

**To: Heads of higher education institutions in
Wales**

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Towards a Framework of Professional Teaching Standards Consultation

I am writing to draw your attention to the multi-agency consultation on professional teaching standards.

The development of a framework for national professional standards in teaching in HE will be a key area of development for the Higher Education Academy. I would like to encourage all HE colleagues to engage with the debate around national professional standards, participate in the consultation seminars and respond to the consultation individually or collectively. The development of a standards framework would inevitably inform the future development and facilitation of professional development accreditation within the HE Academy.

The Higher Education Academy has been invited by UUK, SCOP and the HE Funding Bodies to take forward the development of national professional standards in teaching in higher education. The HE Academy wishes to work openly and in collaboration with the HE community to seek suggestions, observations and comments on how the Academy could take this development forward working with and building upon the considerable achievements of the HE sector in championing professional development in teaching and learning, and as facilitated and enhanced through the work of the LTSN, ILTHE, National Co-ordination Team and our other respected partner organisations. This consultation paper has the principal aim of opening and raising the debate on how the HE sector wishes to take forward the development work and provides a unique opportunity for the profession to establish a standards framework which articulates with the professional development and on-going enhancement of teaching and learning already taking place.

The consultation paper asks for responses by 19th July. Responses should be forwarded to Universities UK or SCOP by this date. The consultation paper can also be downloaded from the following web-sites: www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/consultations/UniversitiesUK/ or www.scop.ac.uk/Scop.asp

The HE Academy is currently arranging a number of consultation seminars around the UK during May and June to give the HE sector the opportunity to discuss the paper and give your comments and suggestions to the Academy.

I can confirm that a seminar is to be held in Wales on Wednesday 23 June 2004 at The Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells. Further details may be found on the Higher Education Academy web site at www.heacademy.ac.uk/standards/. Please book early by completing the booking form on the web site and sending it to Jacqui.Heffernan@ilt.ac.uk. This event is free of charge and open to all HE colleagues engaged in teaching and supporting student learning.

I hope this circular has been helpful, but if you require further information, please contact Karen Jones (02920 682283) karen.jones@hefcw.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely

PROFESSOR PHIL GUMMETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE