

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Wednesday 11 October 2006

2.00-4.00 p.m. in AG01

### PRESENT:

D Beirne	E Guilfoyle	A O'Flanagan
F Blin	S Hashmi	P Ó Flatharta
S Blott	M Henry	N O'Reilly
D Brabazon	M Irwin-Bannon	E Parikka
O Bree	P James	M Parkinson
P Brereton	J Kerrane	H Ruskin
J Bruton	H Lechleiter	R Saunders
E Buffet	M Mac Conmara	A Scott
P Burke	L McDermott (Secretary)	P Sheehan
E Byrne	C McDonagh	A Simon
M Byrne	A McGrady	A Sinnott
J Cannon	G McGuinness	M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)
M Collier	K MacKeogh	C Stevenson
J Costello	P Meleady	J Stokes
A Dixon	K Moran	R Verbruggen
J Doyle	N Murphy	F von Prondzynski (Chair)
H Duncan	G Murphy	R Walshe
O Finlayson	M Nic Giolla Mhichíl	A Wickham
B Flood	E O'Connell	P Young
K Griffin		

### APOLOGIES:

J Clarke	J Horgan	V Poti
J Connolly	C Mac an Bhaird	T Ryan
E Conway	C McCorkell	M Shine Thompson
M Drumm	J McKenna	M Smyth
S Fox	C Mac Murchaidh	B Tolan
N Gathergood	M Molony	J Williams
M Hopkins	B Pierce	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

G McConnell

P McMorrow

The Chair welcomed all new and returning members of Academic Council to the meeting and paid tribute to the contribution to the work of Council made during his membership by Dr Desmond Beirne, Dean of Studies of All Hallows College, who is due to retire shortly.

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**A: Minutes and related issues****2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 26 June 2006**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters arising**

All matters arising were noted.

**4. Minutes of the meetings of the Academic Strategy Committee of 16 June 2006 and 13 September 2006**

Noted.

**5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 14 September 2006**

Noted and approved.

**6. President's report****6.1** On 14 September 2006, the Presidents of the seven Irish universities signed the Universities Co-operation Accord. This confirms that standard recruitment procedures

are to be used where one university wishes to recruit staff currently employed by another. The Accord was welcomed by the government.

- 6.2** Proposals for funding under the Strategic Innovation Fund have been submitted. It is hoped that the outcome will be known shortly. Appreciation was expressed to Mr Gordon McConnell and Ms Jean Hughes for their very considerable work in co-ordinating the submission of the proposals.
- 6.3** It is expected that the next call for funding under the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions will shortly be made.
- 6.4** A vacancy for Director of Research in Athlone Institute of Technology/ Adjunct Professor in the University has been advertised in the context of a memorandum of understanding on strategic collaboration which AIT and the University have signed.

**B: Policy and strategy issues**

**7. Strategy implementation**

Mr Gordon McConnell presented a detailed report on the latest developments in relation to the implementation of *Leadership through Foresight* and the component strategic plans.

**8. Report/proposal from Anonymous Marking Implementation Group**

A detailed discussion about anonymous marking took place. Among the issues raised were the extent to which anonymous marking enhances the educational experience of students and the desirability of minimising the risk of error, and avoiding increases in staff workloads, in relation to any system used.

Agreed that the Implementation Group should continue its work on the basis of the first of the two options it proposed, i.e. the continuation of a phased approach with the group of undergraduate students now in the second year of their programmes. Agreed that, in parallel, a group including some members from the Implementation Group as well as some additional members closely involved with the relevant issues would be set up, and that the remit of this group would be to discuss, and make recommendations on, the desirability of anonymous marking *per se*. Noted that the Chair intended to circulate a list of issues which this latter group would be requested to discuss.

**9. Proposal on revised credit ratings for taught Master's programmes**

Decision deferred to the 6 December 2006 meeting of Academic Council.

**10. Proposal on compensation regulations**

The proposal was approved subject to the deletion of the footnoted alternative to regulation 1.6 and the inclusion of a reference to the need to operate compensation on a *pro rata* basis for students who do not take a full academic year (such as students who spend one semester on an INTRA placement).

Agreed that, if possible, the proposal would be implemented in the current academic year, 2006/2007. Agreed that the Chair would seek legal advice as to whether or not this would be possible.

**11. Proposal to award a Higher Diploma in Children's Nursing**

Approved.

**C: Items for formal approval/noting**

**12. Draft standing orders for Academic Council, Academic Strategy Committee and University Standards Committee**

Approved.

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

Approved.

**14. Accreditation recommendations:**

**14.1 Programme in Children's Nursing**

Approved. This programme is now to be known as the Higher Diploma in Nursing (see Item 11 above).

**14.2 BA in Contemporary Culture and Society**

Approved.

**15. Register of finalised accredited programmes 2005/2006**

Noted.

**16. Register of Academic Council members 2006/2007**

Noted. Noted that a small number of changes would shortly be made to the register to reflect changes in staffing.

**17. Reports from Autumn 2006 examinations/Progression and Awards Boards**

Noted and approved. Noted that, for the first time, the reports include one from Ballyfermot College of Further Education, whose BA in Media Production Management is awarded by the University.

**18. Report from Autumn 2006 Faculty Awards Boards**

Noted and approved.

**19. Report from Summer 2006 Appeals Boards**

Noted.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Wednesday 6 December 2006  
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

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

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