

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 18 February 2004

2.00-4.00 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

D Beirne
P Brereton
F Buckley
A Burke
P Burke
J Burzloff
J Carroll
E Cunningham
J Doyle
H Duncan
O Finlayson
B Flood
A Friedrich
L Gallagher
T Glynn

K Griffin
E Guilfoyle
M Henry
P James
E Kennedy
C Kenny
L Mac Mathúna
A Matthews
L McDermott
G McGuinness
M Molony
K Monks
D Morris
A Morrissey
E O'Connell

R O'Connor
M Parkinson
A Pratt
M Ryan
T Ryan
R Saunders
A Scott
P Sheehan
D Sinclair
M Slowey
T Szecsi
B Trench
F von Prondzynski (Chair)
M Winters

APOLOGIES:

F Blin
M Byrne
T Carey
B Corcoran
I Coyne
M Duffy
B Kehoe
J Kerrane
A Leahy

B Leavy
B Le Juez
M Mac Conmara
P MacNeela
C McDonagh
E McGlynn
S Ní Mhaolrúnaigh
B Pierce
W Richardson

M Roantree
H Ruskin
J Ryan
M Shine Thompson
A Smeaton
P Walsh
R Walshe
A Wickham

OBSERVER:

G Barry

The Chairperson extended a welcome on behalf of Academic Council to Dr Eithne Guilfoyle, the recently-appointed Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Chairperson and the Vice-President for Learning Innovation, Professor Maria Slowey, thanked Professor Albert Pratt for his very considerable work as Interim Registrar between April 2003 and January 2004.

Professor Slowey outlined the areas to which she would be devoting particular attention now that she had taken up office: facilitating entry by non-traditional students; access issues; lifelong learning; issues arising from the Teaching and Learning Committee; revision of committee structures. The Chairperson extended an invitation to the members of Council to work with Professor Slowey on any or all of these issues.

Professor Pratt outlined the progress to date on the EUA review of quality assurance procedures in Irish universities.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of Item 11, Report from Spring 2004 Faculty Research Boards, and the consequent renumbering of the original Items 11, 12 and 13 as 12, 13 and 14.

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 10 December 2003

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of Academic Council

All matters arising were noted. In relation to Item 5, it was noted that the solicitor member of the Appeals Board was examining the form of words which had been submitted to her.

4. Minutes of meetings of Academic Council Standing Committee

4.1 Minutes 4 December 2003

Noted and approved.

4.2 Minutes 15 January 2003

Noted and approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

All matters arising were noted.

6. Validation recommendation: Foundation Certificate in Community Interpreting (SALIS)

Approved.

7. Accreditation recommendations

7.1 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Counselling
(School of Nursing)

Approved. Noted that the School of Nursing hoped, at a future date, to incorporate a psychotherapy element into this programme.

7.2 BSc in Genetics and Cell Biology (School of Biotechnology)

Approved. Noted that the School of Communications wished to have an input into the module entitled 'Science, Ethics and Society'. Agreed that this would be followed up by the two Schools.

7.3 MSc in Finance and Capital Markets (DCUBS)

Approved.

8. Academic calendar 2004/2005

Approved subject to the following changes: the examination study period for Semester 1 examinations is to begin on Tuesday 4 January 2005; the promulgation of Spring examination results is to take place on Thursday 17 February 2005; the Summer Progression and Awards Boards will run from Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 June 2005. Agreed that the issue of reading weeks would be discussed in the context of more general discussions about modularisation.

9. Report from Disciplinary Appeals Committee

Noted.

10. Summary of INTRA report 2003

Noted. The essential nature of the tutor visits was noted, and it was emphasised that these visits must be carried out in full in all cases.

11. Report from Spring 2004 Faculty Research Boards

Noted. It was noted that, for the first time, there would be a Master's research graduate each from the School of Nursing and the Centre for Sport Science and Health.

12. Progress on key strategic issues**12.1 Strategic planning**

The Chairperson indicated that future meetings of Council would afford opportunities to discuss key strategic issues, and up-to-date information on the progress of the implementation plan in relation to *Leading Change* would shortly be available on line. Preliminary discussions on the next strategic plan will also take place in due course.

12.2 OECD Review of Higher Education in Ireland

The Chairperson summarised progress to date.

13. Budgetary issues

The Chairperson summarised current issues related to the budget and indicated that an opportunity for disseminating the information to all University staff would shortly be made available.

14. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 14 April 2004
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____