

Continuous quality improvement through a structured quality advisory board model

Presentation of the alternative accreditation process

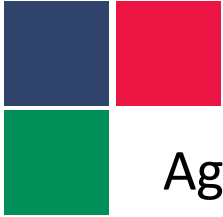
- Joint Project -

Accreditation Council in Dialogue

November 14, 2024

Prof. Dr. Mathias Hinkelmann

Vice Rector for Teaching – Stuttgart Media University



Agenda

1. Participating Universities
2. Concept and Timeline
3. Principles and Implementation
4. Joint Project
5. Findings



Participating universities



Furtwangen University (HFU)

- **System accreditation** in March 2013 with ACQUIN
- **3 campuses**, 9 faculties, 62 degree programs, 7 external programs, approx. 4,500 students
- **Combination of centralized and decentralized QM systems**, coordination via QM Board, program accreditation via a digitally supported peer review process, accreditation decision by the Senate

Nürtingen-Geislingen University of Applied Sciences for Business and the Environment (HfWU)

- **System accreditation** in November 2013 with AQAS
- **2 campuses**, 4 faculties, 31 degree programs, 20 external programs, approximately 5,400 students
- **Decentralized QM system with central coordination**, internal accreditation through Q-Dialog, accreditation decisions by the Rector's Office, monitoring by academic advisory boards and Q-Portfolio

