



QUALIFICATIONS SUPPORT TEAM for the HN SCIENCE Portfolio of Awards

Minutes of meeting held at 2pm on Tuesday 21 March 2023 on MS teams

Present:

Ania Sosnowska (Ayrshire College), Julia Wright (Dundee and Angus College), Hunia Arshad (Edinburgh College), Fiona Jackson (Forth Valley College), Conor Larkin (Glasgow Clyde College), Doug Fraser - Chair (North East Scotland College), Sandra Spence (West College Scotland), Marko Prorocic (Senior External Verifier), Melanie McConnell (West Lothian College), Jonathan Gillies (SQA), Laura Gibson (SQA)

Not Present:

Alan McDowall (Ayrshire College), Pamela Duke (Dundee and Angus College), Christine Hutcheson (Edinburgh College), Kevin Spears (Fife College), Colin McMorrin (Forth Valley College) Marcelle McIlroy (Glasgow Kelvin College), Sandra Dickson (Glasgow Kelvin College), Jane Manson (Inverness College), Sam Bright (Moray College), Derek Steven (New College Lanarkshire), Kenneth Boyd (North Highland College), Donna Cousins (Perth College), Joe Burman (Perth College), Mary McGibbon (West College Scotland), Donna Mathieson (West Lothian College), Maureen Wallace (SQA)

Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Susan Bunton.

1. Actions from last meeting

Theo Pengelley, SQA's Head of Digital Assessment Services, provided a response with regard to ChatGPT. QST members agreed an update from the digital assessment team on this topic would be useful. Laura will invite a member of the digital assessment team to come along to give an update at the next HN Science QST meeting.

The owner of the Ecology and Ecosystems (H93A 34) unit, Anne Boyd, confirmed the duration of assessment can be increased from 1 hour to 90 minutes.

2. Subject guidance 2022-23 and 2023-24

QST members discussed the subject guidance for session 2022-23. All QST members agreed that the subject guidance was manageable and allowed room for flexibility where required.

Fiona Jackson raised concerns with the Cell Biology: Theory and Laboratory Skills (J2RE 34) unit, advising that it can be challenging to get through all of the content due to Covid-19 legacy issues. Other QST members agreed this is a large and challenging unit. Jonathan agreed once information on assessment decisions for session 2023-24 are announced, SQA can look into a possible revision of this unit.

Jonathan advised QST members that there was no update with regard to plans for session 2023-24. Jonathan confirmed that the decision for session 2023-24 was due to be published prior to the easter holidays.

3. AOB

It was agreed that the next meeting of the QST would take place after the easter break to discuss the approach to session 2023-24. An online poll will be distributed to QST members to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting.

ACTION GRID

Action	Date completed
Laura to contact SQA's Head of Digital Assessment Services to invite them along to the next HN Science QST meeting to give an update on ChatGPT.	
The Cell Biology: Theory and Laboratory Skills (J2RE 34) unit to be highlighted as possibly requiring a review next session.	
Laura to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date for the next meeting of the HN Science QST.	