

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, 11 October 2000

AT 2:00 PM IN AG01

Minutes of the sixteenth meeting of the sixth statutory Academic Council held on 11 October 2000.

PRESENT:

F von Prondzynski (Chairperson)	M Gannon	J Murray
P Barker (Deputy Chairperson)	D Gray	E O'Connell
D Bancroft	K Grimes	R O'Kennedy
E Buffet	S Hashmi	C Petite
A Burke	M Henry	B Pierce
P Burke	P James	A Pratt
M Byrne	C Kenny	B Richardson
J Carroll	P Kinsella	R Saunders
E Cassidy	B Leavy	P Sheehan
T Coulson	C Long	A Smeaton
I Coyne	L Looney	M Smyth
E Cunningham	C Lynch	P Travers
K Devenney	K McKeogh	W Tuke
L Doyle	L MacMathúna	R Verbruggen
M Drumm	B McMullin	D Walls
J Dunne	A Maillot	A Wickham
M Farren	M Molony	A Wood
B Flood	R Morgan	
R Flynn	A Morrissey	

APOLOGIES:

M Brady	A Glynn	J Ryan
J Hurley	B O'Dwyer	M Scott
M Clynes	C McDonagh	A Sinnott
M Cronin	K Monks	J Van Genabith
T Curran	T Moynihan	
U deVries	G Murphy	
M Egan	C NicPháidín	

PREFATORY REMARKS

The Chairperson opened the meeting by suggesting that Academic Council might become a forum for debating and discussing strategic issues, including the future direction of the University.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted, subject to the inclusion of one matter under 'any other business'.

2. Minutes of Meetings of Academic Council

2.1 Minutes of Academic Council meeting, 14 June 2000

The minutes of the meeting of 14 June 2000 were adopted and signed by the Chairperson

2.2 Minutes of Academic Council 26 June 2000

The minutes of the meeting of 26 June 2000 were adopted and signed by the Chairperson.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of Academic Council

3.1 Penalties to be applied by lecturers on the late submission of assignments by students

The Registrar emphasised that the request to programme directors relating to penalties for late submission of assignments was not intended as an exercise in imposing uniformity, but simply that the policy for each module be specified to students at the commencement of each module.

3.2 Carrying of failed modules

The Assistant Registrar will provide an analysis at the next meeting of Academic Council.

3.3 Future of the Irish Language

The Chairperson reported that Dr Ó Cróinín's paper had gone from Executive to the Resource Review Group, where the resource implications will be examined.

3.4 Web-based Delivery of Programmes

The working group will report back to the next meeting of Academic Council.

4. Minutes of Standing Committee of Academic Council

4.1 Minutes of meeting of 1 June 2000

Noted.

4.2 Minutes of meeting of 6 July 2000

Noted.

4.3 Minutes of meeting of 7 September 2000

Noted.

5. Matters arising from Minutes of Standing Committee

5.1 Establishment of a working party to develop a strategy on International Students

Academic Council noted the establishment of the working party.

5.2 Development of workshops for academics (and others) on the law relating to meetings and minute taking, interview skills and Personal Tutoring.

Academic Council noted and welcomed the development of the workshops. Council called on the University, however, to issue clear guidelines on interviewing for all staff, as the process is now fraught with risks, particularly in relation to the infringement of the recent Equality legislation.

6. Current Register of Academic Council Members for noting by Academic Council

Academic Council noted the Register and informed Dr Murray of necessary corrections.

7. Reports and Recommendations from Validation Committee

Academic Council noted the report from its Validation Committee in respect of the underwritten programmes. Programme Boards have been appointed and potential Accreditation Board members identified.

7.1 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Plasma and Vacuum Technology Studies (School of Physical Sciences)

7.2 Certificate in Information and Internet (For Community and Voluntary Sector).

It was noted, however, that the proposed Certificate in Information Media and Internet (for Community and Voluntary Sector) must be approved by the Joint Faculty of Humanities, before proceeding to Accreditation.