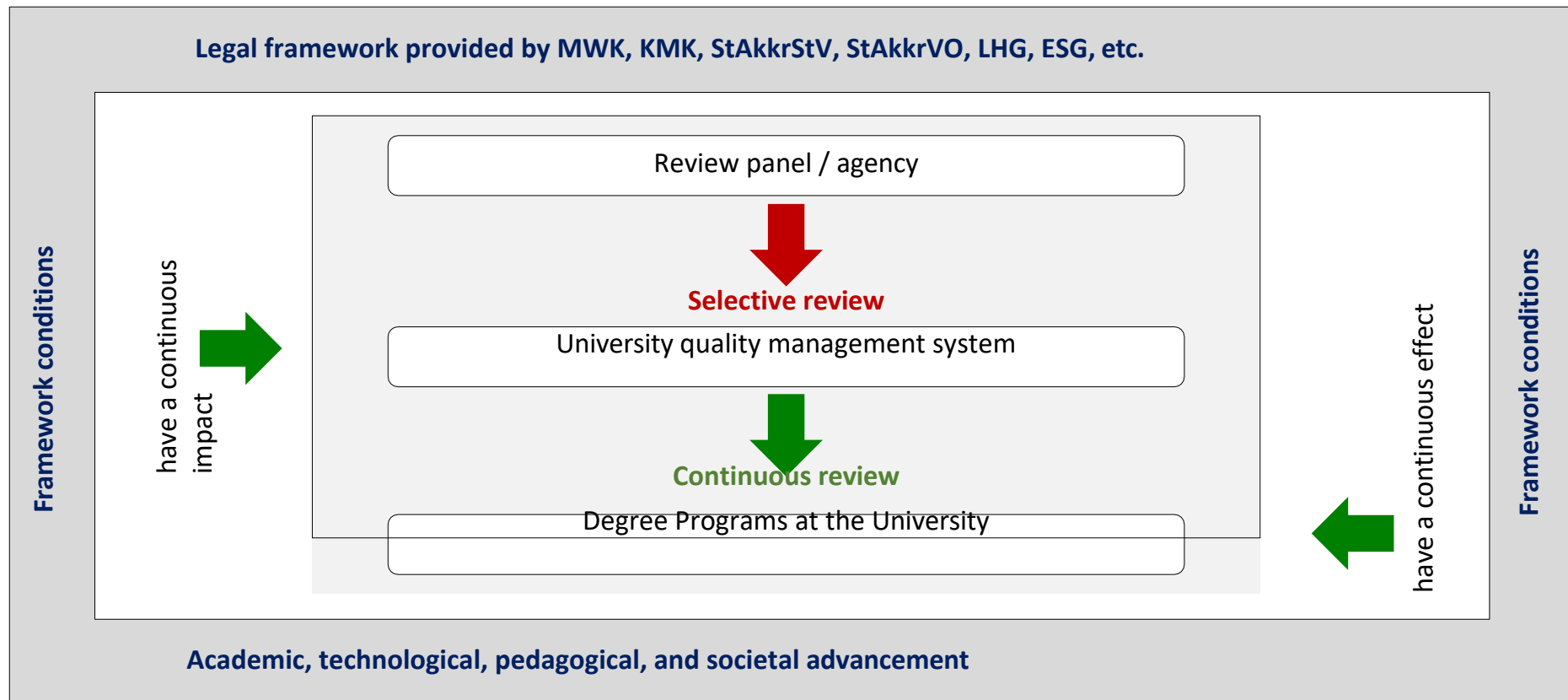


Stuttgart Media University (HdM)

- **System accreditation in** June 2013 with ACQUIN
- **1 campus**, 3 faculties, 28 degree programs, approx. 5,500 students
- **Centralized system**, internal accreditation via a central audit process, accreditation decision by the Senate, monitoring through semester reports and annual reviews

