ACADEMIC COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2000

AT 2:00 PM IN AG01

PRESENT:

A Pratt (Chairperson)	B Flood	B McNamara	M Townson
P Barker (Deputy Chairperson)	A N Glynn	R Morgan	B Trench
A Brady	G Hamilton	A Morrisey	A Wickham
M Brady	M Henry	T Moynihan	
J Carroll	J Hurley	G Murphy	
J Canavan	B Kehoe	J Murray	
M Clynes	P Kinsella	C NicPhádín	
F Corcoran	C Long	M Ó Cróinín	
I Coyne	L Looney	R O' Kennedy	
E Cunningham	C Lynch	C O hOgartaigh	
S Derby	M MacConmara	O O'Reilly	
L Davis	K MacKeogh	T Ryan	
J Doyle			
J Dowling	P McGee	V Ruddy	
M Egan	B McMullin	P Sheehan	

IN ATTENDANCE: F von Prondzynski

APOLOGIES:

D Bancroft	S McGovern	R Saunders
M Byrne	M Molony	A Sinnot
M Canning	K Monks	A Smeaton
M Gannon	P Preston	W Tuke
J Kerrane	H Ruskin	
L MacMathúna	J Ryan	

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The Chairperson welcomed the President Designate, Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski, who was in attendance for his first meeting of Academic Council.

1.   **Adoption of Agenda**

A revised agenda to that originally circulated with the meeting's papers was adopted, subject to the inclusion of 4 matters under 'any other business'.

2.   **Minutes of Meeting of Academic Council, 12 April 2000**

The minutes of the meeting of 12 April 2000 were adopted and signed by the Chairperson.

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

There were no matters arising.

4.   **Minutes of Standing Committee of Academic Council**

4.1 Minutes of meeting of 6 April 2000
Noted.

4.2 Minutes of meeting of 4 May 2000
Noted.

4.3 Minutes of meeting of 1 June 2000
Noted.

5.   **Matters arising from Minutes of Standing Committee**

5.1 Equal Opportunities Policy for People with Disabilities (Meeting of 6 April)

Mr Barry Kehoe, Director of Student Affairs, spoke to the paper. He emphasized that certain aspects of the existing document had been strengthened to bring it into line with recent legislation, and that it incorporated changes recommended by Heads, Executive and Standing Committee. Academic Council adopted the paper.

5.2 Penalties to be applied by lecturers on the late submission of assignments by students (Meeting of 4 May)

The policies considered by individual Programme Boards will be collated and presented to Academic Council for further discussion at a future date.

5.3 Carrying of failed modules (Meeting of 4 May)

A full analysis of how students who were carrying failed modules fared will be presented to Academic Council following the Autumn diet of Examinations. Early indications suggest that they have not done well and that a full review of this aspect of the University's Marks and Standards will be necessary.

5.4 Guidelines for the Appointment of External Examiners (Meeting of 1 June)

The Registrar spoke to the paper. She emphasized that the draft Guidelines are not intended to be prescriptive, but to inform Programme Boards of the standards that Standing Committee of Academic Council applies in assessing their proposals for appointment; and to help Programme Boards ensure that such standards, which are a vital part of our quality assurance system, are applied consistently across the University. Further Guidelines on the Functions of External Examiners and how Academic Staff should conduct their business with them will be issued in due course. The paper was <u>adopted</u> subject to the inclusion of some minor amendments and will be promulgated on the Registry's website.

5.5 DCU Registration for All Hallows (Meeting of 1 June)

Academic Council <u>noted</u> that in the wake of DCU's accreditation of the following programmes offered by All Hallows - BA in Theology and Philosophy, BA in Humanities, Graduate Diploma in Humanities: Holistic Development and MA in Pastoral Leadership - all students who commence their studies on these programmes in September 2000 will automatically be registered as DCU students and will receive DCU awards.

In addition, it adopted the recommendations of Standing committee that:

5.5.1 Students entering the second year of the BA in Theology and Philosophy in September 2000 and who were therefore taking first year at the date of the accreditation of the programme, and who were examined after it, should also be registered as DCU students and should be awarded DCU degrees when they graduate in 2003.

5.5.2 Students taking any subsequent years should graduate with NCEA degrees, subject to 5.5.3.

5.5.3 Students entering the 2000-1 first or second year classes of the BA in Theology and Philosophy as transfer, deferred or repeat students should, as a transitional arrangement, subject to a case by case review, be considered for graduation with their peer group as DCU conferees.

