

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, 12 APRIL 2000
AT 2:00 PM IN AG 01

PRESENT:

A Pratt (Chairperson)	B Flood	K MacKeogh	C OHogartaigh
D Bancroft	A N Glynn	L MacMathúna	J Ryan
A Brady	S Hashmi	B McNamara	M Scott
M Brady	J Hurley	M Molony	M Shields
T Brady	P James	K Monks	A Sinnott
M Byrne	B Kehoe	A Morrissey	W Tuke
R Byrne	J Kerrane	T Moynihan	J Van Genabith
J Carroll	B Leavy	G Murphy	A D Wood
M Clynes	L Looney	C Nic Pháidín	
S Derby	P McFee	E C Noonan	
J Doyle	S McGovern	M Ó Crónín	

APOLOGIES:

P Barker (Deputy Chairperson)	M Henry	P Sheehan
M Canning	P Kinsella	A Smeaton
F Corcoran	C Long	M Townson
I Coyne	R Morgan	B Trench
L Davis	O O'Reilly	
	H Ruskin	

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The Chairperson formally acknowledged and welcomed Dr P Barker's appointment as Registrar and members of Council supported this.

The Chairperson welcomed Dr M Cronin, Dean Joint Faculty of Humanities and Páid McGee , Dean Joint Faculty of Education and E Noonan, Assistant Registrar to their first meeting of Academic Council.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 9 FEBRUARY 2000

The minutes of the meeting of 9 February 2000 were adopted and signed by the Chairperson.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

3.1 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Academic Council had approved the proposed Calendar for 2001/02. The timing of postgraduate examinations for the School of Communications was under discussion and it had been agreed that the School would operate within the current calendar until an alternative proposal was developed and agreed.

3.2 ETHICS COMMITTEE

Academic Council had approved a proposal to establish a University Research Ethics Committee.

3.3 FRAMEWORK OF GOOD PRACTICE

Academic Council had approved a revised framework of Good Practice for Teaching and Learning activities. Comments, to the Dean of Teaching & Learning, on the framework had been invited from Schools. These comments would be collated and presented to Academic Council in the future.

4. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

4.1 MINUTES OF THE 3 FEBRUARY 2000 MEETING

Noted.

4.2 MINUTES OF THE 2 MARCH 2000 MEETING

Noted.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF STANDING COMMITTEE

5.1 MSc IN THE MANAGEMENT & APPLICATIONS OF IT IN ACCOUNTING

Standing Committee had referred back to the Course Team its proposal for a re-admission policy to the programme in respect of students who had successfully completed some or all of the taught component of the programme and had received either of the exit awards. The Course Team had been requested to re-consider its rationale both for the upper limit of 2 years as well as the restriction of the application of the proposed regulation to exceptional circumstances only.

5.2 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BEng MEBS PROGRAMME

Standing Committee had recommended that a new programme/award structure should be submitted to validation and accreditation for formal approval.

5.3 PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL AWARD TITLES FOR ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE

Standing Committee had approved a proposal for two new degree programmes, namely BA in Humanities (International) and BEd (International). The academic content of the programmes was the same as that for the existing BA and BEd and the programme structure included an additional year of study between years 3 and 4, in an approved institution abroad.

5.4 REVISED ACCREDITATION BOARD: BNS IN NEPHROLOGY NURSING

Standing Committee had approved the appointment of additional members to the Accreditation Board.

5.5 REVISED STRUCTURE FOR MSc IN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Standing Committee had approved a proposal from the Programme Board for an external review of the recently re-structured programme by independent experts. Responses from the externals were awaited and a report would be provided in the future to Academic Council.

6. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VALIDATION COMMITTEE

Academic Council noted the reports from its Validation Committees in respect of the underlisted programmes. Programme Boards had been appointed and potential Accreditation Board members had been identified. Programme Teams in advance of accreditation would address the recommendations from Validation.

6.1 DIOPLÓMA GO CHÉIMITHE/MSc I NGNÓ & I DTEICNEOLAÍOCHT AN EOLAIS (GRADUATE DIPLOMA/MSc IN BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

6.2 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT & MBA (CORPORATE)

6.3 GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LEGAL STUDIES

6.4 BEng IN DIGITAL MEDIA ELECTRONICS

Council noted that a new Programme Board would not be established for the BEng in Digital Media Electronics. It was planned that a Programme Director and the combined existing Electronic Engineering and Telecommunications Programme Boards, which had common membership, would administer the programme. The proposal would minimise the administrative and meeting workload associated with a programme and the School would comply with the *de facto* University requirements in the matter. It was noted that a group had been established through the office of the Dean of Teaching & Learning to explore University-wide, opportunities for rationalisation in the structures for programme management. It would report its findings to Executive and Academic Council.