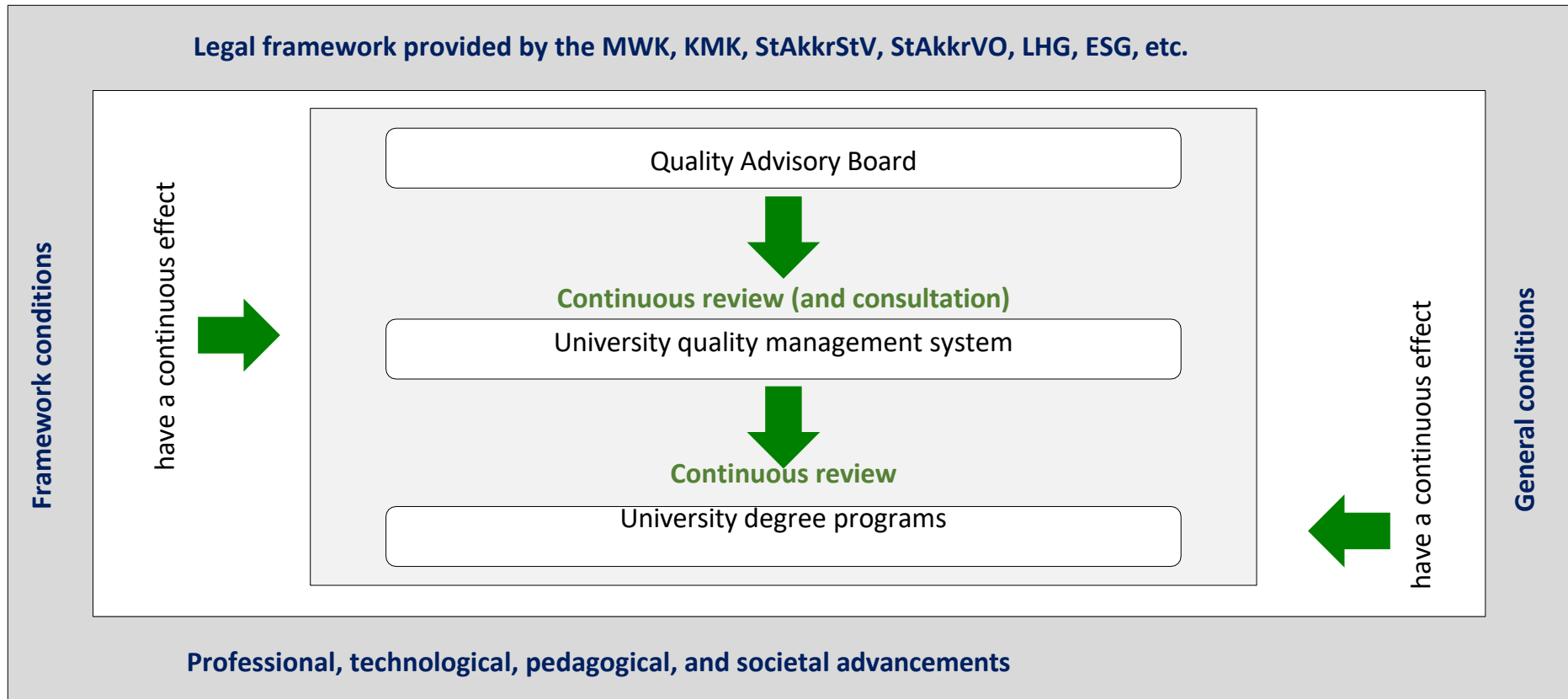


Cooperation among stakeholders – traditional system (re)accreditation





Quality Advisory Board Model





Quality Advisory Board Model

Legal framework established by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (MWK), the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder (KMK), the State Accreditation Act (StAkkStV), the State Accreditation Ordinance (StAkkrVO), the Higher Education Act (LHG), the Higher Education Act (ESG), etc.

Quality assurance aspects

- Distribution of Arbeitlast für die Peak redirect to dengesamter Qualität
- Accreditation always in accordance with current legal requirements
- Continuous Befassung für den Topic: QM
- Greater visibility of the topic of QM within the committees

Further development in terms of subject matter, technology, pedagogy, and society



Key Milestones

February 2018	Start of the collaboration between the member universities and evalag
October 2021	Start of implementation following the signing of the agreement with the Accreditation Council to carry out the procedure
November 2021 – July 2022	Implementation of the Quality Advisory Board model , including the adoption of the bylaws, the appointment of advisory board members, the inaugural meeting, and the first regular meeting → Start of regular operations
September 2022	On-site evaluation by the Accreditation Council's evaluation team
March 2023	Accreditation of the procedure with four conditions
June 2024	Confirmation of compliance with conditions by the Accreditation Council
Q1/2025	Internal interim evaluation

Principles of the Quality Advisory Board Model (1)

Thematic and content-related focus:

- Cumulative review of the criteria of the StAkkVO through conformity decisions on individual aspects of the StAkkVO
- Analysis from the perspective of the QMS (processes and tools)
- Compliance with the requirements for alternative procedures under Section 34(2) of the StAkkVO

System-accredited QM systems:

- Quality management systems are in place and will remain in effect.
- Internal (re)accreditation procedures continue
- QM systems are being further developed with regard to and through the Q-Advisory Board model



Principles of the Quality Advisory Board Model (2)

Ensuring the neutrality of the advisory board and the agency:

- Dedicated rules of impartiality apply to advisory boards
- Clearly defined role of the agency
- Appointment of advisory board members by the Quality Assurance Agency

Binding nature of the advisory board's decisions:

- Conformity decisions as part of the accreditation decision
- Instrument: Requirement

Utilization of the advisory boards' expertise:

- Recommendations and guidance for the further development of the QMS



Role of the Quality Assurance Agency evalag

Support for universities and quality advisory boards:

- Advising the member institutions on the design and implementation of the project since 2018
- Appointment of quality advisory board members by the evalag Board of Trustees; appointment takes effect upon the member's signing of a contract with the university
- Participation in advisory board meetings with guidance on accreditation criteria and preparation of the minutes



evalag does not act as an accreditation agency within the scope of the project.

Key documents on operationalization

Concept

- 1. Guiding Principles and Objectives of the Quality Advisory Board Model**
 - Objectives of the Model
 - Participating member universities
 - Project Concept
- 3. Quality Advisory Boards**
 - Establishment
 - Composition
 - Responsibilities
 - Appointment
- 4. Cooperation between universities and quality advisory boards**
 - Organization of the Quality Advisory Board Model
 - Internal processes

Bylaws

- 1. Objectives and Mandate**
- 2. Conformity assessment**
- 3. Significant changes**
- 4. Membership Regulations**
 - Composition
 - Expense Reimbursement
 - Quorum
 - Appointment of Members
 - Termination of Membership
 - Removal & Reappointment
- 5. Cooperation between the university and the Quality Advisory Board**
- 6. Mediation proceedings**
- 7. Dissolution of the Quality Advisory Board**

