

ACADEMIC COUNCIL – STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 2 June 2005

9.00-10.45 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor Maria Slowey (Chair), Mr Jonathan Begg,
Professor David Jacobson, Dr Paraic James,
Ms Louise McDermott (Recording Secretary),
Mr Damian McLoughlin, Dr Seán Marlow, Dr Ronnie Saunders

Apologies: Professor Martin Henry, Professor Eugene Kennedy,
Dr Breandán Leahy, Mr Mícheál Mac Conmara, Dr Liam Mac Mathúna,
Mr Paul Sheehan

In attendance: Ms Yvonne Tuohy

The Chair welcomed Mr Jonathan Begg, who replaces Ms Brenda Gaughan as the representative of Faculty administrators, and Ms Yvonne Tuohy, the incoming Education Officer/Vice-President of the Students' Union.

The Chair thanked Mr Damien McLoughlin, the outgoing Education Officer/Vice-President of the Students' Union, for his very significant contribution to the work of Standing Committee during his term of office.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of three additional submissions under Item 4, three additional submissions under Item 5.1, one additional submission under Item 5.2, two additional submissions under Item 6.2 and one submission under Item 11.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 5 May 2005

Confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1 Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.
- 3.2 Noted that contact had been made with the working group set up by Executive to look at conflict of interest issues across the University, and that the work of this group was progressing. (Item 3.2)
- 3.3 The proposed form to cater for applications for direct entry to Master's degrees by research was approved subject to an appropriate rewording of the first sentence. (Item 3.3)
- 3.4 Noted that the issue of notional learning time within modules would be discussed by the Working Group on Modularisation. (Item 3.4)
- 3.5 Noted that, at a meeting chaired by the Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar on 14 March 2005, the question of the number of times an external examiner can serve in respect of a research student was discussed. Agreed that a follow-on meeting to discuss this and related issues would be organised as soon as possible. (Item 3.5)
- 3.6 Noted that, at a meeting chaired by the Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar on 14 March 2005, the question of the desirability or otherwise of permitting direct entry to the PhD register was discussed. Agreed that a follow-on meeting to discuss this and related issues would be organised as soon as possible. (Item 3.6)
- 3.7 Noted that, once the regulations on frequency of appointment of external examiners (see 3.5 above) had been agreed and if it were necessary on the basis of these regulations to distinguish between Master's and PhD supervision, the Registry would be requested to specify, on nomination forms, whether previous work carried out by external examiners related to Master's or PhD students or both. (Item 3.7)
- 3.8 Agreed to refer the issue of APL to the Working Group on Modularisation. Agreed that the Chair would supply the Working Group with a document on the issue which had been submitted to Academic Council for consideration at its meeting of 19 February 2003. Agreed that the Chair would discuss with the Finance Office the current financial provision for research work on APL as well as a number of other, related, issues. (Item 3.8)
- 3.9 Noted that, at a meeting chaired by the Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar on 14 March 2005, the question of the frequency with which academic staff members should act as supervisors was discussed. Agreed that a

- follow-on meeting to discuss this and related issues would be organised as soon as possible. (Item 3.9)
- 3.10 Mr Sheehan's written report on Library skills training was noted. Agreed that he would be informed of the efforts being made to ensure more flexibility in the ways in which groups of students could be contacted by e-mail. (Item 3.10).
- 3.11 Noted that the proposal on the elite sportspersons entry scheme would be discussed by Academic Council at its meeting of 8 June 2005. (Item 3.14)
- 3.12 Noted that further information would be sought from the School of Communications in relation to its policy on five-credit modules. (Item 4.1)
- 3.13 The information on the numbers of students who register for a Graduate Diploma initially and ultimately graduate with a Master's degree was noted. (Item 4.4)
- 3.14 Noted that the Programme Board for the Graduate Diploma in Translation Studies had a policy of directing students' attention towards particularly good former students' dissertations in the Library to assist them in the preparation of their own dissertations. (Item 4.5)
- 3.15 Agreed that the issue of facilities and services for students should form part of the discussion relating to strategic planning for Teaching and Learning. (Item 4.10)
- 3.16 The alternative external examiner nominated in respect of a research student was approved. (Item 5.2.22)
- 3.17 The external examiner nominated in respect of a research student was approved. (Item 5.2.35)
- 3.18 Noted that the working group set up to examine the definition of a staff member for the purposes of appointing external examiners, where the staff member was also a research student, would shortly hold its first meeting. (Item 6.4)

4. Faculty/Committee/Programme Board minutes

- 4.1 Programme Board: BSc in Sport Science and Health, 09/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.2 Teaching Meeting: Biotechnology, 16/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.3 Teaching Meeting: Chemical Sciences, 23/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.4 Teaching Meeting: Mathematical Sciences, 08/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.5 Teaching Meeting: Physical Sciences, 02/03/05. Noted and approved.

