

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Wednesday 10 December 2003

2.00-3.00 p.m. in AG01

### PRESENT:

D Beirne  
D Brabazon  
J Burzlaff  
M Byrne  
J Carroll  
M Clynes  
I Coyne  
E Cunningham  
J Dowling  
H Duncan  
R Elgie  
O Finlayson  
S Fox  
A Friedrich  
M Gannon  
K Griffin  
J Horgan  
P James

B Kehoe  
E Kennedy  
C Kenny  
B Le Juez  
M Mac Conmara  
L Mac Máthuna  
L McDermott  
G McGuinness  
B McMullin  
D Morris  
A Morrissey  
R O'Connor  
P Ó Flatharta  
C ÓhÓgartaigh  
A Pratt  
B Quilty  
M Roantree

T Ryan  
R Saunders  
R Scaife  
A Scott  
P Sheehan  
C Sheridan  
D Sinclair  
M Smyth  
T Szecsi  
B Trench  
R Verbruggen  
F von Prondzynski (Chairperson)  
P Walsh  
R Walshe  
X Wang  
A Wickham  
E Merton

### APOLOGIES:

P Barker  
F Blin  
P Brereton  
G Carty  
B Corcoran  
F Corcoran  
M Duffy  
B Flood  
M Henry

A Leahy  
B Leavy  
A Matthews  
S McBride  
T McCarthy  
C McDonagh  
E McGlynn  
M Molony  
K Monks

E O'Connell  
R O'Kennedy  
B Pierce  
P Preston  
W Richardson  
H Ruskin  
J Ryan  
M Shine Thompson  
B Stenson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

M Slowey

**OBSERVER:**

G Barry

The Chairperson welcomed Professor Maria Slowey, the incoming Vice-President for Learning Innovation, who was in attendance.

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 15 October 2003**

The minutes were confirmed, subject to the inclusion of the name of Dr Brigitte Le Juez in the list of those in attendance, and signed by the Chairperson.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of Academic Council**

All matters arising were noted. In relation to Item 1, the Chairperson noted that he had discussed with Professor Slowey the importance of increasing the opportunities for strategically-focused discussion at Academic Council and would shortly present proposals on this to Council.

**4. Minutes of meetings of Academic Council Standing Committee****4.1 Minutes 2 October 2003**

Noted and approved.

**4.2 Minutes 30 October 2003**

Noted and approved.

**4.3** Two urgent items from the minutes of the meeting of Standing Committee of 4 December 2003 were approved: the proposal to remove the continental language entry requirement from the two undergraduate degree programmes

offered by Fiontar, with effect from 2004 entry, and the proposal to provide feedback to students, during lecturers' office hours following the promulgation of results on 20 February 2004, on performance in Semester 1 examinations. It was noted that it might be helpful to discuss, at a future date, whether or not the issuing of provisional results was in students' best interests.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee**

All matters arising were noted. It was noted that Council would be kept informed of the outcome of the issue referred to in Item 9 of the minutes of the meeting of 30 October 2003.

**6. Validation recommendations:**

**6.1 Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma in Bilingual Best Practice (Fiontar)**

Approved.

**6.2 International Foundation Certificate**

Approved.

Agreed that future reports from Validation Committee would indicate the names of those members in attendance and those who had submitted apologies.

**7. Accreditation recommendations**

**7.1 Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Technology  
(School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)**

Approved.

**7.2 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing - Urology Pathway (School of Nursing)**

Approved.

**8. *Aegrotat* award of research degrees**

Approved subject to the deletion of paragraphs 9 and 10.

**9. Report from Director of Quality Promotion**

Approved. The Chairperson expressed his appreciation and that of Council to Dr Walsh for his very considerable contribution to promoting quality in the University.

**10. Report from Appeals Board (Autumn 2003)**

Noted.

**11. Report from St Patrick's College Appeals Board (Autumn 2003)**

Noted.

**12. Report on Anonymous Marking**

Noted. Agreed that programmes to be selected for the forthcoming pilot programme would be different from programmes which had participated in the original pilot. Agreed that suggestions made by Council members in relation to the opportunities available to examiners to double-check marks would be incorporated into the discussions of the Anonymous Marking Working Group.

**13. Any other business**

**13.1** Noted that, where it was decided that a programme should be discontinued, as much notice as was feasible should be given to prospective applicants to the programme.

**13.2** The Chairperson summarised the financial constraints currently being experienced by the University and the measures that were being considered to deal with them.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Wednesday 18 February 2004  
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_