Rules of Procedure

- 1. Mandate**
- 2. Meeting Format**
- 3. Chair, Deputy Chair, and Duties of the Chair**
- 4. Decision-making**
- 5. Internal Coordination Group**
- 6. Invitations to meetings**
- 7. Agenda, meeting materials**
- 8. Minutes and reporting**
- 9. Recall and removal**
- 10. Amendment of the Rules of Procedure**

Participation Agreement

- 1. Subject matter of the contract and scope of work**
- 2. Expense reimbursement**
- 3. Time and Place of Service Provision**
- 4. Expenses**
- 5. Impartiality**
- 6. Obligations of the University**
- 7. Confidentiality**
- 8. Retention and Return of Documents**
- 9. Publication**
- 10. Protection of personal data**
- 11. Other Claims**
- 12. Termination of the Contractual Relationship**

Key documents on operationalization

Concept	Bylaws	Rules of Procedure	Participation Agreement
1. Guiding Principles and Objectives of the Quality Advisory Board Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives of the model Participating partner universities 	1. Objectives and Mandate	1. Mandate	1. Subject Matter of the Agreement and Mandate
3. Quality Advisory Boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project concept Cooperation 	2. Governance	2. Mandate	2. Expense allowance
4. Together with the HSE and quality advisory boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Einrichtung svDec Composition Duties Appointment 	3. Significant changes	3. Chair, Deputy Chair, and Duties of the Chair	3. Time and place of service provision
5. Zusammenhänge	4. Membership regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composition Expense Reimbursement 	4. Decision-making	4. Expenses
6. Zusammenhänge	5. Appointment of members	5. Internal Coordination Group	5. Impartiality
7. Zusammenhänge	6. Termination of Membership	6. Agenda, Meeting Materials	6. Duties of the university
8. Zusammenhänge	7. Removal & Reappointment	7. Minutes and reporting	7. Confidentiality
9. Zusammenhänge	8. Board	8. Veröffentlichung	8. Retention and Return of Documents
10. Zusammenhänge	9. Mediation Procedure	9. Amendment of the Rules of Procedure	9. Protection of personal data
11. Zusammenhänge	10. Internal	10. Other claims	10. Termination of the contractual relationship

Resolution – Binding Nature

- Gradual identification of necessary changes/additions or -opportunities and further developments in the university's QMS:
 - Requirements in connection with StAkkVVO criteria
 - Recommendations (university approval required) and
 - Suggestions for opportunities for further development
- Submission and consideration by university committees
- Formulation of work assignments with decision-making by university committees

