

Thursday 25th October 2018

Response to *External Examiner Report 2017-2018*

Dear Dr Tchavdar Hadjiev,

Thank you for your positive External Examiner Report for 2017-2018, which confirms our aim to equip students preparing for ministerial practice using a variety of modules. We are pleased to note your observations that our students are encouraged to engage with scholarship and in independent learning across all modules. We appreciate the comments relating to the high quality of feedback on assessed work given to students including use of the four rubrics and giving appropriate marks for papers which have not met the learning outcomes. We will endeavour to maintain and build on the strengths you have noted.

We noted your comments in 2016-17 regarding the lack of evidence on the monitoring forms of the engagement and interaction between the first and second marker in the process of moderation. We revised our monitoring forms for 2017-18 in order to make the process more robust. Just for clarification, the monitor ticks the box to indicate only that he or she has looked at the paper, it does not necessarily indicate agreement with the mark. However, individual marks between 41 and 68 are not, normally, changed. If there needs to be a shift in the whole cohort, that is indicated in another part of the form. If the marking is very inconsistent all papers may be second marked. For this academic year, we have made further revisions to the forms improve the process further. Related to this, we will also continue to emphasise to markers the importance of documenting the marking and monitoring process – this will include seeking to improve parity of marking standards across the modules.

We agree that faculty need to be encouraging students to relate faith to the issues and challenges of the contemporary world (such as gender, sexuality, female leadership, violence, extremism, etc.). This is outworked informally in lectures and formally in assessments where appropriate. The introduction of modules on Christian ethics and theological anthropology, as well as expanding the module 'Biblical Perspectives on the Local Church' from 10 credits to 20 credits is enabling greater focus on topics such as these.

Thank you for your guidance and advice for 2017-2018 and we look forward to working with you in the coming academic year.



Catherine Shiells
Director of Studies

On behalf of the Board of Studies / Programme Team

