

Council of Professors and Heads of Computing

and The British Computer Society

Masters Benchmarking Revision

In producing the final report for the QAA a number of changes have been made to the original 2004 document. These are documented below.

- 1) The title has been changed from *Towards Benchmarking Standards for Taught Masters Degrees in Computing* to *Benchmarking Standards for Taught Masters Degrees in Computing*. The new document is dated March 2008.
- 2) The Foreword has been updated to reflect the current situation. Thus there is a revised undergraduate benchmark statement, the Scottish Funding Council has changed its name, and much has happened in the last 4 years since the original document was produced.
- 3) In section 1.1 I have added an explicit reference to networks and the Internet. Previously this was implicit, but nowadays I feel this needs to be explicit.
- 4) In section 1.4 I have removed the comment: “It is important to stipulate that the standards defined here have been deemed by the UK Quality Assurance Agency as being acceptable and meeting the requirements of the Qualifications Frameworks.” After all, this new exercise with QAA is about ensuring this is so.
- 5) The Qualifications Frameworks were revised in January 2001 by HEFCE and in September 2001 in Scotland. References to these and quotes from them have been checked and in many cases updated. A consequence of these revisions is that the stipulations for honours degrees in the two Frameworks are no longer identical. However they remain similar. So the word ‘similar’ appears now in place of ‘identical’ and suitable related changes have been inserted.
- 6) The opportunity has been taken to clean up some of the wording. For instance, by referring to Masters degree programmes rather than just Masters degrees.
- 7) Annex B specifically refers to the 2004 Committee. Now many of those folk have ‘moved on’ and to leave the list without comment could attract attention.

I believe these changes do not alter the spirit of the original document. Certainly the intention was not to make any substantial changes. Rather the intention was to produce a document that is up-to-date in terms of developments in the area of benchmarking so that the QAA would not come back and return our document with the request that it needed to be updated.

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