Graduated assessment of the degree to which StAkrVO criteria are met

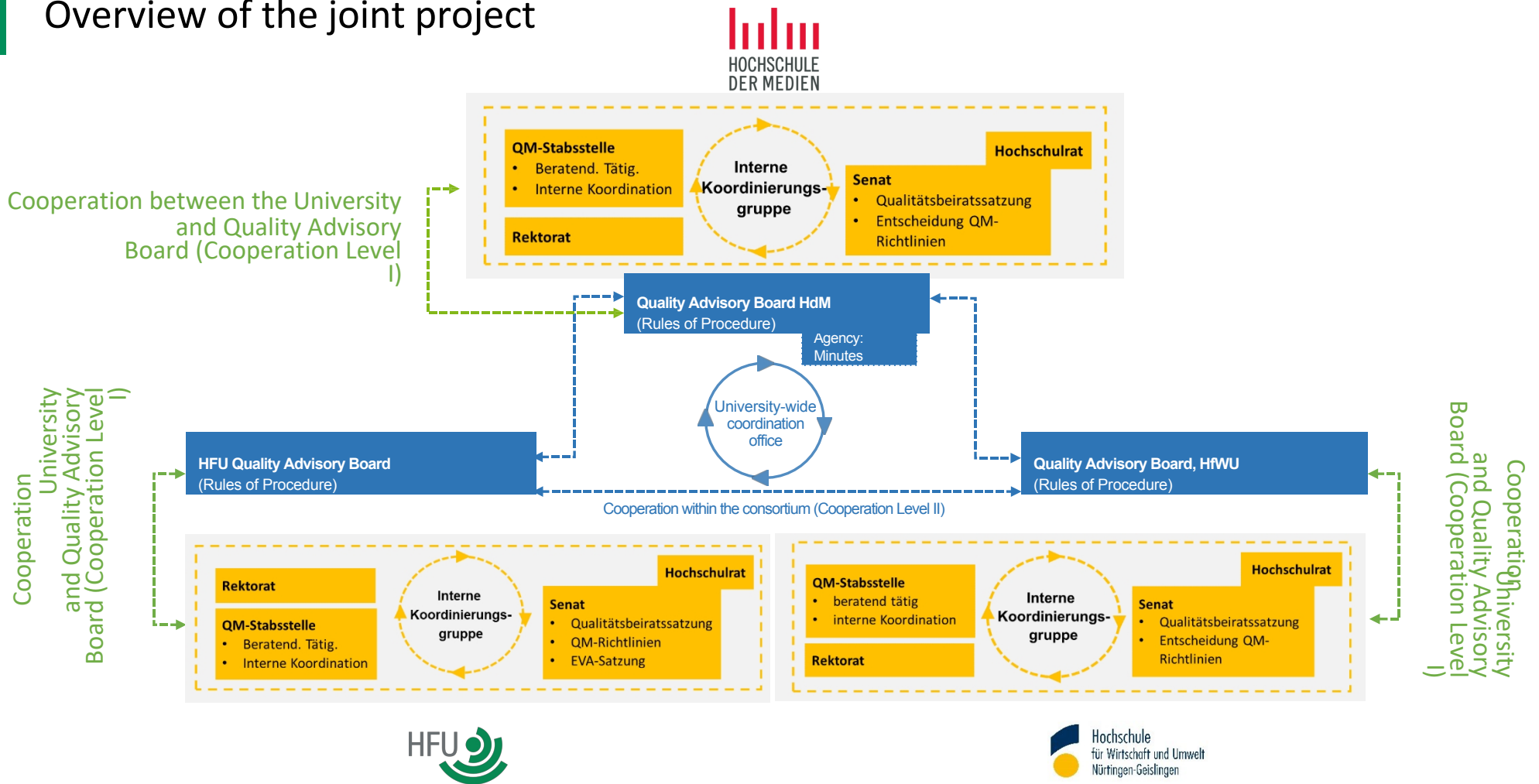
- Fully met
- Partially met – with specification of missing aspects
- Partial aspect met – with specification of the aspect reviewed
- Not met – with reasons provided
- Met – after resolution of a clearly defined outstanding issue

Checklist for verifying the criteria set forth in Sections 17–20 of the Study Program Accreditation Ordinance ()

Verification of compliance with accreditation criteria for a system reaccreditation pursuant to the Study Accreditation Ordinance				
<University>				
<Status>				
I. Checklist for verifying compliance with accreditation criteria for quality management systems (Sections 17–20 StAkrVO)				
No.	Assessment criterion	Audit Date(s)	Verification result(s)	References (minutes of the advisory board meetings, <input type="text"/>)
§ 17	Concept of the quality management system (objectives, processes, tools)			
	Paragraph 1			
Sentence 1	The university has a mission statement for teaching that is reflected in the curricula of its degree programs.	<First review on>	Criterion not yet reviewed	
		<second review on>	Criterion not yet reviewed	
		<third review on>	Criterion not yet checked	
Sentence 2	The quality management system adheres to the values and standards of the mission statement for teaching and aims to continuously improve the quality of education.	<First review on>	Criterion not yet reviewed	

- ✓ The checklist is being filled out gradually (cumulative review).
- ✓ Review criteria are updated in response to changes in legal requirements.
- ✓ The checklist documents the status of the review at all times.
- ✓ Once fully established, it documents the "accreditation" itself.

