

Assessment of the self-evaluation from Azerbaijan Technological University

Lennart Ståhle, KTH (independent consultant HE)

Azerbaijan Technological University (UTCEA) was founded in 1970. It has about 2500 students and gives education on all three levels: bachelor, master and PhD. The main educational fields are IT and Computer Science, Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Material Science and Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Textile Engineering, Food Sciences and Technology, Tourism, Machinery, Business Administration, Industrial Management, Public Administration, Management and Training-Education Technologies of Human Resources.

The supreme governing body of the University is the Scientific Council. Faculties and departments as well as the students are represented in the council. The Scientific Council carries out general management of the university faculties. University mission and vision is decided by the council. The university strategic plan is decided (?) and monitored by the council, which receives an annual report about the activities from the departments. The Council approves new teaching materials, PhD dissertation topics and supervisions, budget allocation issues.

The self-evaluation. General comments.

The self-evaluation is very ambitious and covers all the activities of the university. It is however not clear who is responsible for the evaluation and if it has been accepted by the scientific council, the rector and students.

Quality assurance policy

ESG: Institutions should have a policy for quality assurance that is public and forms a part of their strategic management. Internal stakeholders develop and implement this policy through appropriate structures and processes while involving external stakeholders.

Does the institution have a policy for QA? How well known and accepted is the policy within the institution?

Who decides about the QA policy and the organization of the QA-work?

How is this policy executed? What actions are undertaken? Is there an annual report about QA at the institution?

University report: It is not completely clear whether the university really have a quality assurance policy. What is presented in the report is a list of different activities:

- a. Strategies and Procedures for Quality Assurance
- b. Structures and Policies for Quality Assurance
- c. Use of internal quality process outcomes in decision making and strategic planning
- d. Periodic Assessment Procedures of the Quality of the Staff
- e. The Quality of Teaching and Research Staff
- f. Surveys

g. Feedbacks

This can be seen as a structure for a quality assurance policy but it is not commented.

The quality assurance policy seems not to be communicated to all units and the students of the university.

Unit for Quality Assurance

The university does not have a unit for quality assurance. But it has a quality assurance commission with a limited mission: to assess the quality of staff. The evaluations are limited to academic performance. There are not any

Quality Assurance process

The structure of the quality assurance process is not clear. The responsibility seems to be given from the council, via the rector to the heads of departments, who are responsible to report back to the higher levels.

Conclusion and recommendations

The self-evaluation shows different picture of quality assurance. Quality assurance seems to be limited to certain areas of the operations. Taken separately all these activities correspond to parts in the European Standard and Guidelines. There is a need to bring together all these activities into one policy. The recommendations are consequently:

- One Quality Assurance policy for the whole university, which is known and accepted by all partners.
- Establishing a Quality Assurance unit that has the direct responsibility for formulating the QA policy and summing up the yearly QA activities within the university. The unit should be responsible for reporting to the council.
- Establishing a QA advisory group consisting of teachers students and stakeholders outside the university.