

Notes for meeting of the Surveying Reference Group held on Thursday 17 September 2020 on Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Maurice Perwick (Eliot Sinclair), Paul Turner (Landlink), Randall McMullan, Duaa Alshadi, and Hugh Wilson (Unitec), Hamish McKenzie and Henrique Dias Goncalves (Toi Ohomai), Richard Hemi and Paul Denys (Otago University), Bruce Walker (bnwalkersurveying), Fiona Malloch, Michele Miller and Mike Grumball (Connexis).

Apologies: Jayne Albiston (Survey and Spatial NZ), Paul Jeurissen (Unitec), Jason Ware (Dines Group)

Meeting opened at 9 am with introductions. Noted Richard Hemi also represents Survey and Spatial NZ and Paul Turner also represents Consulting Surveyors of New Zealand.

Mike gave a summary of activity in the Reform of Vocational Education which will result in all students, trainees and apprentices being enrolled with NZIST, a private training establishment or wananga. Industry Training Organisations such as Connexis will transfer their learners by December 2022, and their standard setting functions will be transferred to a Workforce Development Council (WDC). There are also WDC Design and Reference Groups; Mike is a part of this process. A Centre of Vocational Excellence for Construction and Infrastructure has also been announced, based at MIT.

Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is about to begin industry consultation. It is a vital responsibility for WDCs to liaise with industry and ensure they are represented.

There continues to be need for workers in the surveying industry. It is difficult to get the right people: those with experience in life and the industry.

CSNZ is looking at training over a two-year period looking at competencies, and also a graduate training programme leading towards licensing. It will include a component of personal and professional growth.

Enrolments in Otago have been fairly constant, and the 50 graduates have been employed each year. Fees-free provision for diplomas has doubled the enrolments at both Unitec and Toi Ohomai. More mature people are re-training after losing their jobs during lockdown.

The industry is changing its view of diploma graduates. They've gained more status than in the past. They are also cheaper than degree graduates. Unitec has developed a degree which builds on the diploma to encourage enrolments.

It is useful to have career pathways. Suggest providers work together so graduates of the diploma can be exempted appropriate 200 level (third year) papers of the Otago degree. Improved mathematical principles would also be of benefit

Emphasis for diploma graduates should be on survey methods and data processing. This is reflected in the 115 credits for survey methods, which equates to about half of the diploma's contents.

Unit standards do not have to be used in programmes. Neither Toi Ohomai nor Unitec use unit standards in their current programmes. See usage data, page 6 of review. The unit standards will be expired if they are not required.

Another option to address gaps in diploma graduates' knowledge is to establish bridging courses.

The current certificate has been used in larger infrastructure company with people doing surveying functions. When the borders were open, people did a year, went overseas and didn't finish the certificate.

NZ Diploma in Surveying (Level 6)

RG endorsed the strategic purpose statement and graduate profile outcomes. Noted the outcomes are vague, which offers flexibility for programmes, but there is guidance from the NZQF level descriptors and credit values allocated to each outcome, and the job role(s) graduates are able to do.

GPO 6

- Suggest 'Undertake' changes to 'Collect and process data for...'
- Discussed 115 credits: this could be divided into three, one outcome for each type of survey, with equal credit value. At present all methods are covered but not necessarily equally, depending on company and workplace requirements. RG recommended keeping the 115 to allow for these differences.

Job roles are assistant surveyor or chainman, land surveyor or survey technician, professional surveyor, licensed surveyor. RG agreed the title 'land surveyor' for a diploma graduate was most appropriate.

GPO 5: Agreed spatial data needs more emphasis with emerging technology, so recommend an increase credit value to 25 credits. (Move 5 credits from GPO 4 and 5 credits from GPO 1).

GPO 1: is 50 credits too high for land development, consent etc? Agreed about 20% of the diploma is the right proportion for this GPO. Toi Ohomai's projects for GPO1 were outlined.

RG agreed to retain the current entry requirements and noted those over 21 are exempt these requirements. Noted these are now 'recommended' entry requirements.

NZ Certificate in Surveying (Level 4)

RG confirmed need for graduates at this level and endorsed the purpose and outcomes.

Assistant surveyor is appropriate for the job role, also under supervision.

RG agreed 75 credits, or about a year in a workplace, is a reasonable length.

Unitec and Toi Ohomai offer some credit for people's practical experience as recognition of prior learning.

The certificate is a good introduction to surveying. For some people the certificate is sufficient. For others it is a good stepping-stone to the diploma.

Agreed to retain the programme entry requirements.

Alter 'land surveying firm' to 'land development company'.

Discussed delivery options e.g. block courses.

Unit standards

Connexis will set up another working group for the review of the level 4 unit standards and expire the level 6 unit standards. Hopefully the Connexis assessor will be able to attend.

Process from here:

- Consultation on Connexis website and by email.
- Connexis will submit application to NZQA.
- Evaluation takes 20-45 days.
- Providers submit programmes for approval by NZQA.

Applications to NZQA must include evidence of industry consultation and support from a range of stakeholders.

Agreed this group will become the Reference Group and meet approximately twice a year.

Next meeting: early 2021.