Overview of the joint project



Internal Structures - HdM

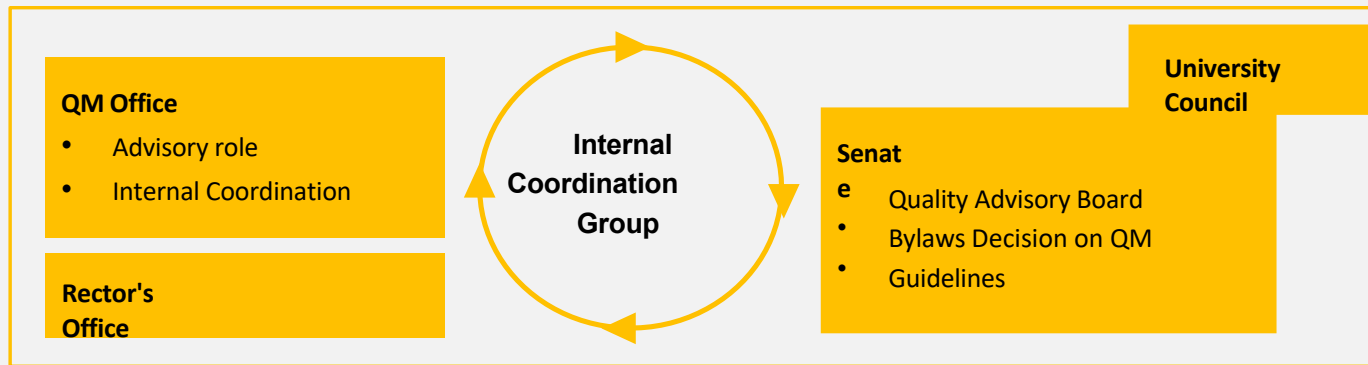


Characteristics:

- 1 Campus
- 3 faculties
- 28 degree programs
- approx. 5,500 students

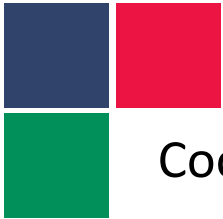
Quality Management System:

- Centralized system,
- Internal accreditation via a central audit process
- Accreditation decision by the Senate
- Monitoring through semester reports and annual reviews

