Reviewer's report

Title: Principles and practice underlying development and delivery of high quality educational courses in Africa

Version: 1 Date: 15 February 2008

Reviewer: David Dr Baume

Reviewer's report:

Referee comments on "Principles and practice underlying development and delivery of high quality educational courses in Africa"

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   To my knowledge, the question is newly addressed here. The question is certainly very clearly defined.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   Yes.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   A sound evidence base is provided for the recommendations made in the article on quality assurance and quality enhancement.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   The paper reports a development project rather than primarily a piece of research. The manuscript certainly adheres to appropriate standards for this kind of article.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Most definitely.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes, in both cases.

7. Is the writing acceptable?
   The writing is to a good standard, and is wholly appropriate for the publication, the subject matter and the audience.

Further comments

This article, and the Handbook that it describes and that is readily accessible through a URL in the article, provides valuable, principled and highly applicable information and advice on the six very important higher education quality topics
that it addresses. The article both describes the importance of the topic and helps readers to implement the advice given. The handbook and the article provide a valuable contribution to the enhancement of the quality of educational provision, and hence to the improvement of health care provided by graduates of programmes which have been designed and run on the basis of this advice and guidance.

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.