

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 12 October 2005

2.00-3.45 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

D Beirne
C Blacklaw
S Blott
D Brabazon
M Brady
J Carroll
J Costello
M Duffy
H Duncan
B Flood
N Gathergood
J Geraghty
K Griffin
E Guilfoyle
S Hashmi
T Hogan

J Horgan
J Horgan
J Hughes
S Ingle
M Irwin-Bannon
P James
J Kerrane
H Lechleiter
A Madigan
C Mac an Bhaird
A McAuley
L McDermott (Secretary)
C McDonagh
S McGivney
G McGuinness
J McKenna

M Molony
N Murphy
M Nic Giolla Mhichíl
C Nic Pháidín
P O'Byrne
M Parkinson
T Ryan
H Sheehan
A Simon
M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)
B Tolan
Y Tuohy
F von Prondzynski (Chair)
A Wickham
P Willis
P Young

APOLOGIES:

J Appleby
O Bree
P Brereton
P Burke
M Byrne
J Clarke
M Collier
E Conway
M Gibbon

S Davis
M Henry
E Kennedy
M Mac Conmara
S McGovern
C Mac Murchaidh
P Meleady
P Ó Flatharta

N O'Reilly
B Pierce
R Saunders
R Scaife
A Scott
P Sheehan
M Shine Thompson
B Trench

IN ATTENDANCE:

P McMorrow

The Chair noted that this was the first meeting of the newly-constituted membership of Academic Council for the period October 2005-June 2008, and welcomed all members, both those new to Council and those who had previously been members.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 27 June 2005

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of Academic Council

All matters arising were noted.

4. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council Standing Committee of 7 July and 1 September 2005

Noted and approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

All matters arising were noted.

6. Academic Council agenda

Agreed that, for the next meeting of Council on 14 December 2005 and on an experimental basis, the agenda would be divided into three sections: (a) standard items in relation to minutes and matters arising from meetings of Council and its subcommittees; (b) substantial policy and strategic issues for discussion; (c) items for formal approval which would be open for discussion only if a member of Council indicated, in advance of the meeting, that he/she wished to request a discussion.

7. President's report**7.1 Financial issues**

The Chair summarised the University's current financial position.

7.2 Student recruitment and retention

The Chair indicated that a future meeting of Council would be requested to consider issues relating to student recruitment and retention.

8. Strategic planning

8.1 Noted that the strategic plan had been submitted to Governing Authority for consideration at its meeting of 13 October 2005 and that, subject to Governing Authority approval, it would be formally launched on 5 December 2005.

8.2 Noted that there would be a social event on the evening of 11 November 2005 to give staff and students an opportunity to celebrate the 25th anniversary of existence of NIHE Dublin/Dublin City University.

9. Report and minutes from Validation Committee – 7 September 2005**9.1 Minutes of Validation Committee meeting**

Approved.

9.2 Validation recommendation (BSc in Physical Education with Biology)

A decision to approve the recommendation was deferred pending further discussion within the Faculty about the extent of the involvement of the relevant Schools in the setting up of the programme and the level at which the Biology modules should be taught. Agreed that, once these discussions had been finalised, the proposal on the proposed new programme should be resubmitted for validation.

10. Accreditation recommendation (Graduate Diploma/MSc in Education and Training (Teaching and Learning Innovation strand))

The recommendation was approved in so far as it related to the academic content of the proposed new strand. A decision to approve the recommendation in its entirety was,

however, deferred on the basis that students on the proposed new strand should, on successful completion, be permitted to hold either a Graduate Diploma in Education and Training (Teaching and Learning Innovation), or a Master's degree in Education and Training (Teaching and Learning Innovation), but not both. Agreed that the programme proposers would be requested to consider amending the documentation accordingly.

11. Register of finalised accredited programmes 2004/2005

Noted. Noted that the reference to the Graduate Diploma/MSc in Education and Training (Teaching and Learning Innovation) would be removed from the register, as this programme had not been accredited in 2004/2005 (see Item 10 above).

12. Report from Appeals Board (Summer 2005)

Noted, with the addition to the list of those who had attended the meeting of the Board of the names of Dr Ann Wickham and Ms Pauline Willis.

13. Proposal from Appeals Board re policy on continuous assessment and examination rubric

a. Policy on continuous assessment

Agreed to adopt Option B, i.e. the option that specifies that final assessment schedule details will be confirmed by Faculties to Registry in October of each year. Agreed to attach a condition to this decision: once the details have been published by an agreed date later in October, no changes to them will be permitted.

Noted that adjustments would be made to the module descriptors to indicate to students, in the case of each of their modules, which assessment elements had to be passed in order for the entire module to be passed.

b. Policy on examination rubric

Agreed to adopt Option 2, i.e. the option that specifies that where a candidate answers more than the required number of questions the examiner will mark all questions attempted and then select the highest-scoring ones (unless an examiner decides not to use this default position and uses Option 1).

14. Report from Disciplinary Appeals Committee (April 2005)

Noted.

15. Reports from Autumn 2005 examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

Noted and approved. Noted that the proposed review of *Marks and Standards*, adverted to by the Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar, would be very welcome.

16. Report from Autumn 2005 Faculty Awards Boards

Noted and approved, with the addition of the name of one candidate to the list.

17. Review of plagiarism detection service

Noted and approved. Thanks were recorded to Ms Barbara McConalogue, Computer Services Department, and those who had worked with her on the piloting of the service. Noted that, in line with the recommendations in the review, a working group was being set up to examine policy and procedural issues.

18. Proposal on *aegrotat* award

Approved.

19. Expression of appreciation to be sent to Professor Albert Pratt

Agreed that the Chair would send to Professor Albert Pratt, whose term of office as Deputy President is drawing to a close, a letter expressing appreciation, on behalf of Council, of his most significant contribution to the work of Council to date.

Date of next meeting:

<p>Wednesday 14 December 2005 2.00 p.m. in AG01</p>

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____