

**TO: Chief Executive Officers  
NZQA Liaison Officers**

**ATTENTION: NZDipBus Programme Managers  
Heads of Business and related departments  
Lecturers of NZDipBus papers  
NZDipBus Local Advisory Committees (LACs)**

**Report on the 24 June 2009 meeting of the National Advisory Committee  
for Business Studies**

This circular reports on matters of interest to Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) from the meeting of the National Advisory Committee for Business Studies (NACBS) held on 24 June 2009.

Matters reported include:

- changes in NACBS membership
- Human Resources Institute of New Zealand survey regarding the New Zealand Diploma in Business (NZDipBus)
- planned gap analysis of the NZDipBus
- university recognition of the NZDipBus
- pilot of the new national external moderation report format
- reflection of current business practice in NZDipBus prescriptions
- update on the review of prescriptions 227 and 234.

Please bring this circular to the attention of any local advisory committee(s) that has an interest in the NZDipBus.

### **NACBS membership**

The committee noted the resignation of David Chapman from the NACBS and acknowledged his long service and valuable contribution to the committee.

### **NACBS strategies for 2009**

The committee discussed the results of a survey of Human Resources Institute of New Zealand (HRINZ) members regarding the NZDipBus. The survey raised several matters of concern to HRINZ members, including the use of re-sits/re-assessments, the level of work-based experience gained by NZDipBus students, and the relevance of the NZDipBus to employers. The committee noted that the survey indicated better outcomes for students who had work-based experience prior to studying for the NZDipBus. It was agreed that NZDipBus prescriptions currently allow for work-based assessment.

The committee decided on several areas for committee members to investigate before the next NACBS meeting. Groups were formed to examine the specialisations of the qualification: human resources, sales and marketing, management, small business, accounting, and information technology. It was also agreed that groups would examine the graduate profile and the differentiation between level 6 and level 7 qualifications.

The NACBS had previously requested information from the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee on university recognition of the NZDipBus (see Appendix I for a summary of the response received). It was noted that universities allowed less than the equivalent percentage of credits to be credited towards their degrees from the NZDipBus, if at all, and that credit transfer often occurred within specific arrangements between universities and selected providers.

The committee was given an update on the new National Diplomas in Business (levels 5 and 6), which have been recommended for registration.

### **Moderation**

Tertiary Assessment and Moderation (TAM) presented a summary of the results from the semester 2, 2008 national external moderation round, including an update on the pilot of the new moderation report format with three of the prescriptions moderated.

The committee expressed concern over the number of submissions that had not met requirements, particularly for one of the core NZDipBus prescriptions.

As there was insufficient meeting time, the committee deferred discussion of a survey conducted by TAM regarding TEO re-sit/re-assessment policies until the next meeting. There was agreement that this was an important issue, and the committee needed to discuss the steps available to NZQA regarding development of guidelines on re-sits.

### **Academic Committee**

John West, Academic Committee Chair, reported on the Academic Committee meeting held earlier that morning. The Academic Committee had investigated whether NZDipBus

prescriptions reflect current business practice, and had recommended a generic statement regarding currency be included in all NZDipBus prescriptions.

The Academic Committee had also discussed a gap analysis of the NZDipBus prescriptions, and identified six subject clusters. The sub-committee's recommendation to form small groups to analyse each cluster was endorsed (see *NACBS strategies for 2009* section above).

The Academic Committee had also discussed the draft reviewed prescriptions, *227 Entrepreneurial Planning* and *234 Planning and Control*, and expressed some concern that these prescriptions had been developed in isolation rather than in the wider context of small business and entrepreneurship.

### **2009 NACBS meetings**

The remaining 2009 NACBS meetings are scheduled for 15 September and 2 December 2009.

Please send any submissions for the December meeting to NZQA by **Monday, 16 November 2009**. Contact details are listed below under Enquiries.

Linda Glogau  
Manager  
Qualifications Development and Tertiary Moderation

### **Enquiries**

Any enquiries relating to the contents of this circular should be directed to:

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## Appendix 1

### Committee on University Academic Programmes

#### Summary of responses from the universities (as provided by NZVCC)

The National Advisory Committee for Business Studies had asked the universities for information on, and a rationale for:

- 1 university credit recognition and transfer practice in relation to
  - individual NZDipBus papers and university degree papers
  - holders of the NZDipBus qualification and university degree exemptions
- 2 whether university credit recognition and transfer practice varies depending on the particular NZDipBus-awarding institution or type of institution
- 3 overall university perceptions of the NZDipBus as a qualification leading on to university study.

#### *Question 1*

- Seven out of the eight universities award credit towards an appropriate degree (e.g. BCom) on the basis of either a complete or an incomplete NZDipBus. Auckland will consider only a complete diploma. The maximum available credit (on the basis of a complete diploma) at any university is 120 credits (one year's work).
- Five universities require a B grade average. Victoria, Lincoln and Otago have no grade average requirement.
- Two universities, Waikato and Lincoln, have local arrangements with groups of providers. In Waikato's case, admission with NZDipBus is guaranteed if certain conditions are met.

#### *Question 2*

- Five universities believe provision is variable among the providers, with polytechnics regarded as more reliable than private providers. This may affect admission practices. The other three either venture no opinion or are happy to accept students from any provider. The two universities which offered the diploma no longer do so.

#### *Question 3*

- Auckland is the only university with misgivings about the value of the NZDipBus as preparation for university study. It prefers students to enter with a partial diploma and take core courses for the degree at the university. All other universities are satisfied that the diploma prepares students adequately for degree study.