

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 14 December 2005

2.00-3.45 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

D Beirne	G Hughes	P Ó Flatharta
C Blacklaw	S Ingle	J O'Hara
M Brady	D Kenny	T Ryan
O Bree	J Kerrane	M Ryan
P Brereton	C Mac an Bhaird	R Saunders
J Carroll	A McAuley	R Scaife
E Conway	L McDermott (Secretary)	H Sheehan
J Costello	C McDonagh	P Sheehan
J Doyle	S McGivney	M Shine Thompson
M Duffy	S McGovern	A Simon
H Duncan	G McGuinness	M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)
A Flanagan	J McKenna	M Smyth
M Gannon	G McNamara	J Stokes
N Gathergood	P Meleady	B Trench
J Geraghty	M Molony	Y Tuohy
K Griffin	K Moran	F von Prondzynski (Chair)
D Grimes	N Murphy	A Wickham
S Hashmi	M Nic Giolla Mhichíl	P Willis
M Henry	C Nic Pháidín	P Young
J Horgan	P O'Byrne	

APOLOGIES:

P Burke	E Guilfoyle	C Mac Murchaidh
M Burns	T Hogan	G Murphy
J Clarke	J Hughes	B Pierce
M Collier	M Irwin-Bannon	A Scott
O Finlayson	P James	A Sinnott
B Flood	E Kennedy	B Tolan
L Gallagher	B Leahy	R Verbruggen

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted. Noted that, for future meetings, matters arising from minutes of meetings of subcommittees would be adverted to only if there was a substantial issue for discussion and, if this was the case, a separate item dealing with this issue only would be listed on the agenda. Noted also that the standing item entitled 'Strategic planning' would be renamed 'Strategic implementation'.

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 12 October 2005

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair subject to the following:

- the second paragraph of Item 13a to be reworded as follows: 'Noted that adjustments would be made to module descriptors to indicate to students ... '
- Item 13b to be reworded as follows: ' ... unless an examiner decides not to use this default position and uses Option 1) '.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of Academic Council

3.1 All matters arising were noted.

3.2 Noted that work was in progress on the implementation of the new committee structures, scheduled to begin operation in February 2006, and that a summary of developments would shortly be circulated to all staff. Agreed that a mechanism would be put into place to enable any necessary urgent decision-making in relation to student or programme issues to take place in January 2006.

3.3 The proposal to offer a new Graduate Diploma/MSc in Education, and the proposal to restore the word 'Management' in the title of the existing Graduate Diploma/MSc in Education and Training Management, were approved.

4. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council Standing Committee of 6 October and 3 November 2005

Noted and approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

5.1 All matters arising were noted.

5.2 The recommendations from the Working Group set up to examine a range of issues relating to external examiners and postgraduate research students were approved with the exception of that relating to arrangements in respect of supervision of a research student where a supervisor resigns. Agreed that arrangements in these circumstances should be the same as those already in operation where a supervisor retires. Agreed that all the recommendations, including that from Council relating to resignation, could be reflected appropriately in relevant regulations, and implemented, without further reference to Council.

Noted that fuller documentation on the Working Group's discussions could be made available to any member of Council on request.

Agreed that the Chair would raise the possibility of considering differentiated fees for part- and full-time students with Executive.

On behalf of Council, the Chair thanked Professor Martin Henry, who had chaired the group, and his colleagues in the group for the work that they had carried out.

6. President's report

The President summarised the University's financial position following the publication of the Book of Estimates 2005 and the Budget 2005, noting that discussions about a range of detailed matters were still in progress.

7. Strategic planning

Noted, as mentioned under Item 1 above, that this item would henceforth be entitled 'Strategic implementation' and that regular reports would be made to Council with effect from the meeting of 15 February 2006. Noted that the full texts of the component strategies would shortly be made available on the strategic planning section of the University website.

8. Student recruitment and retention

The Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Chair made a presentation on issues relating to student recruitment and retention. She thanked Ms Maura McGinn, Institutional Analysis and Research Officer, for the work she had done to date in providing relevant information. Several issues of relevance were raised in the subsequent discussion, including: the importance of continuing to ensure that detailed information, and detailed feedback from students, were made available; the possible impact of the current examination system on student retention; the need to ensure that incoming students have as realistic an understanding as possible of the demands of their chosen programme; the importance of the personal tutor system; the advantages and drawbacks of monitoring student attendance. The Chair noted that it would be essential to broaden the discussion about these and related issues across the University, and urged members of Council to submit their views to the Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar. He also thanked Ms Tuohy and her colleagues for their ongoing work in ascertaining the views of students as well as providing support to students where required.

9. Report and minutes from Validation Committee – 9 November 2005

9.1 Minutes of Validation Committee meeting

Approved.

9.2 Validation recommendations:

- **BSc in Marketing, Innovation and Technology**
- **MBS in Human Resource Management**
- **Professional Doctoral Programme**
- **BA Gaeilge agus Iriseoireacht**
- **BSc in Physical Education with Biology**
- **Inclusion of Mathematics on the BSc in Science Education**
- **Combined General/Paediatric nursing degree**

All approved.

10. Report from Appeals Board (Autumn 2005)

Noted.

11. Reports from 2005 examinations / Progression and Awards Boards for Oscail and some Master's programmes

Approved.

12. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 15 February 2006
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____