

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD

Notes of the 83rd Meeting of the Committee on Qualification Assessment and Registration

Date: 24 September 2020
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Online meeting via Cisco Webex Meeting platform
Present: Dr. Alvin KWOK Ngai-kuen (Convenor),
Ms. Yvonne CHAK Tung-ching (co-opted member),
Ms. Kathy CHEUNG Lai-yi,
Ms. Morgan FAN Yee-kwan (co-opted member),
Dr. Zeno LEUNG Chuen-suen,
Dr. NG Yut-ming,
Dr. TING Wai-fong,
Mr. YAU Tat-yu (co-opted Members)
Apology: Ms. Cherry LAU Chiu-man (co-opted member)
Secretary: Mr. Eric LEE Wing-po (Registrar),
Ms. Emily CHAN May-shan (Assistant Registrar)

Confirmation of the notes of the last meeting

1. While Ms. FAN was yet to join in the online meeting, the Convenor started the meeting with the quorum present.
2. There were no proposed revisions to the notes (CQAR83-1) of said meeting, that they were confirmed the true record of the said meeting.
3. For points 5 & 6 of the minutes, (Anonymized) reported that he would follow up the contact with (Anonymized) from Hong Kong Academy of Social Work regarding the Committee's concern of the names of the awarded titles as Certified Social Worker ("CSW") obtained through their accreditation system.
4. The Convenor suggested rearranging the order of the agenda items and members agreed with it.

Appointment of the Assessment Panel ("AP") Members

5. Since the extended current term of AP members will expire by 15 January 2021, the meeting considered the proposal from the Board Office for a further extension of the term and the alternative of starting invitation for nomination of members for a new term. Members discussed the pros and cons of both choices and also considered the period of appointment.
6. The effective date of the new PCS was yet to confirm and it was understood that the new PCS would be with no retrospective effect on currently recognized programme and would only be applicable to the qualification assessment of any new application for recognition and existing ones with review to be conducted after the effective date (tentatively 1 September 2022).
7. Having noted that the term of the existing Board has no bearing on the period of appointment of the AP, the meeting also agreed that it would be better if the appointment

period would synchronize with the usual academic year, i.e. ending at 31 August.

8. As the appointment of current members had already been extended previously and the implementation of the new PCS would not be imminent, most of the members preferred new appointment to a further extension of current appointment. After voting, the Committee resolved to opt for new appointment with the tenure of office from mid January (preferably 16 January) 2021 to 31 August 2024. The Committee was mindful of the fact that there may be cases where some appointed in this new round may not be fulfilling the new appointment criteria under the revised PCS after the relevant effective date.
9. The Board office would follow up with the invitation for nomination of members after informing the Board of such arrangement.

Appointment of (Anonymized) for replacement of (Anonymized) as Assessment Panel member

10. A letter (CQAR83-6) was received on 17 August 2020 from The Hong Kong Medical Association which informed the Board about the resignation of (Anonymized) and their nomination of (Anonymized) for succession to serve on the AP. As we would start a new term of appointment as resolved above, it was not an issue to consider the proposed replacement.

(Business Information Deleted)

11. (Business Information Deleted)

12. (Business Information Deleted)

(Ms. FAN joined the online meeting at this juncture.)

(Business Information Deleted)

13. (Business Information Deleted)

(Business Information Deleted)

14. (Business Information Deleted)

15. (Business Information Deleted)

16. (Business Information Deleted)

2019-20 Progress Report (Business Information Deleted)

17. (Business Information Deleted)

18. (Business Information Deleted)

19. (Business Information Deleted)

20. (Business Information Deleted)

Review of the Principles, Criteria and Standards for Recognizing Qualifications in Social Work

21. Twelve submissions (CQAR83-2.1) were received from individuals, TIs, and NGOs during the second consultation period. Members decided to go through each and every response for consideration one by one.

22. Opinion 1: effective date for 1 September 2021 may be too rush for the TIs' preparation

The Committee agreed and tentatively revised the target effective date to 1 September 2022 with publication date of the new version in April 2021.

23. Opinion 2: deleting the seven professional standards listed out on Forward

Members understood the TI's concern as the word "standards" may give people the impression that they should be achieved and assessed in an objective way. Members highlighted that the seven standards are important elements that should be emphasised in the PCS and it is best that graduates should possess these attributes. At the proposal of (Anonymized), (Anonymized) undertook to modify the expression of the relevant paragraphs.

24. Opinion 3: Definition of Teaching Staff in sub-section 1.1

The opinion refers to the definition which may exclude teachers who are teaching important subjects other than those specified in sub-section 4.1.3(a) as Teaching Staff. As the term is to define for the purpose of counting designated staff members under specific criteria, the meeting resolved to change the word "Teaching Staff" to "Designated Staff".

25. The Committee agreed to continue the discussion of this agenda item as well as the line of reply to the Association of Schools of Social Work at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

26. The next meeting would be held at 7:30 p.m. on 30 October 2020.

27. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00p.m.

END