

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Wednesday 13 April 2005

2.00-3.45 p.m. in AG01

#### **PRESENT:**

D Beirne  
F Blin  
L Boyle  
D Brabazon  
O Bree  
P Brereton  
E Buffet  
P Burke  
J Burzlaff  
J Carroll  
F Corcoran  
B Corcoran  
J Costello  
E Cunningham  
J Dowling  
H Duncan  
M Farren  
R Flynn  
L Gallagher  
S Geraghty

A N Glynn  
K Griffin  
E Guilfoyle  
J Horgan  
P James  
B Kehoe  
E Kennedy  
J Kerrane  
B Leahy  
M Mac Conmara  
L McDermott (Secretary)  
C McDonagh  
E McGlynn  
D McLoughlin  
M Molony  
N Moyna  
G Murphy  
M Nic Giolla Mhichíl  
C Nic Pháidín  
P Ó Flatharta

S O'Brien  
N O'Connor  
C Ó h Ógartaigh  
R O'Kennedy  
A Pratt  
B Quilty  
M Ryan  
R Saunders  
P Sheehan  
A Sinnott  
M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)  
M Smyth  
L Sullivan  
E Townsend  
B Trench  
D Turley  
F von Prondzynski (Chairperson)  
P Walsh  
J Williams

#### **APOLOGIES:**

M Byrne  
M Collier  
M Drumm  
H Esmonde  
C Fagan

B Le Juez  
A Leahy  
B Leavy  
C Mac Murchaidh  
L Mac Mathúna

R Scaife  
A Scott  
M Shine Thompson  
D Sinclair  
A Smeaton

O Finlayson  
B Flood  
P Gallagher  
M Gibbon

E Merton  
B Pierce  
P Preston  
H Ruskin

R Walshe  
A Wickham  
P Willis  
J Wright

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

P Barker

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted subject to the deferral of Item 13 to a future meeting of Academic Council and its substitution by a new item, 'Proposal to include the Uaneen Module in the calculation of awards'.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 16 February 2005**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the President.

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

**3.1** All matters arising were noted.

**3.2** It is expected that the report from the EUA Review of Quality in Irish Universities will be made available on 25 April 2005. Council will be informed on a regular basis about the progress of the implementation of the recommendations from this Review.

**3.3** The special meeting of Council to discuss the implementation of the recommendations from the OECD Review of Higher Education in Ireland, as well as the current University strategic planning process, will take place on 21 April 2005.

**4. Minutes of meetings of Academic Council Standing Committee**

**4.1 Minutes 3 February 2005**

Noted and approved.

#### **4.2 Minutes 3 March 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 a meeting had taken place at which interested parties discussed a range of issues relating to postgraduate research students and external examiners, and that these issues would need considerable further discussion.

**5.3** The draft guidelines on the use of videoconferencing at *viva voce* examinations were approved subject to the deletion of the first sentence of section 1.5. It was agreed that the use of videoconferencing in these circumstances should be reviewed regularly to ensure both that best practice was applied in all cases and that the experience gained by users was disseminated appropriately. It was also noted that such reviewing should be embedded in all new initiatives.

### **6. President's report**

The President reported that discussions about the funding model for higher education are taking place both within the HEA and within CHIU and that the issue is also of relevance in the context of the implementation of the recommendations from the OECD Review of Higher Education (which will be discussed at the special meeting of Council of 21 April 2005 – see 3.3 above).

### **7. Report and minutes from Validation Committee meetings**

#### **7.1 Minutes of Validation Committee meetings – 2 March 2005 and 5 April 2005**

Approved.

#### **7.2 Validation report: BA in Media Production Management**

Approved. Noted with approval that this proposed programme involves close collaboration between the University and an institution in the further education sector, Ballyfermot College of Further Education.

**7.3 Validation report: BSc in Quantitative Finance**

Approved. Noted with approval that this proposed programme is an initiative involving three of the Executive Faculties: Science and Health, Engineering and Computing and Dublin City University Business School.

**8. Accreditation recommendation: BSc in Athletic Therapy and Training**

Approved.

**9. Strategic planning**

This issue will be discussed in detail at the special meeting of Council on 21 April 2005 (see 3.3 and 6 above). The information on the progress of the strategic planning process is now on line and will be updated on a regular basis. The President stressed the importance of facilitating a high level of engagement in the process from staff and students across the University and ensuring that the process concentrates closely on identifying realistic aims and the means of attaining them.

**10. Proposals from the Task Group on Committee Structures**

Noted. Agreed that the Task Group should progress the work of determining in detail the ways in which the range of responsibilities identified in the proposal document could be distributed between Faculties and central management. Noted that it would be very important to devote adequate resources to this work.

The following points were noted in discussion: further discussions are to be held about the role of the Research Committee vis-à-vis committee structures in general; the importance of keeping decision-making as simple as possible should be kept in mind at all times.

**11. Reports from Appeals Boards (February 2005 and March 2005)**

Noted.

**12. INTRA report**

Noted. The President thanked Dr Glynn and his colleagues for their very significant ongoing contribution to the success of INTRA.

**13. Proposal to include the Uaneen Module in the calculation of awards**

Noted. Agreed that consideration should be given to awarding five, rather than two-and-a-half, credits to the module for calculation purposes. Agreed that the members of Council should endeavour to discuss and reflect on the proposal and convey their views to the proposers, that it should also be referred to the Working Group on Modularisation for detailed discussion, and that a revised version of it should be submitted to the 8 June 2005 meeting of Council. Agreed also that the proposers could be invited to attend the relevant meeting(s) of the Working Group.

The following points were also noted: consideration would have to be given to the best way of attributing marks to the different possible levels of achievement within the module; it is intended that students who present for the module but fail it will have to resubmit the work; to facilitate equity of access to the module for all students, regardless of whether or not the final year of their programme includes elective modules, the module might be offered as part of a suite of stand-alone modules to be made available to all students. The possibility of providing such a suite is among the issues under discussion by the Working Group on Modularisation.

**14. Any other business**

None.

**Date of next ordinary meeting:**

**Wednesday 8 June 2005  
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

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

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