ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 18 April 2007

2.00-3.10 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

F Blin	T Lawrence	M Parkinson
O Bree	C Mac an Bháird	V Poti
E Buffet	M Mac Conmara	H Ruskin
M Byrne	L McDermott (Secretary)	R Saunders
E Byrne	C McDonagh	R Scaife
J Costello	A McGrady	A Scott
A Dixon	K MacKeogh	M Shine Thompson
H Duncan	P McMorrow	A Sinnott
B Flood	P Meleady	M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar)
S Fox	K Moran	P Smith
N Gathergood	R Morgan	R Tobin
J Geraghty	N Murphy	B Tolan
D Ging	G Murphy	B Trench
E Guilfoyle	M Nic Giolla Mhichíl	F von Prondzynski (Chair)
M Henry	E O'Connell	R Walshe
G Hughes	A O'Flanagan	J Williams
J Hughes	N O'Reilly	C Woods
M Irwin-Bannon		

APOLOGIES:

J Appleby	J McKenna	A Simon
P Brereton	N Moyna	C Stevenson
M Drumm	P Ó Flatharta	J Stokes
O Finlayson	E O'Riordan	R Verbruggen
T Hogan	E Parikka	A Way
P McDonagh	B Pierce	A Wickham
Á McGillicuddy	P Sheehan	

IN ATTENDANCE:
G McConnell

1.   **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

A: **Minutes and related issues**

2.   **Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 14 February 2007**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3.   **Matters arising**

3.1   Noted that the Chair would shortly e-mail the members of Council to request nominations to the new working group to be set up to discuss the desirability or otherwise of anonymous marking. (Item 3.1)

3.2   Noted that the new linkage agreements with St Patrick's College, Mater Dei Institute of Education and All Hallows College were due to be signed shortly and that they would then be submitted for formal approval to both Council and Governing Authority. (Item 9)

3.3   Noted that a proposal on the Academic Framework for Innovation would be submitted to the 13 June 2007 meeting of Council. Noted also that, if the proposal were to be implemented in the academic year 2008/09, it would be necessary to obtain approval for it from Council at this meeting. (Item 10)

4.   **Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Strategy Committee of 7 March 2007**

Noted.

5.   **Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 1 February 2007**

Approved.

6.   **Minutes of the meeting of the Learning Innovation Advisory Panel of 13 February 2007**

Approved.

7.   President's report

7.1   The Chair reported that the University had moved from the first to the second (and final) phase of the selection process for funding under the current round of PRTLI (Programme for Research in Third-level Institutions), and thanked Professor Kennedy and all others involved in preparing the submission.

7.2   The Chair reported that the two submissions for funding made by the University under the call for proposals issued in the context of Science Foundation Ireland Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology had also moved to the second phase of the selection process. He thanked Professor Dermot Diamond, Professor Josef van Genabith, Professor Alan Smeaton and all others involved in preparing the submissions.

B: Policy and strategy issues

8.   Strategy implementation

Mr Gordon McConnell made a presentation on the implementation of *Leadership through Foresight*. Noted that the Citizenship and Wider Community Engagement Strategy could incorporate issues of national strategic importance as well as local issues.

9.   Strategic Innovation Fund

Noted that the call for submissions under the second round of the SIF was expected in the near future and that discussions were in progress about submissions that the University might become involved in on either a national or a Dublin basis, or both. The Chair and the VPLI/Registrar requested expressions of interest from members of Council while emphasising the importance, for the University, of making an integrated, strategically focused submission. Noted that this issue would be discussed again by Council.

10.   Proposal on marks bands

Approved subject to the deletion of the second paragraph. Noted that, where a student would formerly have been awarded a pass degree by virtue of having failed, repeated and passed (i.e. would have been precluded from honours because of a failed module), he/she might, under the new regulations, be awarded a third-class honours (unless the programme had a derogation which precluded the use of third-class honours).

11.   Proposal for amendment to examination regulations

Approved. Noted that the School of Communications intended to discuss with the Secretary's Office a specific issue of relevance to the proposal. Agreed that a policy statement in relation to the decision-making processes used by the Disciplinary Committee would be submitted to the 13 June 2007 meeting of Council.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

12.   Validation recommendations

12.1   Graduate Diploma/MSc in Emergency Management

Approved.

12.2   Proposal to offer the MSc in Business Informatics to students from Beijing University of Technology

Approved.

13.   Accreditation recommendation: BSc in Physics with Biomedical Sciences

Approved.

14.   Report on INTRA activities 2006

Noted.

15.   Report from the March 2007 meeting of the Appeals Board

Noted.

16.   Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 13 June 2007
2.00 p.m. in AG01

Signed: _____   Date: _____
                    President