

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Wednesday 8 June 2005

2.00-3.50 p.m. in AG01

### PRESENT:

D Beirne  
F Blin  
L Boyle  
P Brereton  
J Burzlaff  
J Carroll  
F Corcoran  
J Costello  
E Cunningham  
M Duffy  
C Fagan  
O Finlayson  
B Flood  
R Forster  
F Gallagher  
M Gannon  
M Gibbon

K Griffin  
E Guilfoyle  
S Hashmi  
M Henry  
J Horgan  
P James  
B Kehoe  
E Kennedy  
J Kerrane  
A Leahy  
B Leavy  
M Mac Conmara  
L Mac Mathúna  
L McDermott (Secretary)  
C McGonagle  
G McGuinness

D McLoughlin  
M Molony  
G Moore  
R Morgan  
N Moyna  
M Nic Giolla Mhichíl  
C Nic Pháidín  
P Ó Flatharta  
M Parkinson  
R Saunders  
R Scaife  
M Slowey (VPLI/R – Chair)  
M Smyth  
B Trench  
P Willis  
J Wright

### APOLOGIES:

J Appleby  
M Byrne  
M Collier  
H Duncan  
P Gallagher  
B Le Juez

E McGlynn  
S O'Brien  
C Ó hÓgartaigh  
R O'Kennedy  
B Pierce  
A Pratt

M Shine Thompson  
A Sinnott  
E Townsend  
R Verbruggen  
F von Prondzynski

### OBSERVER:

G Barry

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

P Barker  
G McConnell  
S McGivney  
Y Tuohy

The Chair welcomed the incoming Education Officer/Vice-President of the Students' Union, Ms Yvonne Tuohy, and the incoming convenor for postgraduate research students, Ms Sinéad McGivney, who attended the meeting. The Chair also paid tribute to the outgoing Education Officer/Vice-President, Mr Damien McLoughlin, for his very considerable contribution to the work of Council during his term of office.

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted subject to a decision to discuss Items 6 and 9 in conjunction with each other.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 13 April 2005**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair. It was noted that no decision had been taken to approve the proposals referred to in Item 10.

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

All matters arising were noted.

**4. Minutes of meetings of Academic Council Standing Committee****4.1 Minutes 7 April 2005**

Noted and approved.

**4.2 Minutes 5 May 2005**

Noted and approved.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee**

**5.1** All matters arising were noted.

**5.2** It was noted that, to continue the work begun at the meeting of 14 March 2005 which dealt with a range of issues to do with external examiners and postgraduate research students, a follow-up meeting would be held as soon as possible.

**5.3** It was noted that the issue of Accreditation of Prior Learning had been referred by Standing Committee to the Working Group on Modularisation.

**5.4** The proposed entry scheme for elite sportspersons was approved.

**6. President's report**

In the absence of the President, this item was combined with Item 9: Strategic Planning.

**7. Report and minutes from Validation Committee – 4 May 2005****7.1 Minutes of Validation Committee meeting**

Approved.

**7.2 Validation recommendations:**

**Graduate Diploma in Special Education (with specialist studies in Autistic Spectrum Disorders)** (St Patrick's College)

Approved.

**BA in Contemporary Culture and Society**  
(Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Approved.

**MSc in Leadership and Management of Interprofessional Healthcare**  
(Oscail)

Approved.

**8. Accreditation recommendations:****8.1 BA in Media Production Management** (School of Communications)

Approved.

**8.2 BSc in Multimedia** (reaccreditation) (School of Communications)

Approved.

**8.3 BSc in Nursing** (reaccreditation) (School of Nursing)

Approved. It was agreed that Professor Slowey would raise the issue of admissions procedures for mature applicants to the BSc in Nursing with An Bord Altranais.

**8.4 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Counselling and Psychotherapy**  
(School of Nursing)

Approved.

