ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 9 June 2004

2.00-4.00 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

D Beirne	J Horgan	M Roantree
D Brabazon	B Kehoe	M Ryan
J Bruton	E Kennedy	T Ryan
E Buffet	C Kenny	R Saunders
M Byrne	J Kerrane	R Scaife
F Corcoran	B Le Juez	P Sheehan
I Coyne	M Mac Conmara	M Shine Thompson
E Cunningham	L Mac Mathúna	D Sinclair
J Doyle	L McDermott	M Slowey
O Finlayson	C McDonagh	T Szecsi
B Flood	G McGuinness	B Trench
S Fox	M Molony	F von Prondzynski (Chairperson)
A Friedrich	K Monks	P Walsh
M Gannon	A Morrissey	A Wickham
K Griffin	N O'Connor	P Willis
E Guilfoyle	C Ó hÓgartaigh	M Winters
S Hashmi	B Pierce	
M Henry	A Pratt	

APOLOGIES:

P Brereton	A Leahy	B Quilty
P Burke	T McCarthy	W Richardson
J Burzlaff	E McGlynn	A Scott
J Carroll	D Morris	M Smyth
J Dowling	E O'Connell	B Stenson
H Duncan	P Ó Flatharta	R Verbruggen

OBSERVER:
G Barry

IN ATTENDANCE:
J Barnett
C Bohan
D McLoughlin
M Munro

1.   Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the deferral of Item 8.4 to the meeting of
Academic Council of 25 June 2004 and the deferral of Item 15 to a later meeting of
Council.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 14 April 2004

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

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 1 April 2004

Noted and approved.

4.2   Minutes 6 May 2004

Noted and approved subject to the deferral of a decision on Item 3.6 (proposal
on teaching family members) pending further discussion on the matter by
Executive. Agreed to discuss the issue again at Council as soon as possible.

5.   Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

All matters arising were noted.

6.   President's report

The Chairperson reported the following:

- Two theme leaders have been appointed, and further appointments will be made in due course.
- Proposals will shortly be submitted to Executive on the basis of the recent review of decision-making processes, and workshops will be organised at which staff will have an opportunity to discuss these proposals.
- The website containing information on the implementation of *Leading Change* will shortly be updated.
- Discussions about the new strategic plan will shortly be under way, and a presentation on this will be made to Council at its meeting of 13 October 2004.
- Council will also, in the near future, have an opportunity to discuss the opportunities afforded by the University's links with institutions in China, in relation not only to student recruitment but also to research and other kinds of partnerships.
- A Task Force has been created to examine the University's role in the development of North Dublin and will report to Executive; all staff members are welcome to submit their views on the issue, and there is a limited number of vacancies on it for those who wish to become members.
- The Chairperson is to organise another series of meetings at which issues of relevance to staff can be debated. Each meeting will be dedicated to a particular issue.

7.   Report and minutes from Validation Committee - 5 May 2004

   7.1   MSc in Software Engineering (School of Computing)

   Approved, with a recommendation that the programme proposers be requested to ensure conformity with *Marks and Standards* in the matter of the credits to be allocated where a Graduate Diploma is awarded.

   7.2   Graduate Diploma and European MSc in Business Informatics
   (School of Computing)

   Approved.

   7.3   Doctor of Business Administration (Educational Leadership strand)
    (School of Education Studies)

   Approved.

Noted that it was regrettable that the programmes from the School of Computing had been submitted for Validation at a late stage in the year. Noted also, however, that there were occasions on which it was necessary to respond rapidly to changes in student demand for programmes.

7.4   Minutes of Validation Committee meeting 5 May 2004

Approved.

8.   Accreditation recommendations

8.1   Graduate Certificate in Community Interpreting
(School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies)

Approved.

8.2   BA in Journalism (reaccreditation - School of Communications)

Approved. Noted with approval that this restructured programme involved close and fruitful intra-Faculty collaboration between the Schools of Communications and Law and Politics. Noted also that the School of Communications had begun to discuss the possibility of providing a graduate programme in the area of Journalism which would allow students to take modules overseas.

8.3   Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (Special Education Department, St Patrick's College)

Approved.

9.   International issues

9.1   International policies

Agreed that the term 'target' was preferable to the term 'quota'.

9.2   Overseas delivery - introduction

Approved.

9.3   Guidelines for advanced standing arrangements

Approved.

9.4   Guidelines for twinning arrangements

Approved. Noted that issues of quality assurance would need to be discussed in detail on an ongoing basis and monitored in the context of quality assurance procedures for the sponsoring Schools.

9.5   Guidelines for Master's programmes and PhDs by remote supervision

Approved.

9.6   Recommendations from Standing Committee - 6 May 2004

Noted.

Noted that it was essential that all proposals on agreements with overseas universities be discussed with the President's Office and that copies of all signed agreements and similar documents be lodged with the International Office.

Noted that, when University promotional material is being prepared, account should be taken of the fact that it will be read by potential international applicants as well as by potential Irish applicants, and that it should always be made available as early as possible so as to facilitate international applications.

The Chairperson stressed the crucial importance for the University of the work carried out by the International Office and, on behalf of Council, thanked Dr Bohan and her team for their commitment and professionalism.

10.   Proposals on quality assurance procedures for MBA (Lublin Business School)

Approved.

11.   Proposal on admission of students with FETAC Level 2 awards

<u>Approved.</u> <u>Noted</u> that ongoing communication with FETAC on this matter will be managed by Mr Barnett and Mr Griffin and that discussions will take place shortly between the Registry and Schools to determine the number of places to be made available per programme for students who present with FETAC qualifications.

12.   Report from the Teaching and Learning Committee on the provision of lecture notes on line

<u>Noted</u> as a very comprehensive, detailed and helpful document. The Chairperson thanked Dr McMullin and Ms Morag Munro, on behalf of Council, for their work in preparing the report. <u>Agreed</u> that consideration should be given to organising workshops in which some of the issues raised in the report could be explored in depth.

13.   Proposal relating to Marks and Standards 2003/04 and 2004/05

<u>Approved.</u> <u>Noted</u> that the Working Group on Modularisation would report to Council and to Executive by the end of 2004.

14.   Task Group on Committee Structures - summary to date

<u>Noted.</u> The Chairperson requested that the members of Council submit their views on this issue to the Office of the Vice-President for Learning Innovation. <u>Noted</u> also that the work of the Task Group would be informed by the outcome of the proposals on decision-making which are to be submitted to Executive (see Item 6 above).

15.   Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

> **Friday 25 June 2004**
> **2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____   Date: _____
               Chairperson