

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 14 June 2006

2.00-3.25 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

P Barker
S Blott
M Brady
J Bruton
J Carroll
J Clarke
E Conway
J Costello
A Flanagan
B Flood
R Forster
M Gannon
N Gathergood
J Geraghty
K Griffin
E Guilfoyle
S Hashmi

M Henry
T Hogan
G Hughes
J Hughes
P James
E Kennedy
J Kerrane
B Leavy
H Lechleiter
L McDermott (Secretary)
Á McGillicuddy
A McGrady
G McGuinness
J McKenna
K MacKeogh
P Meleady

K Moran
N Moyna
M Nic Giolla Mhichíl
P Ó Flatharta
N O'Reilly
T Ryan
A Simon
A Sinnott
M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar – Chair)
J Stokes
T Szecsi
B Tolan
B Trench
Y Tuohy
A Wickham
J Williams

APOLOGIES:

D Beirne
C Blacklaw
O Bree
P Burke
H Duncan
S Fox
J Horgan
M Irwin-Bannon
C Mac an Bhaird
A McAuley

M Mac Conmara
C McDonagh
C Mac Murchaidh
R Morgan
G Murphy
C Nic Phádín
P O'Byrne
E O'Riordan
B Pierce
H Ruskin

A Scott
H Sheehan
P Sheehan
M Shine Thompson
M Smyth
C Stevenson
F von Prondzynski (President)
R Walshe
P Willis

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 12 April 2006**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

- a. Noted that the University Standards Committee had held its first two meetings and that discussions were in progress with regard to the management of a number of issues formerly dealt with by Standing Committee of Academic Council. (Item 2b)
- b. In response to a proposal about the membership of the new committees, the Chair mentioned that a number of issues with regard to membership would shortly be resolved. (Item 2b)
- c. Noted that the first meeting of the Academic Strategy Committee was scheduled for Friday 16 June 2006 and that arrangements would shortly be made for the election of one member of Academic Council to this committee. (Item 2c)
- d. Noted that the issue of study weeks would be discussed at a future meeting of Council. (Item 2d)
- e. Noted that Professor Michael Ryan of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing and Professor Chris Stevenson of the Faculty of Science and Health had now joined the Academic Promotions Committee. (Item 2f)

4. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 12 April 2006

Noted and approved.

5. President's report

Deferred.

B: Policy and strategy issues**6. Modularisation Phase II**

- a. Discussion on the general issues was deferred.
- b. A report on the operation of the Uaneen Module in 2005/06 was presented by Professor Barker. The following were agreed: the procedures approved in respect of this module at the meeting of Council of 8 June 2005 should continue to be implemented; for all programmes in which it was included for credit purposes, the module could be timetabled in either Semester 1 or Semester 2, as appropriate; where new programmes were being developed or existing programmes reviewed, Programme Chairs should be encouraged to consider including it for credit purposes.

In response to a suggestion that the module be a non-contributory module for all programmes rather than being contributory for some and non-contributory for others, it was noted that the current arrangements appeared to be of assistance to students who were heavily committed to the types of activities involved in the modules.

Professor Barker offered to report to Council in June 2007 on the operation of the module in 2006/07.

It was noted that the module was also being discussed in the context of Modularisation Phase II.

Professor Barker thanked all concerned in the management of the module, including the members of the Extra-curricular Awards Committee, Dr Françoise Blin, Dr Noel Murphy, Mr Gordon McConnell, Revd John Gilligan, and Ms Nicola Hogan of IBEC.

7. Proposal on credit for taught Master's programmes

- a. In the discussion that followed the presentation of this proposal, the following were noted: in certain circumstances, it might be helpful to dissociate the concept of credit from that of time committed to a programme; programmes which did not involve a dissertation would be likely to require particularly detailed discussion in relation to credits; conducting a benchmarking exercise in relation to practice elsewhere might be useful.
- b. The principles articulated in the proposal were approved, and it was agreed that work should proceed in order to identify, and resolve, all specific issues pertaining to individual programmes.

8. Proposal on compensation regulations

- a. Noted that this proposal had been requested, and prepared, in response to needs identified in relation to current academic structures and that, if fuller modularisation were introduced, any part of the proposal now agreed might need to be modified.
- b. In the discussion that followed the presentation of the proposal, the following were noted: clarity, consistency and fairness should characterise any compensation system; it might be helpful to chart the subsequent progress of students who benefited from compensation under the present regulations; communication with students on any new regulations would be crucial; the proposals would need particular discussion in the light of Oscail academic structures.
- c. The following were agreed: each Faculty would be requested to discuss the proposals and submit comments to Ms McDermott prior to the 26 June 2006 meeting of Council; Ms McDermott would discuss with Registry and the Computer Services Department the timescale involved in implementing any new proposals that might be approved; as far as possible, information would be made available to Council on 26 June about the likely impact of the proposal, in the event of its adoption, on student progression rates.

C: Items for formal approval/noting**9. Accreditation recommendations**

- 9.1 **Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs**
- 9.2 **Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing Practice/Health Care Practice**
- 9.3 **BSc in Children's and General Nursing (Integrated)**
- 9.4 **BA Gaeilge agus Iriseoireacht/BA Irish and Journalism**
- 9.5 **BA in Applied Language and Intercultural Studies**
- 9.6 **MBS in Entrepreneurship**
- 9.7 **Doctorate of Music in Performance**

All approved. Noted that, for reasons of timing, it had not been possible to include in the papers for Council the Irish-language version of the report relating to the BA Gaeilge agus Iriseoireacht /BA Irish and Journalism, but that this version could be made available to members of Council on request.

10. Request to amend regulation 3.7 in the terms of reference of the Disciplinary Appeals Committee

Approved.

Date of next meeting:

**Monday 26 June 2006
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____