

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 16 February 2005

2.00-3.45 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

D Beirne	M Gibbon	E Merton
D Brabazon	K Griffin	J Morris
O Bree	E Guilfoyle	M Nic Ghiolla Mhichíl
P Brereton	S Hashmi	S O'Brien
A Burke	M Henry	P Ó Flatharta
P Burke	P James	A Pratt
J Burzlaff	B Kehoe	P Preston
M Byrne	B Le Juez	B Quilty
J Carroll	B Leahy	R Saunders
E Cunningham	C Mac Murchaidh	A Scott
J Dowling	B MacDonald	M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)
J Doyle	L McDermott (Secretary)	B Trench
H Duncan	C McGonagle	F von Prondzynski (Chairperson)
R Elgie	G McGuinness	P Walsh
C Fagan	D McLoughlin	A Wickham
O Finlayson		

APOLOGIES:

G Barry	K MacKeogh	M Ryan
F Blin	L Mac Mathúna	R Scaife
M Collier	C McDonagh	P Sheehan
B Corcoran	M Molony	M Shine Thompson
J Costello	A Morrissey	A Sinnott
M Farren	G Murphy	M Smyth
B Flood	C Nic Pháidín	L Sullivan
P Gallagher	N O'Connor	T Szecsi
S Geraghty	R O'Kennedy	R Walshe

J Horgan
E Kennedy
A Leahy

B Pierce
M Robinson
H Ruskin

J Williams
P Willis

IN ATTENDANCE:

P McMorrow
S Schroeder

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the deferral of Item 16 to the 13 April 2005 meeting of Academic Council, the renaming of Item 17 as Item 16, and the inclusion of three submissions under the new Item 16.

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 8 December 2004

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 was noted that the report from the EUA Review of Quality in Irish Universities would be available to the universities in due course.

3.3 It was noted that the President intended to call a special meeting of Academic Council to discuss the University's strategic planning process in tandem with the recent OECD Review of Higher Education in Ireland (see Item 6.2 below).

4. Minutes of meeting of Academic Council Standing Committee

4.1 Minutes 13 January 2005

Noted and approved.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

All matters arising were noted. It was noted that a meeting would be held shortly at which interested parties would have an opportunity to discuss issues relating to postgraduate research students and external examiners, and agreed that the list of issues would include the concept of joint PhD supervision with another institution and the financial implications for students of the range of possible procedures for registering for a PhD.

6. President's report

6.1 Recent visit to China led by the Taoiseach

The President reported on this visit, in which he had participated, and suggested that the establishment of strategic links with higher education institutions in China would have to take place in the wider context of strategic links with the country more generally. He also mentioned that the University was in the process of developing a China policy and that he would report on this to Academic Council in due course. The importance of post-arrival support for both Chinese and other international students was noted.

6.2 Developments arising from the OECD Review of Higher Education in Ireland

The President reported on the ongoing discussions between government and higher education representatives about the development of responses to the recommendations arising from the Review, and referred to his intention to hold a special meeting of Academic Council to discuss this Review and the University's strategic planning process (see Item 3.3 above).

7. Accreditation recommendation: MA in International Security and Conflict Studies (School of Law and Government)

Approved. Noted that Dr Doyle and Mr McLoughlin would discuss the issue of the duration of lectures on the undergraduate programmes offered by the School of Law and Government.

8. Academic calendar 2005/06

Approved. Noted that the forthcoming significant changes to the Oscail academic year would be reflected in the academic calendar over the next few years.

9. Faculty Awards Boards recommendations for March conferring

Noted. All examination results were approved.

10. Progression and Awards Boards recommendations for March conferring

Noted. All examination results were approved.

11. Report from Appeals Boards – St Patrick’s College

Noted.

**12. Proposal from the Task Group on Committee Structures
(size and composition of Academic Council)**

Approved subject to the inclusion of an additional three members, who could, subject to the approval of Council, be invited to join on an *ad hoc* basis. The President thanked Professor Slowey and the members of the Task Group for their work to date. It was noted that proposals on revised committee structures would be submitted to Council at its 13 April 2005 meeting.

13. Working Group on Modularisation: report on progress to date

Noted. The widening of the original brief of the Working Group to incorporate the development of an educational strategy was welcomed. The President thanked Professor Slowey and the members of the Working Group for their work to date.

14. Conduct of Progression and Awards Boards, and managing post-PAB amendments

Approved.

15. Proposal from International Office on admission routes for overseas students

Approved subject to the clarification of some points of detail by the International Office and other interested parties.

16. Any other business**16.1 Honorary Degree Committee**

A call for nominations for the election of new members to this committee is to be made shortly.

16.2 Irish Universities Quality Board publication: *Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Universities*

Copies of this publication have been made available to the members of Council. Noted that it incorporates guidelines on streamlining the ways in which data about research students are recorded by institutions.

16.3 Electronic dissemination of Council papers

Noted that a proposal on this would be submitted to Council in due course.

Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 13 April 2005
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____