8. Reports and Recommendations from Accreditation Boards

Academic Council approved reports from its Accreditation Boards in respect of the following programme proposals from the Centre for Executive Education and DCUBS.

8.1 MBA Corporate Executive Programme (Executive Education)

8.2 Diploma in Legal Studies (DCUBS)

It was also noted that all programmes which have gone through validation are approved by the University's Executive before proceeding to Accreditation.

9. Approval of Recommendations from Boards of Examiners following consideration of Examination Results (Autumn 2000)

The recommendations were approved by Council. The Registrar proposed to provide to Academic Council a report of the Progression and Award Boards in future. This report would form the basis of Academic Council's approval of the results presented by the Boards. This will be possible in the light of the formal recording of minutes of the Boards. It was agreed that a report for the Autumn diet 2000 would be prepared for the December meeting in order to give members some feedback on the process.

10. Report from Appeal Board (Summer 2000)

Academic Council noted a report of the Summer 2000 Appeals Board for the Summer 2000 diet of examinations. The Appeals Board considered a total of 126 appeals and rechecks of which 26 were upheld and 100 rejected. It was also noted

that the Assistant Registrar is reviewing the entire process and will report back to Academic Council in due course.

11. Approval of Recommendations of Faculty Boards for Awards of Higher Degrees

Council approved the recommendations, as per the attached schedule.

12. Propose changes to Levels and Titles of University Awards: St Patrick's College Drumcondra.

Council approved Standing Committee's recommendation to change the titles of the Certificate in Remedial Education and Diploma in Special Education programmes to the following: Graduate Diploma in Learning Support and Graduate Diploma in Advanced Studies in Special Education respectively.

The need for this change arose because the existing nomenclature implied that the awards were of a lower level to similar programmes in other institutions which have come on stream since the St Patrick's programmes were first accredited and which adopted the titles 'Higher Diploma' or 'Graduate Diploma'.

The change will take immediate effect and will be applied to all registrations and graduations after September 2000. In addition, the graduates of 1999 will be re-issued with their parchments with the new titles and graduates of prior years since accreditation can apply for re-issued parchments.

13. Proposal to restructure the Research Committee

The Dean of Research spoke to the paper. The proposal attempts to incorporate the expressed wish of the researchers in the humanities and business faculties for separate Research Committees for the physical sciences/engineering, and humanities/business; and the requirement for a committee to formulate the wider strategic research policy of the University'. To this end a two-tier structure – consisting of a high-level Research Committee (first tier) and two advisory panels of elected school convenors, one representing physical sciences/engineering and the other humanities/business (second tier) – was presented as the model to be adopted by Council.

The proposal generated considerable debate and the following points were agreed:

- (i) Academic Council adopted the proposal, as outlined in the Dean of Research's paper, to establish a high-level Research committee to formulate the University's wider research policy.

- (ii) The decision on whether to adopt the Advisory Panels was postponed until the next meeting of Academic Council to allow further discussion to take place in the Schools on such matters as their composition, what they represent and their specific terms of reference.

14. Review of role and terms of reference of Academic Council

It was agreed that the Registrar would establish a sub-committee to review such issues as Academic Council's membership, terms of office, and terms of reference. The sub-committee will report back in due course.

15. AOB

Graduation Autumn 2000

The Registrar reported that a working group had reviewed the procedures associated with the University's Graduation ceremonies. Relevant issues arising from the review will be reported back to Council in due course. One proposed change requiring Council's approval is a proposal to call the graduands to the podium in alphabetical order, rather than in the traditional merit order, to ensure that they and their families feel equally a part of what should be a joyous occasion for them. The Convocation Booklet will also list the students in alphabetical order, although their class of award will be recorded in parenthesis. It is intended to make this change effective in the Autumn graduation ceremony. Council voted to adopt the proposal.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 13 December 2000

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____