

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 6 December 2006

2.00-3.45 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

J Appleby
F Blin
M Brady
O Bree
P Brereton
E Buffet
M Byrne
E Byrne
J Cannon
J Connolly
A Dixon
R Elgie
B Flood
K Griffin
M Henry
T Hogan
G Hughes
J Hughes

M Irwin-Bannon
E Kennedy
H Lechleiter
C Mac an Bhaird
A McAuley
L McDermott (Secretary)
C McDonagh
Á McGillicuddy
A McGrady
M Molony
K Moran
R Morgan
G Murphy
M Nic Giolla Mhichíl
A O'Flanagan
P Ó Flatharta
N O'Reilly
E Parikka

M Parkinson
V Poti
D Raftery
R Saunders
A Scott
M Shine Thompson
A Simon
A Sinnott
M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)
J Stokes
R Tobin
B Tolan
B Trench
R Verbruggen
F von Prondzynski (Chair)
R Walshe
A Wickham
C Woods

APOLOGIES:

S Blott
J Clarke
M Collier
E Conway
J Costello
M Drumm
H Duncan

O Finlayson
J Geraghty
E Guilfoyle
G McGuinness
K MacKeogh
P Meleady
N Murphy

E O'Connell
B Pierce
H Ruskin
T Ryan
P Sheehan
C Stevenson
J Williams

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 11 October 2006**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Noted that the University had been unsuccessful in its submission for funding in the first cycle of the SIF (Strategic Innovation Fund) initiative and that the focus would now be on aiming at successful outcomes in the second and subsequent cycles. Agreed that it would be essential to involve as wide a range of staff as possible and appropriate in the preparation of the submissions for the second and subsequent cycles. Noted that the issue of SIF funding would constitute an agenda item for the 14 February 2007 meeting of Academic Council.

Noted that, notwithstanding the fact that DCU-led bids had not been successful in the first cycle, the University – specifically the Library – was involved in a SIF-funded project, co-ordinated by the Irish Universities Association, to develop digital access to research materials. (Item 6.2)

3.2 Noted that the next call for submissions under the PRTLTI (Programme for Research in Third-level Institutions) initiative was expected shortly. (Item 6.3)

3.3 Noted that it was hoped shortly to fill the vacancy for Director of Research in Athlone Institute of Technology/Adjunct Professor in the University. (Item 6.4)

3.4 Noted that the group charged with making recommendations about the desirability or otherwise of anonymous marking would shortly be formed, that the Chair would circulate a list details of the membership of this group to the members of Council and that Council would have an opportunity to discuss the recommendations of the group at a future meeting. (Item 8)

3.5 Noted that legal advice had indicated that the compensation regulations approved by Council at its meeting of 11 October 2006 should be implemented not in 2006/07 but in 2007/08. Noted that developments with regard to modularisation might impact on the need to have a compensation system. Agreed, however, that, to the extent that

compensation would be required from 2007/08 onwards, it would be the new regulations that applied. (Item 10)

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Strategy Committee of 1 November 2006

Noted. Noted, with reference to Item 8.3, that the School of Education Studies planned to hold discussions with the School of Nursing about the proposed Graduate Diploma/MSc in Guidance and Counselling.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 12 October 2006

Noted and approved.

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Learning Innovation Advisory Panel of 27 October and 20 November 2006

Noted and approved.

7. President's report

7.1 The Chair reported on the University's current financial situation, noting that more detailed information would be made available to the 14 February 2007 meeting of Council.

7.2 The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr Ronan Tobin, recently appointed Dean of Studies in All Hallows College, and noted that a linkage agreement between the University and All Hallows College was in the final stages of discussion. Noted that the issue of linkage agreements would constitute an agenda item for the 14 February 2007 meeting of Council.

B: Policy and strategy issues

8. Strategy implementation

The Chair informed Council that it was intended shortly to provide details on the University website about the implementation of *Leadership through Foresight* in its first year of operation and that plans were also in train to fill two Theme Leader positions.

9. Phase II Modularisation

The VPLI/Registrar reported that proposals for a new academic framework for innovation were being prepared, and thanked all those who were contributing to this work – in particular Mr Kevin Griffin, Ms Jean Hughes and the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning. Agreed that proposals would be implemented only after agreement on them had been reached with Faculties and the Students' Union. Noted that the proposals would constitute an agenda item for the 14 February 2007 meeting of Council.

10. Research strategy update

Professor Eugene Kennedy gave a detailed presentation on this issue.

Noted that a number of initiatives were being undertaken with a view to ensuring adequacy of funding for research in the Humanities and Social Sciences and that collaboration with the linked colleges was an important feature of such research. The Chair noted with appreciation the quality of work undertaken by St Patrick's College in this area.

Agreed that the Office of the Vice-President for Research would organise a briefing meeting about the SSTI (Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation) recently launched by the Government.

Noted that a new publication summarising the University's research activities had become available.

Agreed that research issues would be discussed regularly by Council, with the next discussion likely to relate to the forthcoming call for submissions under the PRTLII.

The Chair thanked Professor Kennedy, Dr Declan Raftery and the staff of the Office of the Vice-President for Research for their very significant ongoing contribution to the enhancement of the University's reputation in terms of research.

11. Credit rating for taught Master's programmes

Agreed that, with effect from 2007/08, all taught Master's programmes would have a credit rating of 90, with the exception of those lasting less than a calendar year, which would continue to have a credit rating of 75. Agreed that those responsible for programmes in the 75-credit category would be free to undertake a revision of the programmes with a view to ensuring that they were justified, in terms of duration and

student effort, in having 90 credits, and that such programmes could then be rated at 90 credits.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

12. Validation recommendations

12.1 Revised Science International programme

Approved.

12.2 Graduate Certificate in Development Education

Approved.

12.3 Proposal to treat the Professional Doctoral Programme (Business) and (Education) as separate programmes

Approved.

12.4 Proposal for participation in an Erasmus Mundus Master's programme (St Patrick's College)

Approved.

12.5 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Guidance and Counselling

Approved.

**13. Accreditation recommendation:
MA in Development/MA in International Organisations**

Approved.

14. Report from Winter 2006 Progression and Awards Boards

Noted and approved.

15. Reports from 6 November and 1 November 2006 meetings of the Appeals Board

Noted.

Date of next meeting:

<p>Wednesday 14 February 2007 2.00 p.m. in AG01</p>
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Signed: _____
President

Date: _____