

Programme Improvement Plan

Provider Name:	Teagasc
Provider No.:	
Manager/Principal/ Director Name:	Frank Murphy
Programme Title	Level 5 Cert in Horse Breeding and Training (CIE5) Level 6 Advanced Cert in Horsemanship (AEH6) Level 6 Advanced Cert. in Stud Management (AES6)

Recommendation From Self Evaluation Report	Action Agreed	By Whom	By When
Programme Analysis			
Horsemanship is the official term for the Level 6 Advanced Certificate, so the wording should remain uniform throughout course promotional literature for CIE5, AEH6 and AES6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been addressed by John O’Dwyer in the 2010 Teagasc Prospectus for Courses in Agriculture, Horticulture and Food. • Frank Murphy has addressed this issue in college promotional literature. Courses clearly presented on separate pages with clear titles 	P. Browne	Done 2009
		F. Murphy	Done 2009
The stud management option, CIE5 and AES6, must be re-addressed to encourage the attraction and retention of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College management consulted students as to module selection for the programme. A practical learning Module was introduced in 2010. This module replaced other modules which students found less relevant to the Stud Management Course. • College to develop a distinct Stud Yard at the old Deer Unit helping to give a clear identity to the Stud Course. • College to work with Equine Advisers to use this unit for adult courses and promotional events – thus promoting the image of the Stud Management Course. • Consider establishing facilities to hold A.I. courses at the breeding unit. 	F. Murphy	Done Sept 2010
		F. Murphy	On going 2010
		F. Murphy/R. Gaffney	On going 2010
		F. Murphy/R. Gaffney	To be considered in 2011

<p>Every effort should be made to ensure that the opinions and issues of the Stud Management students are adequately captured and considered separate to the horsemanship majority, e.g. instruct them to enter stud management on the CIE5 survey, ensure the level 6 stud management students complete the survey.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student surveys were changed by James Maher/F. Murphy to capture the responses of both programmes. • Separate surveys were conducted in 2010. 	<p>J. Maher R Gaffney /F Murphy</p>	<p>Done 2010 Done 2010</p>
<p>The standard student survey should be re-examined by the CQAU. Surveys should be tailored to capture programme specific information and re-designed for various analysis and self evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surveys were re-designed to capture programme specific information as recommended. 	<p>J. Maher</p>	<p>Done 2010</p>
<p>Programme Design and Content</p>			
<p>Increasing the flexibility of modules in the equine programme should be investigated especially for the stud management course. Consider exploiting the availability of the modules currently taught in Kildalton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Principal and equine staff discussed module choice with students. A practical training module was introduced in September 2010 and certain modules dropped. • On-farm practical training introduced in September 2010 will support stallion work, yearling production, foal management, barren-mare management and in-foal management. 	<p>F. Murphy R Gaffney/ C Warner/J O Dwyer</p>	<p>Done 2010 Done 2010</p>
<p>Programme Delivery</p>			
<p>Where possible workbooks should be updated to have course relevance for equine students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This recommendation will be considered in workbooks due for reprinting. The possibility of producing a set of accounts specific to horses will be examined for use with the Cash Accounts workbook. • B.H.S. workbooks in use in 2010 • Course notes to be up-loaded onto the Moodle platform in 2010. 	<p>J. O'Dwyer R Gaffney Teaching staff at Kildalton</p>	<p>Subject to migration timelines for FETAC equine awards. Done 2010 Ongoing 2010</p>

