

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 26 June 2006

2.00-3.20 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

J Appleby
D Beirne
O Bree
P Brereton
E Conway
J Costello
J Dowling
H Duncan
B Flood
S Fox
K Griffin
E Guilfoyle
S Hashmi
M Henry
T Hogan
S Ingle
M Irwin-Bannon

P James
D Kenny
H Lechleiter
C Mac an Bhaird
M Mac Conmara
L McDermott (Secretary)
P McDonagh
A McGrady
G McGuinness
J McKenna
K MacKeogh
P Meleady
M Molony
N Murphy
M Nic Giolla Mhichíl
C Nic Pháidín
P O'Byrne

C Ó hÓgartaigh
N O'Reilly
M Parkinson
B Pierce
M Ryan
H Sheehan
M Shine Thompson
A Simon
A Sinnott
M Slowey (VPLI/Registrar – Chair)
M Smyth
J Stokes
B Tolan
Y Tuohy
F von Prondzynski (President)
P Willis
P Young

APOLOGIES:

P Barker
D Brabazon
M Brady
M Byrne
J Carroll
J Clarke
M Drumm
R Forster

N Gathergood
T Glynn
G Hughes
J Hughes
Á McGillicuddy
K Moran
R Morgan

H Ruskin
A Scott
P Sheehan
C Stevenson
T Szecsi
B Trench
J Williams

IN ATTENDANCE

E Byrne

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 14 June 2006**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Arrangements are in train for the election of a member of Academic Council to the Academic Strategy Committee. (Item 3.3)

3.2 Noted that some feedback had been received about the proposals on compensation regulations but that more time would be needed to discuss them. Agreed that a full range of opinion would be sought in July and August 2006 and that a revised proposal would be put to the 14 September meeting of the University Standards Committee and (with further revisions as appropriate) to the 11 October meeting of Council. Noted that the extent to which compensation remained relevant as an issue in future years would be influenced by the final outcome of the discussions on Phase II Modularisation (see Item 6 below). (Item 8)

4. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 1 June 2006

Noted.

5. President's report

5.1 The launch took place recently of the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (formerly the National Research Plan), which will include a call for submission of proposals under PRTL. It is likely that this call will be made in Autumn 2006.

- 5.2 A document is currently being drafted by the University Presidents which will document protocols to be implemented when researchers move from one institution to another.
- 5.3 The National Development Plan to be published in Autumn 2006 will include details of the proposed funding arrangements for higher education for the next five to seven years.

B: Policy and strategy issues

6. Phase II Modularisation

- 6.1 Following a presentation by the Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar, several issues were raised. These included: the importance of the University's recruitment strategy and of ensuring that any changes implemented under Phase II Modularisation would be easily understood by, and likely to appeal to, prospective students and their advisors; the extent to which flexibility of access *per se* is a determining factor in whether or not students choose to study in the University or to remain here once admitted; the possible advantages and disadvantages of having uniformly-sized modules; the problems inherent in overteaching; the feasibility of ensuring flexibility in terms of the number of credits a student can take in any one academic year.
- 6.2 It was noted that both Academic Council and Executive would be involved in the decision-making in relation to Phase II Modularisation and agreed that a further consultation process would be conducted in the period July-September and final proposals brought both to the 11 October meeting of Council and an Autumn meeting of Executive.
- 6.3 The Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar expressed her appreciation of the work done by the Working Group on Modularisation and also by other groups which had contributed to the discussion such as the external advisory group for the Learning Innovation Strategy.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

7. Accreditation recommendations

- 7.1 **Inclusion of a Mathematics stream on the BSc in Science Education**
7.2 **Graduate Diploma/MSc in Biomedical Diagnostics**
7.3 **Graduate Diploma/MBS in Corporate Leadership**
7.4 **MBS in Strategic Procurement**

All approved. The importance of ensuring appropriate funding for both Schools and Research Centres was noted.

8. Quality reviews: second cycle, 2007-2012

Approved in principle. Noted that further details about the second cycle of reviews would be submitted to Heads of School/Unit and Deans of Faculty and that these would incorporate mechanisms to facilitate closer links between School and Faculty reviews.

9. Examination and Progression and Awards Boards reports

All noted and approved.

10. Report from Disciplinary Appeals Committee

Noted.

11. Students' Union Vice-President

The Chair, on behalf of Council, thanked the outgoing Vice-President/Education Officer of the Students' Union, Ms Yvonne Tuohy, for her very significant and welcome contribution to the work of Council during her term of office. She also welcomed Mr Eoin Byrne, the incoming Vice-President/Education and Welfare Officer, to membership of Council.

Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 11 October 2006
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____