

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 13 October 2004

2.00-4.15 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

D Beirne	S Hashmi	P Preston
F Blin	M Henry	B Quilty
D Brabazon	E Holt	M Roantree
P Brereton	J Horgan	H Ruskin
F Buckley	P James	T Ryan
J Burzlaff	B Kehoe	R Saunders
M Byrne	E Kennedy	R Scaife
J Carroll	J Kerrane	A Scott
F Corcoran	B Leahy	P Sheehan
I Coyne	B Leavy	D Sinclair
E Cunningham	C Mac Murchaidh	M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)
M Drumm	B MacDonald	M Smyth
H Duncan	K MacKeogh	B Trench
H Esmond	L Mac Mathúna	D Turley
C Fagan	T McCluskey	R Verbruggen
O Finlayson	L McDermott (Secretary)	F von Prondzynski (Chairperson)
B Flood	G McGuinness	P Walsh
R Flynn	M Molony	R Walshe
S Fox	M Nic Ghiolla Mhichíl	J Williams
M Gannon	E O'Connell	P Willis
K Griffin	A Pratt	J Wright
E Guilfoyle		

APOLOGIES:

A Burke	T Glynn	M Ryan
P Burke	B Le Juez	R Sharma
B Corcoran	A Leahy	M Shine Thompson
J Dowling	E McGlynn	A Sinnott

M Farren
F Gallagher
P Gallagher
S Geraghty

D McLoughlin
S O'Brien
B Pierce
M Robinson

L Sullivan
T Szecsi
A Wickham

OBSERVER:

G Barry

IN ATTENDANCE:

J Barnett
P McMorrow

The President, on behalf of Council, congratulated Professor Eugene Kennedy on his appointment as Vice-President for Research.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one submission under Item 15.

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 25 June 2004

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the President.

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 July 2004

Noted and approved subject to the inclusion of the correct title for an external examiner and the name of the institution in which she now works.

4.2 Minutes 2 September 2004

Noted and approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

All matters arising were noted. It was agreed that the proposed criteria and procedures for the use of videoconferencing at *viva voce* examinations, referred to in Item 3.3 of the minutes of the meeting of 2 September 2004, should be informed by the forthcoming Irish Universities Quality Board guidelines on the dissemination, publication and implementation of best practice throughout the sector in the organisation of PhD programmes.

6. President's report

6.1 OECD Review of Higher Education in Ireland

The President summarised the issues arising from the recent OECD Review of Higher Education in Ireland and mentioned that a CHIU working group, of which he was a member, had been set up to co-ordinate the universities' response to it. The President plans to hold a series of meetings to which all members of the University will be invited in order to discuss the review.

6.2 EUA Review of Quality in Irish Universities

Dr Walsh reported on the visit of the reviewers from the European University Association, which had taken place from 4 to 6 October and had culminated in an oral report. A written report is to follow. He thanked all those who had participated in the review, noting that the reviewers had commented favourably on the high level of engagement of University staff in the review process. On behalf of Council, the President thanked Dr Walsh, the members of the University's Steering Committee, and all others who had prepared for, and participated in, the review.

7. Report from Task Group on Committee Structures

7.1 Several issues were raised with regard to the proposals on a revised membership of Academic Council. It was agreed that the issue would be addressed again by the Task Group, with particular reference to the following issues: the importance of achieving an appropriate balance between members of academic staff and other staff members; the importance of achieving an appropriate balance between senior and junior members of academic staff; whether or not it would be desirable to set quotas for particular groups; the issues surrounding the representation of Chairpersons of Programme Boards or their equivalents; the issues surrounding the representation of relatively small Schools within larger Faculties; the extent to which the decisions on which staff should represent Faculties should be determined

within the Faculties; the operation of Faculties and the structure of the sub-committees of Council. It was agreed that the Task Group would report to Council on the issue at its meeting of 8 December 2004.

7.2 The President invited members of Council to convey views and suggestions on the issue to the Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar.

7.3 It was noted that the revised membership of Academic Council, once agreed, would be submitted to Governing Authority for approval.

8. Register of finalised accredited programmes

Noted.

9. Report from Appeals Board (Summer 2004)

Noted.

10. Report from Disciplinary Appeals Committee

Noted.

11. Report on Autumn 2004 examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

Noted.

12. Report from Autumn 2004 Faculty Awards Boards

Noted.

13. Report on anonymous marking

Noted. It was agreed that anonymous marking would not proceed in Semester 1 but that the Working Group would present detailed information to Council, at its meeting of 8 December 2004, on the feasibility of making it available in the near future. It was agreed that the membership of the Working Group would be extended to ensure that all Faculties were represented.

14. Report on Extra-curricular Award

Noted.

15. Proposal on undergraduate entry

Approved. Thanks were extended to Dr Quilty for her assistance in the matter of the revised syllabi for Leaving Certificate Biology and Agricultural Science.

Date of next meeting:

<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 8 December 2004 2.00 p.m. in AG01</p>

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____