

ACADEMIC COUNCIL – STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday 4 October 2001

9.00-11.00 a.m. in Executive Meeting Room

Present: Professor Patricia Barker (Chairman), Professor Martin Henry, Professor David Jacobson, Dr Paraic James, Mr Mícheál Mac Conmara, Ms Louise McDermott (Recording Secretary), Dr Liam Mac Mathúna, Dr Barry McMullin, Dr Seán Marlow, Dr Jim Murray, Mr Barry Murphy, Dr Ronnie Saunders, Mr Paul Sheehan.

Apologies: Dr Tony Coulson, Professor Conor Long

Action

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 6 September 2001

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.

4.6 Noted that the student in question had begun lectures in the final year of the BSc in Analytical Science degree, and that the situation seemed satisfactory.

4. Faculty/Committee/Programme Board minutes

4.1 Programme Board: BSc in Biotechnology, 26/06/01. Noted.
With regard to Item 2.1, the Registrar confirmed that Professor Lyddiatt had completed his current term of office as external examiner.
Following a brief discussion of the issues raised by Item 4 (Introduction of Pass Degrees), it was agreed that flexible exit routes from programmes

appeared preferable to pass degrees. The Registrar is to recommend a meeting on this issue between representatives of the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland and representatives of the faculty.

Registrar

- 4.2 Programme Board: BSc in Sport Science and Health, 28/06/01. Noted. With regard to Item 5, the Registrar reported that there were now three outstanding athletes in Year 1 of the programme.
- 4.3 Programme Board: BSc in Computer Applications (Standing Committee), 17/09/01. Noted and approved.

5. Appointment of external examiners

5.1 Taught programmes

- 5.1.1 Professor B M Hannigan, University of Ulster
GD/MSc in Biological Sciences
Approved.
- 5.1.2 Mr John Sweeney, UCC
Diploma in Nursing
Approved.
- 5.1.3 Dr R J Millar, University of Ulster
BEng in Digital Media Engineering
Approved.

5.2 Postgraduate research students

- 5.2.1 Dr D Rooney, NUI Maynooth
Student ref. SC/2001/A8/5.2.1, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.2 Dr J Stewart, Université de Technologie de Compiègne, France
Student ref. SC/2001/A7/5.2.2, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.3 Dr S Laverty, University of Ulster
Student ref. SC/2001/A8/5.2.3, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved. However, in line with the decision of Standing Committee of 5 July 2001 (AC-SC2001/A/7/2, Item 3) the School is to be asked to nominate an internal examiner other than the supervisor.

Jennifer Butler

A discussion took place on to extent to which the same external examiners were being used repeatedly for research degrees, and the difficulty of avoiding this when the number of specialists in a field is small. Agreed that

the Registry would conduct a tracking exercise to ascertain the extent to which this occurs, that the Registrar would discuss the issue with the Dean of Research, and that the issue would be discussed by a future meeting of Standing Committee.

Louise McDermott
Registrar

6. Postgraduate Research Matters

6.1 Applications to transfer to PhD Register

6.1.1 Student ref. SC/08/6.1.1, School of Biotechnology/NCTCC

Approved.

6.1.2 Student ref. SC/08/6.1.2, School of Biotechnology

Approved.

6.1.3 Student ref. SC/08/6.1.3, School of Chemical Sciences

Approved.

6.2 Admission to Master's by research

Student ref. SC/08/6.2, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

Approved.

7. Special-case admissions

7.1 MSc in Work and Organisational Psychology

Approved.

7.2 Graduate Certificate in Corporate Treasury

Approved.

8. Proposed foundation/access programme

The paper drafted by the Registrar was discussed. Issues covered in the discussion included the types of modules to be included, the extent to which students on any such programme should have places reserved for them on standard programmes, the probable need for ongoing support for students graduating on to standard programmes, and recognition of non-DCU foundation/access programmes. The Registrar is to investigate further both funding issues and the legal foundation for the setting of the mature student entry age at 23 years. The issue is to be discussed by Academic Council at its meeting of 10 October.

Registrar

9. Proposed administration of actuarial exemptions

Agreed that a formal structure such as the one that was proposed would be preferable to the current relatively informal structure. Agreed that outstanding issues, such as the cost to students of registration for actuarial examinations and the cost of local software to support the system, would be discussed with the School of Mathematical Sciences, and that steps would be taken as soon as possible to formalise the structure.

Dr Jim Murray

10. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1 November 2001.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____