ENHANCING CAPACITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS AND TYPOLOGY USING BOLOGNA PROCESS PRINCIPLES

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AT THE CZECH UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES PRAGUE

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> 23 000 students  > 1 400 employees

The peak around 25 500 in 2014. Decreased by approx. 1500 within last two years...
Part 1

LEGAL ENVIRONMENT
1998

  - Requirement of HEI internal quality assurance system only formal with no real enforcement
- **2001** – amendments to the Law with conditions of transformation to the Bologna process
EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE TILL 6/2016

• Accreditation commission
  – Independent expert body
  – Composed of 21 members
    • appointed by the Czech Government
    • working groups (discipline oriented)

  – Responsibility
    • To express the expert statements on study programmes, procedures for appointment of associated professors and professors, state permission for the establishment of private HEIs
      – The accreditation of study programs and state permission were awarded by the Ministry only if the expert opinion of the Accreditation Commission was positive.
NEW HIGHER EDUCATIONAL LAW (AMENDMENT) IN 2016

• Main changes
  – Institutional „Self-accreditation“ in approved “Areas of Education”.
    • Necessity of established Council for internal quality assurance at HEI
    • Necessity of established internal quality assurance systems at HEI
  – “Areas of Education” specified in the annexed regulation to the law
Part 2

PREPARATION OF CULS FOR INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE
PREPARATION OF CULS FOR INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Based on the new Higher education law
- In the study areas “Agriculture”, “Forestry” and “Economics”
- Creation of internal quality assurance system within 2 years
  - Application for institutional accreditation in 2018
MAIN BODIES INVOLVED IN QA
COUNCIL FOR INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

• Defined by the Statute of CULS
  – + 2 Internal document specifying composition of the council and working procedures
• 21 members in total, appointed for the period of election for the Rector
  – Chairman: prof. Jiří Balík, rector
  – Vice-chairman: doc. Michal Lošťák, vice-rector
  – 5 members are nominated by rector
  – 7 members (1/3) nominated by the Scientific board
  – 7 members (1/3) nominated by Academic senate of CULS
    • 6 members from faculties (Jiri Hejkrlik Ph.D. for FTA)
    • 1 representative of students
• 1st meeting in May 2017
COUNCIL FOR INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

• Approves the Rules for internal quality assurance of CULS before the Academic senate of CULS
• Governs all procedures of internal quality assurance
  + Approval of new study programs
• Prepares the report of internal quality assurance
  – Keeps records of internal quality assurance
• Executes other duties defined by the Statute of CULS
• Their must have „sufficient degree of competence and responsibility to guarantee study programs to ensure their quality“.  
  – Minimum standard defined
EXTERNAL ADVISORY PROFESSIONAL BOARD OF THE FACULTY

– At each faculty

– At FTA - 12 members
  • 2 experts (alumni) for each program
    – Some of them are members of the quality assurance program committees
POLICY FOR QA
RULES FOR INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE OF CULS

Key document for internal QA

• **Chapter 3** – Organizational structure and role of university governance bodies in QA

• **Chapter 4** – Key characteristics of QA
  – Importance of involvement of external professional
  – Transparency of the QA and its results

• **Chapter 5** – Sources of information

• **Chapter 6** – QA standards for study programs
  – Key areas for evaluation

• **Chapter 7** – QA standards for life-long learning

• **Chapter 8** – Procedures for program evaluation
  – The report prepared by the program supervisor together with vice-dean for education of the faculty
  – At least once during program accreditation
  – Evaluated by the working commission of the Council for internal quality assurance

• **Chapter 9** – QA of research at the university

• **Chapter 11** – QA of supporting university services
RULES FOR INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE OF CULS

• The rules are explicitly based on ESG

• Detailed procedures and degree of their implementation varies at each faculty
KEY ROLE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- QA module in UIS is being implemented
  - Based on the pilot reports of study program evaluation
APPLICATION OF THE QA RULES AT THE FACULTY OF TROPICAL AGRISCIENCES
6. CULS level - ESG 1.1 - Policy for quality assurance – priority since 2016

7. ESG 1.2 - Design and approval of programmes
1. ESG 1.9 - On-going monitoring and periodic review of programs
2. ESG 1.5 - Teaching staff
3. ESG 1.8 - Public information
4. ESG 1.7 - Information management

5. ESG 1.10 - Cyclical external quality assurance
6. ESG 1.6 - Learning resources and student support
7. ESG 1.3 - Student-centered learning, teaching and assessment
8. ESG 1.4 - Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
ESG 1.2 - DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAMMES

- “They should be designed in a way so that they meet the objectives set for them, including the intended learning outcomes
  - are designed with overall programme objectives that are in line with the institutional strategy and have explicit intended learning outcomes;
  - are designed by involving students
  - benefit from external expertise and reference points of external stakeholders through External Advisory professional board of each Faculty and Quality assurance program committees;
  - ensure that age structure of academic staff belonging to the study programme corresponds to given formal internal standards in terms of qualifications, age, length of weekly working time, scientific performance and experience with working in abroad or in practice.”
  - ....
ESG 1.2 - DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAMMES

1. Program supervisor / Department

2. Quality assurance program committee

3. Vice-dean for Education

4. Other representatives of students, professionals and employees
ESG 1.2 - DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAMMES

1. Quality assurance program committee
2. Management of the faculty
3. External Advisory Professional Board of the faculty
4. Academic Senate of the Faculty
5. Other faculties of the university
6. Council for the internal evaluation of CULS
7. National Accreditation Authority
ESG 1.9 ON-GOING MONITORING AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF PROGRAMS

- Reviewed by the **Study program quality committee** every 2 years
  - Program supervisor
  - Vice-dean for Education
  - External alumni
  - Current student

- Every study program is reviewed by the Council for the internal evaluation of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague at least once during the duration of accreditation of the program.

- **Evaluation report** is the key component for QA
  - Learning outcomes and methods of their achievement and evaluation
  - Key quantitative indicators, success rate, drop out rate...
  - Results of surveys and courses evaluations
  - State exams and its organization
  - Materials and teaching support
  - Employability
  - International dimension
  - Contacts with professional sphere
  - Methods of teaching and examination
  - SWOT analysis prepared by the program supervisor

The report goes to the Council for internal quality assurance of the university once per the period of accreditation.
ESG 1.9 ON-GOING MONITORING AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF PROGRAMS

- Periodic review by the Programme Quality Board
- Focus group discussions with students
- UIS students’ evaluation of course
- Study program evaluation questionnaire
- Evaluation of teachers by the Vice-dean and CULS
- Other data from UIS
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