

THE UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

INTERNAL PROCESSES FOR DEVELOPING NEW PROGRAMMES AND REVIEWING EXISTING ONES.

Introduction:

The principle aim of developing new academic programmes or reviewing existing ones is to help address or redress the inadequacy of the current offering. This gap may be identified through regular or periodic review process, or identified by students, the industry, or via the government needs, or by Academic Planning Directorate, external regulators such as the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC), professional bodies, or ranking induced, or competition induced, or by global changing environment and preferences. Requests for programmes that are candidates for redesign are often from the industry, the students, internal and external experts, and the alumni body. The templates or instructions for preparing new or revising programmes are available in the Academic Planning Directorate. Identification of these programmes is usually inclusive, student-centred and proactive.

Processes:

Stage 1: Gathering ideas and suggestions from course lecturers, students, alumni and professionals in the field of study, reviewing reports from past NUC accreditation exercise as well as reports from professional accreditation and ratings of employers of graduates constitute the first step. Global ranking information and competition provide inputs. Departments may use committees to implement this stage.

Stage 2: Students are engaged to formally provide inputs and assessment covering the content, scope and credit loads. This is to ensure ownership and alignment with expected goals.

Stage 3: The proposed curriculum is submitted to the departmental board of study for discussion, review and adoption.

Stage 4: The output is sent to Academic Planning Directorate to check compliance with NUC minimum standards and the Strategic Plan of the University.

Stage 5: The department then submits the new or revised curriculum to the Faculty or College Board of studies for discussion in the case of undergraduate programmes. For the post graduate programmes, it is the Post Graduate School that has the responsibility to ratify them after the Faculty Board.

Stage 6: Copies of the ratified programme are sent to the University Academic Planning and Policy Committee (APPC) through the Vice-Chancellor.

Stage 7: The APPC approved programme is then forwarded to the University Senate for approval.

Stage 8: The NUC is then formally informed of the approved programme.

Stage 9: This is followed by deployment and use of the curriculum by the relevant faculty and department.