

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 13 November 2014

in A204

Present: Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Ms Valerie Cooke (Secretary),
Dr Brian Corcoran, Dr Eamon Costello,
Dr Greg Foley, Professor Barbara Flood, Mr Gary Gillick,
Dr Mark Glynn, Dr Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl,
Ms Phylomena McMorrough, Dr Pádraig Ó Duibhir,
Professor Colm O’Gorman, Ms Michele Pringle

Apologies: Dr Clare Bohan, Professor Lisa Looney, Dr Caroline McMullan

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of additional submissions under Items 4.1.7, 4.1.8, 4.1.9, 5.4.3, 5.4.4 and 5.4.5

2. Minutes of the meeting of 11 September 2014

Approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 It was noted that a legacy re-admission request from DCUBS was approved by Chair’s action (Item 5.1.2).

3.2 It was noted that it is intended to include Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) as an agenda item during the academic year 2014-2015 (Item 3.2).

- 3.3** With respect to the management of records of (re-)accreditations of programmes by external professional bodies, and the sign-off of documentation, it was noted that consideration was being given to the implementation of best practice (Item 3.4).
- 3.4** It was noted that discussions on the Memorandum of Understanding with Queen's University Belfast in relation to the MSc in Plasma and Vacuum Technology were ongoing (Item 3.6).
- 3.5** It was noted that consideration would be given to the possibility of requiring a rationale to be provided in instances where the serving external examiner was not selected as the external expert for Programme Period Review (PPR) (Item 3.7).
- 3.6** It was noted that discussions about re-sit categories and other Marks and Standards issues were in progress and the working group would submit proposals to USC in due course (Item 6).
- 3.7** It was noted that discussions were ongoing with respect to the drafting of proposals about the management of communication with external examiners and that, in this context, the Chair and the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education had drawn up a work plan for the remainder of 2014 (Item 3.19).
- 3.8** It was noted that the Chair and Ms. P. McMorrow had investigated the drafting of proposals for the conduct of examinations in remote locations, however, it was proposed and agreed that each request for examinations in remote locations would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis (Item 3.20).
- 3.9** It was noted that discussions on issues in relation to Programme Regulations, namely sharing good practice and ownership of the regulations were ongoing (Item 3.17).

SECTION B: FACULTY ISSUES

4.1 Appointment of external examiners

- 4.1.1 Dr John Steel, University of Sheffield
MA in Political Communication
Approved.
- 4.1.2 Dr David Keane, Middlesex University
Modules in School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 4.1.3 Ms Catherine Mitchell, University of Hull
Modules in School of Law and Government
Approved.

- 4.1.4 Dr Liz Heffernan, TCD
Modules in School of Law and Government
Approved for one year only (either Dr Heffernan or Professor Bell can be appointed for a further three years, next year).
- 4.1.5 Professor Mark Bell, TCD
Modules in School of Law and Government
Approved for one year only (either Professor Bell or Dr Heffernan can be appointed for a further three years, next year).
- 4.1.6 Professor Paul McKeivitt, University of Ulster
Modules in School of Communications
Approved.
- 4.1.7 Dr Brian Griffin, Bath Spa University
BA in Irish Studies and Religious Studies, Mater Dei Institute of Education
Approved. It was suggested that the JHP programme also be included for this appointment.
- 4.1.8 Professor Brian Lucey, TCD
Modules in DCU Business School
Approved.
- 4.1.9 Professor Andrew Stark, University of Manchester
MSc in Finance and MSc in Investment, Treasury & Banking
Approved as requested for one year only.

4.2 Changes to duties of external examiners

- 4.2.1 Dr Sara Fovargue, Lancaster University
Modules in School of Law and Government
Approved.

5. Other issues

5.1 Faculty of Engineering and Computing

5.1.1 Request for readmission on a legacy basis: MEng in Telecommunications Engineering

Approved. Subject to surrender by student of Graduate Diploma parchment.

5.1.2 Outcomes of English-language derogations to taught Master's programmes

It was reported that only a small number of students have been admitted under these derogations and those admitted are progressing well.

5.2 DCUBS

5.2.1 Outcomes of English-language derogation for PNU students

Deferred to the next meeting

5.2.2 Request for readmission on a legacy basis:

5.2.2.1 MSc in Work and Organisational Psychology

5.2.2.2 MSc in Safety and Health at Work

5.2.2.3 MSc in Management

5.2.2.4 MSc in Investment & Treasury Banking

All were approved.

5.3 Open Education

Request for approval of external expert for PPR: BSc in Information Technology and BSc in Management of Information Technology & Information Systems

Approved.

5.4 Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

5.4.1 Request for approval of programme regulations: BA in Arts (Joint Honours)

Approved.

5.4.2 Request for readmission on a legacy basis: MA in International Relations

Approved. On condition that this is the last opportunity afforded to this student and that she is clearly made aware of this.

5.4.3 Request for approval of external experts for PPRs in School of Law and Government: BA in Economics, Politics & Law; Bachelor of Civil Law (Law and Society); BA in International Relations

Approved.

5.4.4 Request for readmission on a legacy basis: BA in Economics, Politics and Law

Approved. It was noted that the student has two full years to complete and he must complete them within a maximum of 4 years.

5.4.5 Request for approval of programme regulations: BA in Communication Studies

Approved. It was recommended that the wording in the regulations, '*first time*' be amended to '*first year*'.

SECTION C: OTHER ISSUES (NOT FACULTY SPECIFIC)**6. Marks and Standards issues****6.1 Request for derogation from Marks and Standards in respect of the proposed MEd (Special Educational Needs) to be delivered at Church of Ireland College of Education**

The derogation sought in relation to Section 2.4 would allow recognition of 60 credits of prior learning and a Master's award where an additional 30 credits are taken at DCU. It will relate to a single intake in February 2015 to the proposed programme. It was noted that this is an exceptional request linked to the incorporation and transitional accreditation arrangements and should offer no precedent for future awards.

The derogation was approved subject to successful accreditation.

7. Report on PPR activities completed in 2013/14 and planned for 2014/15

The report was noted.

8. Issues re external examiners

It was noted that a substantial number of external examiners do not submit reports through the online system and of those that do submit, very few comments are provided compared to the written report format. Ms McMorrow stated that the system was designed on the work flow agreed by USC and that any further changes to the system would have to be reviewed by this committee.

9. Assessment practices

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

10. Any other business**Transcripts for legacy re-admission students**

It was noted that a delay and inconvenience can occur in the case of foreign students obtaining examination transcripts where they are posted to their home institution and are then posted back to DCU. It was suggested that it would be easier to obtain them directly from Registry. It was agreed that Ms. P. McMorrow would discuss with the Registry how to provide this information to USC in a more efficient manner.

Date of next meeting:

**15 January 2015
9.00 a.m. in A204**

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____