ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 10 October 2007

2.00-3.10 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

S Blott	B Le Juez	O O'Reilly
O Bree	N McClave	M Parkinson
J Bruton	L McDermott (Secretary)	F Regan
E Buffet	C McDonagh	R Saunders
J Connolly	A McGrady	R Scaife
J Doyle	K MacKeogh	A Scott
M Farren	P McMorrow	P Sheehan
S Fox	C Mac Murchaidh	M Shine Thompson
N Gathergood	M Molony	A Simon
J Geraghty	R Morgan	M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)
D Gray	A Morrissey	P Smith
S Grimes	M Nic Giolla Mhichíl	R Tobin
E Guilfoyle	P O'Byrne	B Tolan
H Hayes	E O'Connell	R Verbruggen
G Hughes	P O'Connor	F von Prondzynski (Chair)
M Irwin-Bannon	P Ó Flatharta	P Willis
B Kelly	N O'Reilly	C Woods
H Lechleiter		

APOLOGIES:

F Blin	S Hashmi	G McGuinness
P Brereton	M Henry	P Meleady
F Buckley	T Hogan	G Murphy
P Burke	L Hourihane	B Pierce
M Byrne	J Hughes	T Ryan
E Conway	E Kennedy	A Sinnott
J Costello	B Leavy	C Stevenson
M Drumm	C Mac an Bháird	R Walshe
B Flood	P McDonagh	A Way
D Ging		

IN ATTENDANCE
G McConnell

1.   **Adoption of agenda**

       The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues

2.   **Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 25 June 2007**

       The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3.   **Matters arising**

       The Chair noted the very successful outcome of the recent call for funding under
       Cycle 4 of the PRTLI process from the point of view of the University and mentioned
       that all Faculties and St Patrick's College had obtained funding. He is to write to all
       concerned – the members of the Office of the Vice-President for Research as well as all
       the other staff members who worked on the submission – to congratulate them.
       Members of Council are requested to extend congratulations verbally to colleagues.

       The Chair noted that two other large-scale bids for research funding, under other
       mechanisms, were currently being evaluated and, on behalf of Council, wished every
       success to those involved.

       (Item 6.2)

4.   **Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Strategy Committee of 5 September 2007**

       Noted.

5.   **Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Board of 6 September 2007**

5.1   Noted and approved.

5.2   Noted that the Graduate Studies Board was a subcommittee of the University Standards
       Committee.

5.3   Noted, in relation to Item 10.1, that it would be necessary to clarify the fee liability in terms of taught modules of a research student who took such taught modules concurrently with conducting research. The Chair is to request Executive to make a decision on fee liability in such circumstances.

6.   President's report

6.1   The Chair reported that it was unlikely that the financial environment for higher education would, in the foreseeable future, be more favourable than it was at present. He requested that members of Council, and staff members generally, be mindful of the need for a prudent approach to spending.

6.2   The Chair reported that the University had been placed in fourth position overall among higher education institutions in the recent *Sunday Times* league table and had regained first position in terms of research funding.

B: Policy and strategy issues

7.   Strategic Implementation

7.1   Mr Gordon McConnell made a presentation on the implementation of *Leadership through Foresight*, noting the importance of synergy between institutional strategy, sub-institutional strategies and major national strategic initiatives such as PRTLI and SIF.

7.2   The Chair noted the importance of using the foresight exercise, due for completion in early 2008, to inform future strategic planning.

8.   Strategic Innovation Fund

8.1   The VPLI/Registrar summarised the structure of the current proposal (due for submission on Friday 19 October), noting the following:
- it is particularly complex, involving the need to balance specific institutional undertakings, institutional strategy and strategic alliances across institutions
- a new strategic alliance, the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance, has been set up to provide a framework within which institutional submissions can be made, the emphasis being on the benefits accruing to institutions by virtue of collaborating across the Alliance

- all institutions awarded funding under SIF will be required to provide matching funding (which may take the form of release of staff members to work on specific innovative activities)
- each institutional submission must be short: a maximum of 5000 words, plus very specifically defined appendices.

8.2 The Chair <u>noted</u> that the University's submission, once completed and submitted, would be made available on line for staff.

9.   Academic Framework for Innovation

9.1 <u>Noted</u> that Professor Martin Henry had been appointed to the post of Academic Project Leader for the implementation of the Framework.

9.2 <u>Noted</u> that the VPLI/Registrar was in the process of meeting the Teaching and Learning Committees in each Faculty to discuss the implementation of the Framework.

9.3 <u>Noted</u> that, once the outcome of the application for funding under SIF was known, it would be possible to draw up a plan for the regular review of the implementation of the Framework.

10.   Anonymous marking

10.1   Report from anonymous marking working group

Ms McMorrow reported on the deliberations of this group.

10.2   Report from working group on the principle of anonymous marking

The VPLI/Registrar reported on the deliberations of this group.

10.3 <u>Agreed</u> that the working group on the principle of anonymous marking would consult Faculties, the Students' Union and students in the groups among which anonymous marking had been piloted, and that the Chair would also meet with the working group.

10.4 <u>Noted</u> that the Students' Union intended to carry out an online survey of student opinion of anonymous marking. <u>Noted</u> that allowing students as much space as possible for free text comment on the issue would be helpful in yielding useful information.

10.5 <u>Noted</u> that the specific issues relating to Oscail would be taken into account in all discussions about anonymous marking.

10.6 <u>Agreed</u> that, once the feedback from the activities described in 10.3 and 10.4 above had been made available to the working group, a final recommendation on the desirability or otherwise of implementing anonymous marking on a campus-wide basis and, if necessary, a recommendation on the desirability or otherwise of continuing to implement anonymous marking to the groups among which it had already been piloted would be made to the 12 December 2007 meeting of Council. The Chair <u>noted</u> that the position on anonymous marking taken by Council at this meeting would be maintained for the foreseeable future.

10.7 The Chair expressed thanks, on behalf of Council, to the members of both working groups for their significant contribution to the discussions about anonymous marking.

11.   Request to award an *aegrotat* degree

<u>Agreed</u> that the *aegrotat* award requested would be made, with second-class honours.

C: <u>Items for formal approval/noting</u>

12.   Validation recommendations:

12.1   Higher Diploma in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing

<u>Approved.</u>

12.2   Graduate Diploma/MSc in Operations and Technology Management

<u>Approved.</u>

13.   Accreditation recommendation:
         Restructuring of Master's programmes in Oscail:
- **Graduate Programme in the Management of Operations**
- **Graduate Programme in the Management of Internet Systems**
- **Graduate Programme in the Management of Information Systems Strategy**

<u>Approved.</u>

14.   Register of finalised accredited programmes 2006/07

Noted.

15.   Register of Academic Council members 2007/08 and proposal for inclusion of Chair of Appeals Board

Register noted and proposal approved.

16.   Academic calendar 2008/09

Approved.

17.   Reports from Autumn 2007 Examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

All noted and approved.

18.   Report from Autumn 2007 Faculty Awards Boards for Research Degrees

Noted and approved.

19.   Report from Summer 2007 Appeals Board

Noted.

20.   Any other business

20.1   Report from Autumn 2007 Appeals Board, All Hallows College

Noted.

20.2   Membership of Academic Promotions Committee

Noted that Professor Joe Morris and Professor Helena Sheehan would represent the Faculties of Engineering and Computing and Humanities and Social Sciences, respectively, on the Academic Promotions Committee for the academic year 2007/08.

Date of next meeting:

<div style="border:1px solid black; text-align:center;">

Wednesday 12 December 2007
2.00 p.m. in AG01

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Signed: _____   Date:_____
                    President