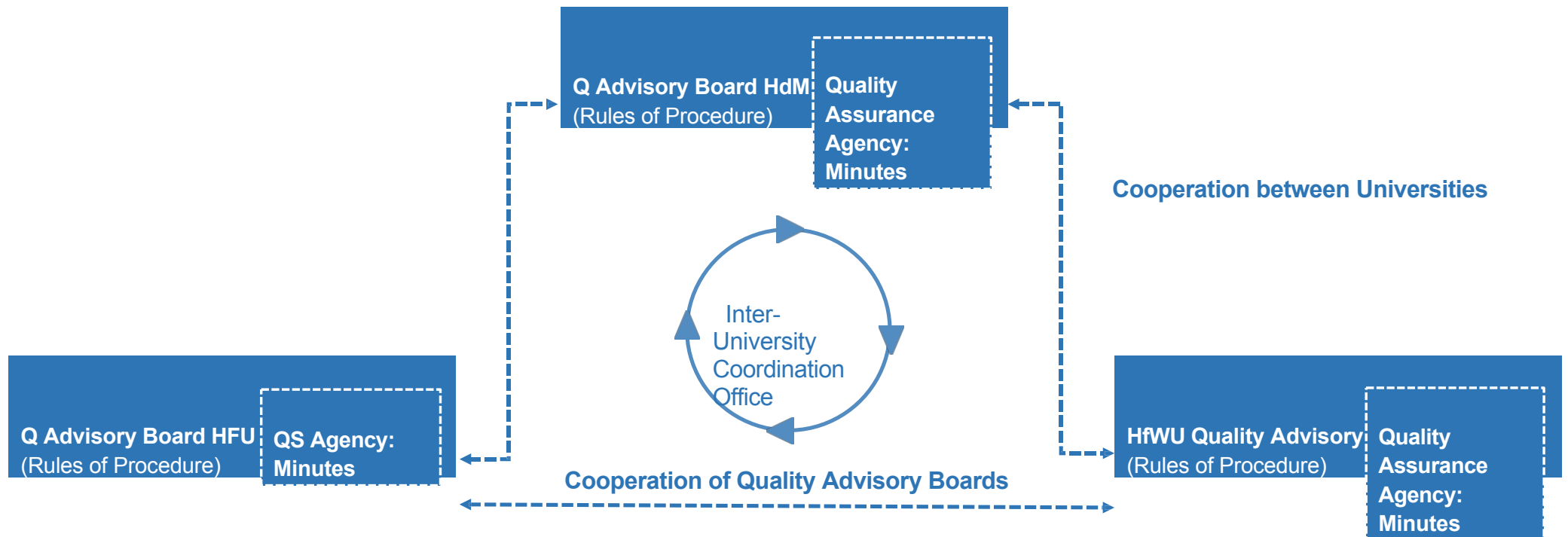


Collaboration between the university and the Quality Advisory Board (Cooperation Level I)





Cooperation Level II





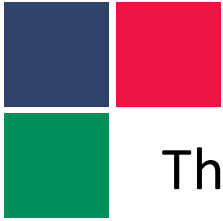
Findings to Date

- Until the start of implementation:
 - In-depth examination of the accreditation system provides impetus for our own QM system.
- First advisory board meetings:
 - In-depth discussions in a safe space and
 - a detailed review of the quality management system from an external perspective, with
 - valuable recommendations and guidance for further development
 - The advisory boards operate slightly differently at each member institution

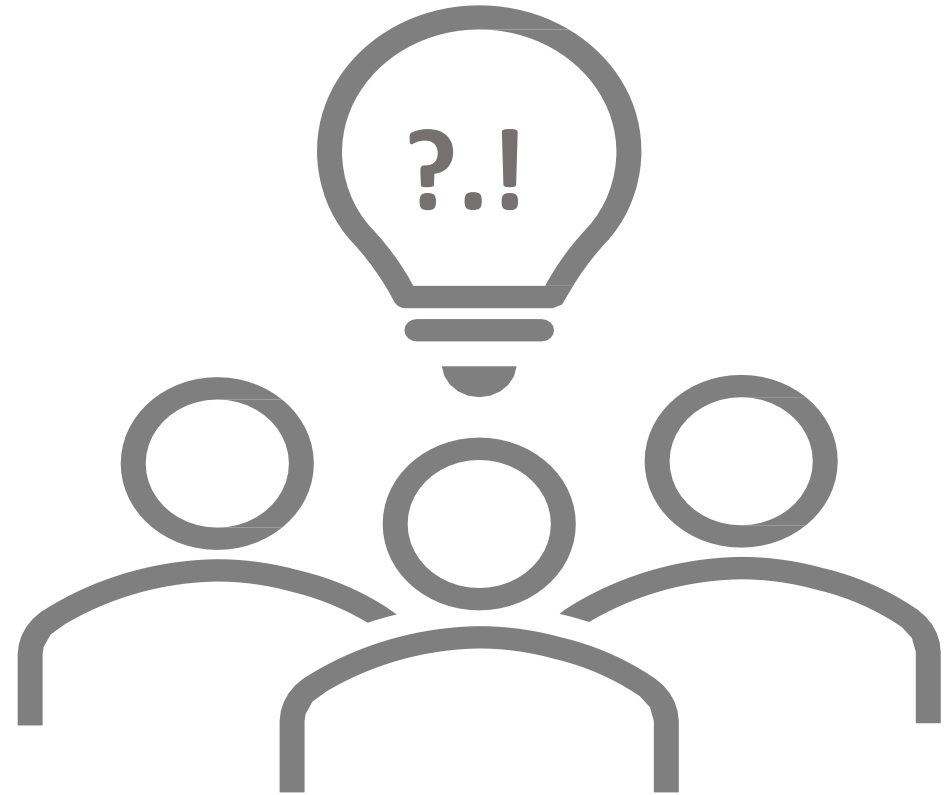


The advisory boards take the review of the StAkkrVO criteria and the recommendations for further development of the QMS very seriously.

The system is effective!



Thank you very much



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