submission to the Board for endorsement.

#### **Any other business**

#### Application as listed Continuing Professional Development Activity Organizers

11. (Business Information deleted)

Extension of appointment period of Assessment Team members

12. The Secretary reported that the current term of Assessment Panel members would run till 15 Jan 2021 but some of qualification reviews were being planned to be conducted until Feb 2021. The Committee recommended that for those being appointed as a member of AT for any one of the reviews, their term of appointment would be extended by the Board until the review exercise had been completed.

**Date of next meeting**

13. The next meeting would be held at 7:30 pm on 10 March 2020. Members would go through the whole document of PCS again and discuss the arrangement of the second public consultation.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

END