**8.5** It was noted that, since Ordinary Bachelor Degrees have now replaced the former National Diploma awards, it would be important to ensure that the word 'Honours' was included in the titles of the University's undergraduate degree programmes, all of which are at honours level.**9. Strategic planning****9.1** Mr Gordon McConnell, Head of the Strategic Planning Unit, summarised current developments and mentioned that the strategy web page would shortly be updated to incorporate the latest information.**9.2** Members of Council who are interested in participating in advisory groups were requested to make this known to the relevant Heads of Unit.**9.3** The following were noted:

- it would be desirable to ensure that people involved in education participate as fully as possible in external advisory groups
- work is shortly to commence on a revenue strategy
- it will be important to ensure clarity about to the extent to which individual Schools/Units have discretion in relation to the use of revenue generated
- the linked colleges are involved in the strategic planning process

- it will be important to ensure that all the academic themes are integrated into the process
- strategic priorities for the future will need to be identified on an ongoing basis.

#### **10. Representatives on the Honorary Degree Committee**

Noted that these representatives are Professor Martin Henry and Dr Helena Sheehan and that the newly-constituted committee has already held one meeting.

#### **11. Representatives on the Academic Promotions Committee**

Noted that these representatives will be Professor Brian Leavy and Professor Jenny Williams.

#### **12. Register of Academic Council members 2005-2008**

Noted. The following amendments were also noted: one final member of academic staff is to be added to the list from the Faculty of Science and Health; Dr Declan Raftery's correct title is Director of Research Support Services; Dr Heinz Lechleiter's name is to be included as Director of Quality Promotion.

#### **13. Proposals from the Task Group on Committee Structures**

**13.1** Noted that it would be important, in future discussions, to clarify the role of the Research Committee and the Research Advisory Panel vis-à-vis revised committee structures.

**13.2** It was suggested that, in further discussions about the proposed Academic Strategy Committee or equivalent, consideration might be given to increasing the number of Council members included in it.

**13.3** Noted that it would be desirable for Council to get regular reports from a wider range of committees throughout the University than is the case at present.

**13.4** Agreed that, to facilitate the completion of ongoing business, it would be necessary for the present committee structures to remain in place for a transition period. Agreed that this transition period should not exceed the end of the calendar year 2005.

- 13.5** The proposals were agreed in principle. The composition of the Task Group will be reviewed as the work progresses into detailed consideration of matters of implementation in close consultation with Faculties, Schools and relevant Units.

#### **14. Proposal on the Uaneen Module**

- 14.1** Noted that it was intended to change the marking system for this module so that marks would be attributed to reflect each student's level of achievement, i.e. it would no longer be marked on a pass/fail basis.
- 14.2** Noted that, as part of the development of the teaching and learning strategy, the module would be considered along with other initiatives across the University designed to support students' personal development, with a view to locating them within an overall University framework.
- 14.3** Noted that Ms Caroline Nash of IBEC had reached the end of her term of office as Chair of the Extra-curricular Awards Committee and that she would be replaced by an IBEC colleague. The significant contribution of Ms Nash to the committee and the development of the module was noted with appreciation.
- 14.4** Agreed that, where possible and appropriate, Programme Boards should discuss the possibility of including the module as a five-credit optional module in the final years of programmes. Agreed that any Programme Board which wished to so include it with effect from September 2005 would need to discuss this with the Registry as a matter of urgency so that appropriate changes to academic structures could be made.
- 14.5** Noted that Professor Barker would report to Council, in June 2006, on developments relating to the module in 2005-06.
- 14.6** The Chair thanked Professor Barker for her considerable work in relation to the module.

#### **15. Proposal on the electronic dissemination of Academic Council papers**

Agreed that no change should be made to the current system for disseminating papers.

Noted that the type and volume of material coming to Academic Council would in any case alter as a result of the changes referred to under Item 13 above, but that it would none the less be important, for the purposes of archives and audit trails, that full records remain in appropriate locations.

**16. Any other business**

None.

**Date of next meeting:**

<p><b>Monday 27 June 2005</b> <b>2.00 p.m. in AG01</b></p>
--

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_