Investigate alternative arrangements for students who complete modules early/on-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The better students, who master the skill quickly, are now encouraged to help weaker students and thereby improve their coaching skills. This will help students to develop their coaching skills and support the weaker student. 	F. Murphy R. Gaffney	Done 2010
Equine yard staff should investigate areas of miscommunication/potential miscommunication and set in place, if not already so, written protocols for routine tasks. Involving students in brief fortnightly “yard meetings” could be beneficial in rectifying perceived communication issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine tasks are confirmed in writing on a white board at the Equine yard. Class reps. have been appointed for all courses. Teaching staff hold weekly briefing meetings. Weekly communication meeting held with 2nd year students with teaching & yard staff (involved in yard supervision) A schedule of student liaison meetings will be held each semester. Meetings will involve class reps. and teaching staff. 	R. Gaffney R Gaffney Equine teachers R Gaffney/C Warner R Gaffney/C Warner	Done 2010 Done 2010 Done 2010 Done 2010 Done 2010
Associated Services and Resourcing			
The mentoring programme should be pro-actively pursued and the possibility of using mentors from other Kildalton College training programmes should be explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staggered start of courses for 1st and 2nd year students to allow more time for course induction with 1st year students. Mentor meeting dates set at the start of each semester Formal meetings with class reps. to be held during the course. Continue to use equine staff for mentor meetings due to their knowledge of the course and day – to-day yard management. 	R Gaffney/C Warner R Gaffney/C Warner R Gaffney/C Warner F Murphy	Done 2010 Done 2010 Done 2010 Done 2010
Staff should be provided with adequate changing facilities, preferably with showers due to the inevitable consequences of working unsheltered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is being considered at present but the current budgetary situation is a constraint. Temporary facilities have been made available in the Coach-house but not to a satisfactory standard. 	F Murphy F Murphy	On going Done 2010
Consider using innovative training techniques to create more flexible time for staff. Suggestion: consider exploring the potential of eLearning combined with support tutorials rather than a full week of scheduled classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-service training is organised through PMDS. Because of the teaching load training may have to be done during summer months. Work-shops and demonstrations have been organised at Kildalton with outside equine organisations which staff & students can attend. 	F Murphy F Murphy R Gaffney/C Warner	On going On going Done 2009

<p>Facilitating prospective students to meet with current level 6 students in order to ask questions about the course could be explored. Or prospective students could be provided an opportunity to experience “a day in the life of the equine programme”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current policy is to ensure that prospective students meet current students • Commitment to the course to be clearly outlined at promotional events and in promotional literature as well as at interview stage • Level 5 & Level 6 students used extensively during career’s open days, work-shops and demonstrations. • Past students profiles are used to promote Kildalton equine courses. • Work Experience can be organised for second level students including Transition Year students in the Equine Unit at Kildalton. 	<p>R Gaffney/C Warner</p> <p>R Gaffney/C Warner</p> <p>R Gaffney/C.Warner</p> <p>R Gaffney/C Warner</p> <p>R. Gaffney/C.Warner</p>	<p>Done 2009</p> <p>Done 2009</p> <p>Done 2009</p> <p>Done 2009</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>Explore options to raise the satisfaction levels with facilities. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a common room with (or allow students provide) limited food facilities (e.g. fridge/microwave) • If not already available provide quiet study areas • Provide wireless facilities <p>Explore options to place the onus of entertainment on students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the creation of a student sports and social club • Establish a students union with class reps to deal with student issues and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new common room with food vending services available since Sept. ’09 in new building • A new library available since Sept. ’09. Lack of library supervisory staff is a serious limitation. • Wireless facilities provided in 2010 • Efforts have been made to develop student activities but the response to such activities have been low. The development of student activities is seriously limited due to the lack of a Student Supervisor on site at Kildalton College. • The role of the student/college liaison committee has been refocused. 	<p>F Murphy</p> <p>F Murphy</p> <p>Teagasc IT</p> <p>R Gaffney/C Warner</p> <p>F Murphy/ R Gaffney/ C Warner</p>	<p>Done 2009</p> <p>On going</p> <p>Done 2010</p> <p>On going</p> <p>Done 2010</p>

Assessment of Learning			
Effort should be made so that students never sit more than the maximum five exams on any day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the policy at Kildalton College that students do not sit more than 5 exams (short) on any day. 	F Murphy	Done 2010
Incidents of inaccurate reporting of student's results should be thoroughly investigated. Procedures should be put in place to prevent reoccurrence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular checking of EMS is carried out. Students are given regular copies of their official (EMS) results throughout the academic year. Results are crossed checked by External Verifiers and no incidents of in-accurate results have been recorded. 	R Gaffney/C Warner R Gaffney External verifiers	Done 2009 Done 2009 Done 2009
A minimum notification period of written assessment should be agreed between the teachers and students and implemented as standard through the equine programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the policy of Kildalton College that students are given a minimum of 4 days notice of exams. 	F Murphy	Done 2009
Attainment of Programme Objectives			
Follow-up surveys of previous students are essential for assessing achievement of programme objectives. Providers should be implemented to ensure this occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is planned to survey past graduates in 2011. 	CQAU	To be completed in 2011.
Signed: _____		Date: _____	