



PSRS Quality Assurance Board #5 Meeting (31/8/2022):

Here the list of QAB member attending the meeting

- Fabrizio Giorgis (PoliTo)
- Pietro Mandracci (PoliTo)
- Pasi Vahimaa (UEF)
- Alain Tremeau (UJM)
- Gustavo Insaurralde (UJM)
- Marwan Abdou Ahmed (University of Stuttgart)
- Francisco Gilberto Matos (student representative)
- Huynh Duc Le (2020-2022 students delegate)

The QAB meeting has been organized in remote connection by Zoom platform.

Agenda of the meeting:

1. Results on questionnaire defined by QAB from PSRS students (2nd semester)
2. Follow up on the Last PSRS Pedagogical Meeting
3. Follow-up students' progression/achievement semester 1 & 2
4. Selection process concerning Cohort 2022-2024
5. Any other business

After the usual presentation of the members of the Quality Assurance Board, Fabrizio Giorgis proposed to the members of the team to postpone the foreseen revision of the Key Performance Indicators to the next QAB meeting. All QAB members agreed.

1. Results on questionnaires defined by QAB towards PSRS students (2nd semester) presented by Pasi Vahimaa (UEF QAB member)

The questionnaires were collected during the second semester of 2021-2022. All the information was compiled in an Excel sheet where marks were compared from one year to the another.

Overall, all results are highly positive. Two modules have received negative feedback: 1) Micro and nanophotonics and 2) Optical design.

According to Pasi Vahimaa, both courses are given by the same teacher. Reading the questionnaires' answers, students recognized a problem concerning teaching methods, not the content. Alain Tremeau inquired about the results, trying to understand if there was any difference of satisfaction between local students and PSRS ones. P. Vahimaa answered that there is no difference between PSRS students and "local" ones.

Apart from this issue, feedbacks were overall positive. Some slight decreasing tendencies were visible on some courses due to the hiring of new teachers. Improvement were recognized on other modules such as "photonics laboratory", where a more coherent approach on theoretical and practical activities was given. Considering "light and matter" subjects, students consider that it could be helpful to give more courses of nonlinear optics in the first semester.

All this feedback will be communicated to the Administrative Board.

2. Follow up on the Last PSRS Pedagogical Meeting

Professors of the four universities participated in this meeting on 21/06/2022. During this meeting, UJM teaching staff drafted a document for new cohorts describing the basic notions required for following PSRS modules.

Apart from that, UJM teaching staff have decided to reduce the number of exams of umbrella courses (courses which include many sub-courses delivered by different professor). As a result, UJM teaching staff decided to test students by umbrella courses, not by unit, taking into account students feedbacks.

3. Follow up students' progression/achievement semester 1 & 2

All students validated the required number of ECTS to validate S2 or compensate the missing ECTS of S1. Two students had their EMJMD suspended during semester because they got less 25 ECTS. They passed a resit exam for semester 1 in June and finally validated the semester. AMB will validate their year and they should get back their EMJMD scholarship (including the retroactive part from Feb to August).

4. Selection process Cohort 2022-2024

182 files were received. Among them, 50 students over 3.33/5 average marks applied for the programme in the 2022/2024 intake.

The cohort is finally made up of 18 students; concerning the 3rd semester, 7 students going to UJM, 6 to Polito, and 5 to UPEC, showing a balanced distribution. All candidates are EMJMD scholarship holder. The students who received other scholarships finally declined.

Although the selection process was praised, some remarks were made by the members of the QAB First of all, some elements are missing in the presentation for the QAB members:

- The comparison of evaluation score averages coming from each PSRS selection intake,
- The number of selected students who dropped out their application after the communication of the selection list,
- The number of finally selected students which were originally part of the reserved list.

The application evaluation process was also a matter of discussion. The AMB has decided to implement a new evaluation process in order to facilitate the application analysis for each of the recruiting universities. As a matter of transparency, this selection procedure needs to be stated in the webpage as well as in internal documents.

5. Any other business

One of the members of the Quality Assurance Board, Alain Tremeau, was present in the Master thesis evaluation committee (the jury). He made some remarks:

- Master thesis guidelines document. Members of the evaluation jury did not use the last updated version of this documents, as some minor changes were included.
- Only one reporter should submit the report.
- Deadlines, the complains/appeal procedure are not clear neither for students nor teaching staff.
- UJM reporters systematically review students submitted documents by a special plagiarism checker software. However, sometimes such a process is done twice as other consortium universities are not aware of the previous review.

After Tremeau's remarks, members of QAB have decided:

- Encourage members of evaluation jury to use the last version of the master thesis guideline document,
- Strengthen transparency on three issues:
 - a) Deadlines
 - b) Complains/appeal procedure
 - c) Plagiarism fight system
- Fight Plagiarism by including three new forms
 - a) A personal statement from the student declaring that the submitted documents does not contain any plagiarism,
 - b) A document signed by the student's supervisor stating he/she approves of the submission of the master thesis,
 - c) A student form concerning the citation of figures or pictures in the written dissertation, the student must ask not only permission to the author but also the editor of journal which published such content.