

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 19 February 2003

2.00-3.45 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

P Barker
D Beirne
F Blin
D Brabazon
P Brereton
J Bruton
F Buckley
P Burke
J Burzlaff
J Carroll
B Corcoran
I Coyne
E Cunningham
J Doyle
O Finlayson
B Flood
L Gallagher
A N Glynn
S Hashmi

P James
B Kelly
C Kenny
T Lawrence
L Looney
K MacKeogh
L Mac Mathúna
C McDonagh
G McGuinness
B McMullin
M Molony
K Monks
M Moriarty
T Moynihan
S Ní Mhaolrúnaigh
C Nic Pháidín
E O'Connell
N O'Connor

C Ó hÓgartaigh
D O'Riordan
B Pierce
A Pratt
H Ruskin
M Ryan
R Saunders
R Scaife
P Sheehan
M Shields
M Shine Thompson
A Smeaton
M Smyth
B Trench
F von Prondzynski
P Walsh
A Wickham
J Williams

APOLOGIES:

A Burke
T Carey
M Clynes
F Corcoran
E Cunningham
J Dowling

E Doyle
R Elgie
J Horgan
B Kehoe
M Mac Conmara
P MacNeela

E McGlynn
J Murray
W Richardson
M Roantree
A D Wood

OBSERVER:

G Barry

Action**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 11 December 2002

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of Academic Council**3.1 Proposal on fees for postgraduate students registered under 'write-up' status
(Item 5.1 of meeting of 11 December 2002)**

To be discussed by the Budget Sub-committee of Executive.

**3.2 Query about foreign language acquisition vis-à-vis the Bologna process
(Item 8 of meeting of 11 December 2002)**

Report to be made to the 11 June 2003 meeting of Academic Council, following attendance by Dr Claire Bohan, Dean of International Studies, at the April 2003 meeting of the CHIU Registrars' sub-group on the Bologna process.

**3.3 Proposal for structural changes to Academic Council
(Item 16 of meeting of 11 December 2002)**

On the agenda of the present meeting.

4. Minutes of meetings of Academic Council Standing Committee**4.1 Minutes 5 December 2002**

Noted and approved.

4.2 Minutes 16 January 2003

Noted and approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

**5.1 Provision of examination statistics at Progression and Awards Boards
(Item 3.5 of meeting of 5 December 2002)**

Noted that broadsheets would from now on include statistical information.

**5.2 Balanced gender representation of external examiners
(Item 8 of meeting of 16 January 2002)**

Noted that this representation was to be welcomed and that the working of the policy would be monitored to see if any practical difficulties arose.

**6. Validation recommendation: Foundation Certificate Programme
(Joint University initiative)**

Approved. Noted that, as recommended by the Validation Committee, students who successfully completed the programme should normally be permitted to proceed to their chosen degree programme. Noted that, because of the particularly innovative nature of the programme, a thorough review would be necessary at the end of the first year of operation.

7. Accreditation recommendations:

**7.1 BSc in Environmental Science and Health
(Faculty of Science and Health)**

Approved.

**7.2 BSc in Education and Training (re-accreditation)
(School of Education Studies)**

Approved.

**8. Withdrawal of Queen's University from MSc in Science Communication
programme**

Noted. It was noted that Queen's University had specified that they were withdrawing from the programme only on account of an internal issue related to staffing at Queen's.

They noted that their experience with DCU in terms of managing the programme had been positive, and regretted the necessity to withdraw.

9. Report/presentation on APEL

The recommendations were adopted by Council, with thanks to Ms Ní Mhaolrúnaigh for the work she had done on this issue. Agreed that, since resources would be needed to implement a University-wide APL system, the financial issues would be discussed by Executive before the recommendations were implemented. Noted that the full report is available online.

10. Report from Appeals Boards for postgraduate research students, and updated index of precedents

Noted.

11. Academic calendar 2003/2004

It was agreed that decisions about whether or not to offer reading weeks would be left to Faculties. However, in order to have conformity of practice, the reading weeks should be included for those Faculties which opt to adopt the practice. The following requests were made: that provision be included for Progression and Awards Boards in January to cater for taught Master's programmes with dissertation submission dates after October; that a late Progression and Awards Board date for Oscail be included; that consideration be given to setting a later date than 6 July for internal applicants. It was agreed that a revised version of the calendar would be presented for approval to Council at its meeting of 9 April.

Registrar

12. Progression and Awards Board recommendations for March 2003 conferring

Approved.

13. Faculty Research Board recommendations for March 2003 conferring

Approved.

14. Summary of INTRA report 2002

Noted. Noted that the full report is available in the Office for Innovation and Business Relations, that it was intended shortly to enable students to complete INTRA-related work online, and that while it was possible to find suitable placements for the vast majority of students IBR staff had to make greater efforts to do so than had been the case in the past few years.

15. Proposed statute on Academic Council

Agreed that further discussion was necessary in relation to the representation of Faculties as distinct from Schools, that a revised proposal would be submitted to Council for its 9 April 2003 meeting and that all those who wished to express an opinion in relation to this proposal should contact the Registrar. **Registrar**

16. Any other business**16.1 Observer status for incoming Deputy President of Students' Union**

Agreed, following a request from Mr Moriarty, that his successor as Deputy President, once elected, could attend the April and June 2003 meetings of Academic Council in the capacity of observer.

16.2 Duration of Academic Council meetings

Agreed that future meetings would, in so far as possible, finish at 4.00 p.m.

Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 9 April 2003
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____