

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 9 April 2008

2.00-3.30 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| F Blin | L Hourihane | G Murphy |
| O Bree | G Hughes | M Nic Giolla Mhichíl |
| P Brereton | J Hughes | P Ó Flatharta |
| J Bruton | S Ingle | J O'Sullivan |
| J Carroll | M Irwin-Bannon | D Raftery |
| J Connolly | S Knowlton | H Ruskin |
| E Conway | B Le Juez | T Ryan |
| J Costello | C Mac an Bhaird | R Saunders |
| M Cronin | N McClave | R Scaife |
| J Doyle | L McDermott (Secretary) | A Sinnott |
| M Farren | C McDonagh | M Slowey (VPLI/R and Chair) |
| O Finlayson | A McGrady | P Smith |
| S Fox | K Mac Keogh | M Smyth |
| N Gathergood | P McMorrow | R Tobin |
| H Hayes | P Meleady | R Verbruggen |
| M Henry | R Morgan | R Walsh |
| T Hogan | A Morrissey | A Way |
| C Holland | C Mulcahy | |

APOLOGIES:

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|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| C Bohan | N Murphy | M Shine Thompson |
| E Buffet | P O'Byrne | A Simon |
| M Drumm | O O'Reilly | C Stevenson |
| B Flood | B Pierce | B Tolan |
| D Ging | A Scott | F von Prondzynski |
| E Kennedy | P Sheehan | C Woods |
| C Mac Murchaidh | | |

IN ATTENDANCE:

G McConnell

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the deferral of the discussion under Item 11 to the 11 June 2008 meeting of the Council. (See also Item 3.2 below.)

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council of 13 February 2008**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

3.1 The Chair noted that Dr Kay MacKeogh had been nominated as the Academic Council representative on the Academic Strategy Committee, and extended congratulations to her on behalf of the Council. (Item 4.2)

3.2 The Chair noted that a proposal on anonymous marking had been discussed by the University Standards Committee at its meeting of 3 April 2008 and that a further proposal would be submitted to the 11 June 2008 meeting of the Council. (See also Item 1 above). (Item 11)

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Academic Strategy Committee of 6 February 2008 and 5 March 2008

Noted.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 7 February 2008

5.1 Noted and approved.

5.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Board of 6 March 2008

Noted and approved.

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Learning Innovation Advisory Panel of 21 February 2008

Noted and approved.

7. President's report

7.1 At the request of the Chair Dr Declan Raftery, Director of Research Support Services, outlined the likely features of the forthcoming call for funding under PRTLII Cycle 5, noting that this call was likely to be the last one for some time that would involve very large sums of research funding.

7.2 The Chair, on behalf of the President, congratulated all those who had been involved in the organisation of the graduation ceremony (including the conferring of honorary awards on President Mary McAleese and Dr Martin McAleese) on 29 March 2008.

B: Policy and strategy issues

8. Strategy implementation

Mr Gordon McConnell made a presentation on developments to date in the implementation of *Leadership through Foresight* and also described the initial preparations for the new strategic plan that would follow it, noting that these preparations would be streamlined and would take place over a short time period.

9. Strategic Innovation Funding

The Chair summarised the developments following from the University's recent success in obtaining funding under SIF Cycle 2, and expressed both the President's appreciation and her own to all those who had contributed to this success. She noted that the tight strategic focus of the University's submission, and the close collaboration it entailed with the DRHEA (Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance) had been factors in its success. Some further discussion about the distribution of remaining funding is to take place with the HEA, and the process of detailed reporting on the disbursement of funding awarded to date is shortly to begin.

10. Presentation on the Academic Framework for Innovation

10.1 Professor Martin Henry, Academic Director of the Academic Framework for Innovation, made a presentation on current developments with regard to the Framework, noting that the availability of SIF funding (see Item 9 above) was likely to facilitate these developments very considerably.

10.2 The following were noted in the course of the presentation:

- matching funding, a core requirement of SIF, would take a variety of forms within the university and the DRHEA, including the provision of AFI fellowships to further the carrying out of developmental work
- considerable discussion on a range of issues associated with *Marks and Standards* had taken place and would continue; these issues include the desirability or otherwise of adopting a grade point average system and the optimum module size
- it would be helpful also to discuss issues such as grade inflation
- moving to a learning outcomes approach would have significant implications for assessment, including the issue of what a pass in a module or award means in terms of the stated outcomes.

10.3 Professor Henry adverted to the existence of *Learning Outcomes Week* (the week beginning 28 April 2008) and encouraged the members of the Council to participate in this week as fully as possible and encourage their colleagues to do likewise.

11. Update on anonymous marking

Deferred to the 11 June 2008 meeting of the Council.

12. Report from the Research Committee

12.1 Dr Declan Raftery, Director of Research Support Services, made a presentation on the work of the Research Committee, noting that a submission from this Committee would henceforth be made to the Council twice a year. Issues covered included the recent setting up of a Science Foundation Ireland CSET (Centre for Science, Engineering and Technology) on Next Generation Localisation, the HEA Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme 2008, and the Research Assessment and Research Centres Review currently being carried out.

12.2 Dr Raftery also presented on developments to date in the Research Foresight exercise, a key factor in university strategy, noting that the Foresight Report would be submitted to Executive shortly.

- 12.3** Dr Raftery requested the members of the Council to communicate with him in relation to all research strategy issues, noting that he was available to talk about these matters with Schools and Faculties.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

13. Validation recommendations:

13.1 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Psycho-oncology

Approved.

13.2 Graduate Diploma in Counselling/Psychotherapeutic Practice and Master's and Doctorate in Psychotherapy

Approved.

13.3 MSc in Computational Science and Complex Systems

Approved.

14. Accreditation recommendations:

14.1 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing Practice/Health Care Practice

Approved.

14.2 BA in Law and Society (now renamed *Bachelor of Civil Law*)

Approved.

14.3 BSc in Enterprise Computing

Approved.

15. Proposal to restructure one strand on the Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs (St Patrick's College)

Approved.

16. Report from 7 March 2008 meeting of the Appeals Board

Noted.

17. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

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| <p>Wednesday 11 June 2008 2.00 p.m. in AG01</p> |
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Signed: _____
President

Date: _____