7. REPORTS AND RECOMMENATIONS FROM ACCREDITATION BOARDS

Academic Council approved reports from its Accreditation Boards in respect of the underlisted programme proposals from the School of Computer Applications, Dublin City University Business School and the Faculty of Distance Education.

7.1 SCHOOL OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

7.1.1 BSc IN COMPUTER APPLICATION (SOFTWARE ENGINEERING)

7.1.2 BSc IN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (COMPUTER SCIENCE)

7.1.3 BSc IN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (INFORMATION SYSTEMS)

7.2 SCHOOL OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

7.2.1 MSc IN ELECTRONIC COMMERCE (BUSINESS/TECHNICAL)

7.3 FACULTY OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

7.3.1 GRADUATE DIPLOMA/MSc IN INTERNET SYSTEMS

7. REPORT FROM THE SPRING 2000 APPEALS BOARD

Academic Council noted a report of the Spring 2000 Appeals Board for the Winter 1999 diet of examinations for BSc in Information Technology distance education programme. The Appeals Board considered a total of 37 appeals and re-checks of which 9 were upheld and 28 rejected. Attention was drawn to two points. Students, had not set out the basis of their appeals fully and appropriately. This was the result of students not using official forms for registering their appeals. It would be addressed for the future by ensuring that the appeals forms are available over the World Wide Web. In some instances, a minority of students had disregarded the advice that high continuous assessment marks did not necessarily correlate with high marks in the final written examination.

8. POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Academic Council approved a proposal for modifications to the MSc/Graduate Diploma in Electronic Systems. The Programme Board had undertaken a review of the programme as a result of the changing student profile, which had shifted towards part-time attendance. It proposed that an additional title “Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma/MEng in Telecommunications” should be added. This development would require no more than the addition of three Telecommunications specific modules. The opinion of the external examiner on the suitability of the proposed modules would be sought and a report would be submitted to Standing Committee when available. In recognition of the professional commitments of many of the part-time students on the programme, it was proposed that the time-to-completion be open with credit accumulation determining completion up to a limit of 4 years for the taught element of the programme.

9. INTRA REPORT

Academic Council noted the content of the INTRA Report. The following points were emphasized:

- The 1999 INTRA Programme involved fourteen Degree Programmes. There was an increase of students placed in 1999 (665) in comparison to the number placed in 1998 (598).
- The overall placement rate was 100%.
- Average salaries had increased by almost 7% from the previous year.
- 86% of companies, who participated in INTRA 1998 programme, participated in INTRA 1999.
- 8% of student placements were abroad.

Discussion centred on the system of tutor visits and it was noted that some localised problems in relation to specific programmes existed and these had affected some companies' willingness to participate in INTRA for the future. It was acknowledged that the system of one to one tutor visits might not in the long-term be sustainable. It was suggested that there might be benefit in identifying INTRA placements from similar cognate areas within the same company with a view to rationalising the current system. Thanks were noted to Dr A N Glynn and the staff in the Office for Innovation & Business Relations.

10. NORTH DUBLIN ACCESS PROGRAMME

Maeve O'Byrne (Access Officer) joined the meeting to present a report and proposals on the North Dublin Access Programme. The North Dublin Access Programme involves a network of approximately sixteen schools within the vicinity of: Coolock/Darndale, Finglas/Cabra and Ballymun. Although the primary objective of the programme is to increase the third-level participation rate of those leaving affiliated schools, the programme also has the important function of promoting positive educational experiences. The report contained a number of proposals designed to take the Access Programme initiative further forward and Academic Council approved these as follows:

- To permit an annual quota of up to 5% of First Year places for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, with up to 10% intake on any one programme;
- To consider Direct Entry applications from second level students attending schools linked to other university access programmes. To be considered for a place students should satisfy the following criteria:
 - Attend a school linked to a university access programme
 - Satisfy a means test
 - Fulfil DCU's academic requirements for Direct Entry
 - Successfully perform at interview
 - Attend the NDA Summer School
- To consider Direct Entry applications from students who have successfully completed the Foundation Course for Higher Education: Young Adults run at Trinity College by the Trinity Access Programme. To be considered for a place these students should satisfy the following criteria:
 - Satisfy a means test
 - Successfully perform at Interview
 - Satisfy DCU's minimum entry requirements
 - Satisfy specific programme requirements
 - Attend the NDA Summer School
- In certain cases, to allow the academic criterion of 4 Cs in Higher Level subjects to be reduced to 3Cs in Higher Level subjects provided the profile of Leaving Certificate

subjects and grades achieved by the applicant are strongly related to the programme chosen.

- To promote a greater degree of integration between the activities of the Access Service and the academic community through the setting up of an E-mail based Access Network of designated individuals selected on a school or programme basis.

Thanks were noted to Maeve O Byrne for the thoughtful and comprehensive report on the access programme.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 14 June 2000

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____