



QQI

Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann
Quality and Qualifications Ireland

4 May 2018

Mr Richard Bruton, TD
Minister for Education and Skills
Department of Education and Skills
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Dear Minister

I am writing in response to your request to nominate at least three persons with a special interest, expertise and/or knowledge of matters relating to higher education. All nominees have expertise at an international level in standards, practices and quality assurance in higher education and are suitable if required for appointment by you to an advisory panel under Section 31(3) of the 2018 Act.

The nominees in summary include:

Lucien Bollaert (Mr), Currently a member of the board of AEQES and EQ-Arts and visiting professor in New York and Antwerp. He was a member of the board of NVAO and of European Consortium for Accreditation from 2009 to 2015.

Mary Ellen Petrisko (Dr.), Former President of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission in Alameda, California.

Jon Haakstad (Professor), Senior Adviser in the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), where he was also Director of analysis and Director of audits and evaluations.

Karl Dittrich (Dr.), President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).

Achim Hopbach (Dr.), Managing Director of AQ Austria. Has held and holds various positions in quality assurance agencies and associations, such as President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) from 2009 to 2013.

I attach more detailed biographies for your information.

Yours sincerely

Dr Padraig Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

CC Derek Newcombe, Private Secretary

Quality Qualifications Ireland

Technological University Advisory Panel Nominations

Background

The profiles below are all associated with quality assurance at the level of their respective national system of higher education for countries that have overseen significant change to the configuration of national higher education institutions in the Netherlands, Norway, Austria and Germany and the US. All nominations have a strong background in the quality assurance of national and international systems and national and international representative bodies, European networks and other European and international bodies. All nominations are familiar with the Irish system.

Lucien Bollaert (Mr)

Lucien Bollaert is a well-known keynote speaker at several international conferences and the author of the book *A Manual for Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education (Brussels, 2014)* as well as numerous peer reviewed articles. He was vice-chair of EQAR's Register and is currently a member of the board of AEQES and EQ-Arts and visiting professor in New York and Antwerp. He was a member of the board of NVAO and of European Consortium for Accreditation from 2009 to 2015. He was involved in writing the initial version of the European Standards and Guidelines, 2005, founding-member of EQAF and an expert on the EQF.

In Flanders, he worked as lecturer, director of a study programme, international officer, quality assurance manager, institutional education and research officer and acting vice-chancellor of the University College of West Flanders. When the college associated with Ghent University in 2003, he became chairman of the experts' commission on quality assurance (QA), member of the commission on education and of the general assembly and the Board of that Association. At the same time, he was a member of, the steering group on QA of the Flemish Council of University Colleges (VLHORA); the Flemish Education Council (Vlor); Flemish Bologna expert group – on quality assurance, quality culture, qualifications frameworks, learning outcomes, competence-based learning and education policy.

Karl Dittrich (Dr)

Dr Karl Dittrich was appointed President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) in July 2017, for a term of three years. He has held many leadership positions in higher education over several decades and started his career as a political science researcher and lecturer in Leiden, Florence and Maastricht.

Karl received his PhD in Leiden in 1978. He was member of the Executive Board of Maastricht University since 1986 and chaired the Board from 1994 until 2002. He was the inaugural chairman of the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO) from 2005 to 2012 and in that capacity also held functions on the ENQA Board and in the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). Karl was Chair of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) until October 2017. As VSNU Chairman, Dittrich was also a member of the Council of EUA. He is currently a member of the University Council of the University of York (UK).

Jon Haakstad (Professor)

Professor Jon Haakstad is Senior Adviser in the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), where he was also Director of analysis and Director of audits and evaluations. Previously, he was Senior adviser at the Network Norway Council (Advisory Council to the Ministry of Education on higher education) and has held the positions of Office Manager of the Norwegian Teacher Training Council; Assistant Director of the Tromsø University College and Rector of Tromsø College of Education.

Jon has chaired a number of ENQA evaluations of quality assurance agencies in Finland, Austria, Spain, Germany and the EUA and was an external expert in evaluations of higher education in Denmark, Ireland, Austria and Switzerland. He is a frequent presenter at EAIR and EQAF conferences and was a member of AQA's (Austria) Scientific Steering Group from 2008 to 2013. He has written several articles, conference papers and public reports on educational quality and quality assurance in higher education and has also published a textbook on British history.

Achim Hopbach (Dr)

Dr Achim Hopbach has been working in higher education since 1997. Before taking his current position as Managing Director of the Austrian Quality Assurance Agency (AQ Austria) in 2012, he served as Managing Director of the German Accreditation Council for seven years.

Dr Hopbach held and holds various positions in quality assurance agencies and associations, such as President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) from 2009 to 2013; member of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) from 2005 to 2013; member of the University Quality International Board (UQAIB), Dubai, since 2015; member of the Board of the Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Faculties (AVEPRO), Holy See, since 2016.

He works on international consultancy projects, among others in Southeast Asia and Africa and published numerous articles on the Bologna Process, quality assurance and qualifications frameworks

Mary Ellen Petrisko (Dr)

Dr Mary Ellen Petrisko is a member of the Academy's Board of Directors and former President of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission in Alameda, California (this is the Accrediting Commission for Schools and Colleges).

Dr Petrisko's extensive experience in academic leadership spans a variety of institutions across the United States and internationally. She has also worked as vice president at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in Philadelphia, PA; deputy secretary of higher education for the State of Maryland; vice president for academic affairs at the University of Maryland University College; and academic vice president of the Tai Sophia Institute (now the Maryland University for Integrative Health). She has also worked in higher education as a teacher of philosophy in the Netherlands and in the US and holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Boston University. Dr Petrisko is a graduate of the Academy's Leading by Being® program. Of Leading by Being Mary Ellen said. "Next to learning how to read, Leading by Being has been the most important learning experience in my life."