5.5.4 Students entering the 2000-1 class of the other three programmes by virtue of deferral, part time study mode or transfer should, as a transitional arrangement, subject to a case by case review, be considered for graduation with their peer group as DCU conferees.

5.6 DCU Registration for Mater Dei students (Meeting of 1 June)

Academic Council noted that following the DCU's accreditation of the B. Rel. Ed. offered by Mater Dei all students who commence their studies in September 2000 will automatically be registered as DCU students and will receive DCU awards.

In addition, it adopted the recommendations of Standing committee that:

5.6.1   Students entering the second year of the B. Rel. Ed in September 2000, and who were therefore taking first year at the date of the accreditation of the B. Rel. Ed, and who were examined after it, should also be registered as DCU students and should be awarded DCU degrees when they graduate in 2003.

5.6.2   Students taking any subsequent years should graduate with Maynooth degrees, subject to 5.6.3.

5.6.3   Students entering the 2000-1 first or second year classes of the B. Rel. Ed. degree as transfer, deferred or repeat students should, as a transitional arrangement, subject to a case by case review, be considered for graduation with their peer group as DCU conferees.

5.7 DCU Representation on Mater Dei Postgraduate Research Board (Meeting of 1 June)

Academic Council adopted Standing Committee's proposal that Dr Kathy Monks will represent DCU on Mater Dei's Postgraduate Research Board.

6.   Reports and Recommendations from Accreditation Boards

Academic Council approved reports from its Accreditation Boards in respect of the underlisted programme proposals from the School of Mechanical Engineering, Fiontar and the School of Computer Applications.

6.1 School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering: Graduate Diploma/MSc in Computer Aided Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

6.2 Fiontar: Dioplóma do Chéimithe/MSc I nGnó agus I dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais

6.3 School of Computer Applications: MSc in Computer Applications

7.   Reports and Recommendations from Validation Commitee

Academic Council noted the report from its Validation Committee in respect of the proposed Certificate in Plasma and Vacuum Studies. A Programme Board has been appointed and potential Accreditation Board members identified.

Council also adopted the recommendation of the Validation Committee that a working party be established to prepare guidelines to ensure the quality of the learning experience, the integrity of assessment used, the financial robustness and other issues surrounding the web-based delivery of programmes; with the proviso that its work feeds into the broader strategic planning exercise currently taking place in the University. The group will be chaired by Dr Barry McMullin, Dean of Teaching and Learning, and will have representatives from the Schools of Electronic Engineering and Physical Sciences and from NDEC, who will be nominated by their respective Heads. Mr Mike Egan, Centre for Lifelong Learning, will sit on the group to offer advice on student support issues.

8.   Proposal from the Student Union's Education Officer

Mr Shane Derby, SU Education Officer, spoke to the paper, and outlined the changes contained in the recently adopted SU Constitution that pertain to the functioning of student representation at Academic Council.

Council adopted the paper with the proviso that the SU obtain formal approval from Fiontar and Education Studies students for the proposal to amalgamate their seats on Academic Council.

9.   The Future of the Irish Language in DCU

Dr Mícheál Ó Cróinín, chairman of Coiste na Gaeilge, spoke to the paper, which recommends the adoption of a number of measures, including the appointment of an Irish Language Development Officer, aimed at re-establishing a clear University policy in relation to the Irish language. The paper was adopted by Council.

10.   DCU Structures for Academic Management: Report of the Special Working Group

Dr Barry McMullin, Dean of Teaching and Learning, spoke to the paper. It was agreed that the paper should be distributed to the Schools and Units for further discussion and consultation. The Dean of Teaching and Learning will inaugurate this process immediately and report back to the December meeting of Academic Council.

11.   Any other business

11.1 The Registrar informed the meeting of the new tax relief available for students on postgraduate programmes in the academic year 2000-1.

11.2 Council <u>noted</u> the University's schedule of meetings for the Academic Year 2000-1.

11.3 Council <u>adopted</u> the Examination results presented by the Royal Irish Academy of Music and St Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

11.4 Council agreed that all documentation for its meetings should continue to be circulated in hard copy.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 11 October 2000

Signed: _____   Date: _____
                    Chairperson