- 4.6 Electronic Programme Board: BSc in Education and Training, 03/05/05.
Noted and approved.
- 4.7 Programme Board: Degree/Diploma in Information Technology, 11/05/05.
Noted and approved. Agreed that a reaccreditation mechanism would be put into operation to facilitate the changes proposed in Item 3.2.
- 4.8 Director's Meeting (i.e. meeting convened by the Director): MBS in Marketing/Executive Master's in Marketing, 25/05/05. Noted and approved. Agreed that the Director would be requested to specify in documentation that a student who graduated with a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma and then wished to proceed to a higher level of the programme would be required to surrender his/her parchment before being permitted to register.
- 4.9 Electronic Programme Board: International Foundation Certificate, 30/05/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.10 Electronic Programme Board: BA in International Relations, 01/06/05.
Noted and approved.

5. Appointment of external examiners

5.1 Taught programmes

- 5.1.1 Dr H Aveyard, Oxford Brookes University
Modules in the School of Nursing
Approved.
- 5.1.2 *Reappointment*
Dr M O'Dowd, Queen's University, Belfast
Modules on the Diploma/BA in Humanities, Oscail
Approved.
- 5.1.3 *Temporary appointment*
Professor L O'Malley, National University of Ireland, Galway
Law Modules in the School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 5.1.4 Professor T Hurley, National University of Ireland, Galway
Modules on the Diploma/BSc in Information Technology, Oscail
Approved.
- 5.1.5 Dr WG Scanlon, Queen's University, Belfast
Modules on the Diploma/BSc in Information Technology, Oscail
Approved.
- 5.1.6 Dr M Leonard, Queen's University, Belfast
Modules on the Diploma/BA in Humanities, Oscail
Approved.

- 5.1.7 Ms M Yamashita, University of Birmingham
Modules in Japanese in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.1.8 Dr B Johnston, Eagle Star Life Assurance Company of Ireland Ltd.
Modules on the Graduate Certificate in Actuarial Science
Approved.
- 5.1.9 Mr M Ryan, Tipperary Institute
Teaching practice on the Diploma in Education and Training and the BSc in Education and Training
Approved.
- 5.1.10 Dr M Reynolds, St Mary's College, Belfast
Modules on the Diploma in Education and Training and the BSc in Education and Training
Approved.

5.2 Postgraduate research students

- 5.2.1 Dr M McCarthy, University of Limerick
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.1, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.2 Dr S Daly, Dublin Institute of Technology
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.2, MSc, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.3 Dr A Trudgett, Queen's University, Belfast
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.3, PhD, School of Nursing
Approved.
- 5.2.4 Dr D Plexousakis, University of Heraklion, Greece
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.4, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2.5 Dr B Amann, University of Paris 6
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.5, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2.6 Dr J Samos Jiménez, University of Granada
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.6, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2.7 Professor J Orr, Queen's University, Belfast
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.7, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

- 5.2.8 Dr G Bodo, INAF Osservatorio Astronomico di Torino
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.8, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.9 Professor I Mason, Heriot-Watt University
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.9, PhD, School of Applied Language and
Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.2.10 Dr E Jordan, IES (Institute for the International Education of Students),
Chicago
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.10, MA, English Department,
St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 5.2.11 Professor R Keeble, University of Lincoln
Student ref. SC/2005/A6/5.2.11, MA, School of Communications
Approved.

6. Postgraduate research matters

6.1 Application for direct entry to the PhD register

- 6.1.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/61.1., School of Computing
Approved.

6.2 Applications to transfer to the PhD register

- 6.2.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.1, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.2.2 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.2, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.2.3 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.3, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.2.4 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.4, NICB/School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 6.2.5 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.5, NICB/School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 6.2.6 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.6, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.2.7 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.7, NICB/School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 6.2.8 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.8, School of Computing
Approved.

6.2.9 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.9, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies

Approved.

6.2.10 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.2.10, School of Mathematical Sciences

Approved.

6.3 Request to change supervisor

6.3.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.3.1, School of Physical Sciences

Approved.

6.4 Request for re-registration under 'write-up' status

6.4.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.4.1, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies

Approved.

6.4.2 Student ref. SC/2005/A6/6.4.2, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

Approved.

7. Requests for special-case admission

Professional Diploma in Accounting (one applicant)

Approved.

8. Requests for exemption from modules

None.

9. Report from Working Group on Deferrals

Approved with a strong reservation relating to the proposal to charge deferred students a rejoining fee. It was felt that this proposal militates against the flexibility of provision which the University is endeavouring to promote as well as leading to a situation in which no account is taken of the grounds for deferral. Agreed that the Working Group should be requested to give further consideration to this issue, if possible in time for a verbal report to be made to Academic Council at its meeting of 27 June 2005.

10. Proposals from the Task Group on Committee Structures

- 10.1 The following were agreed: the role of the Research Committee and the Research Advisory Panel would need to be specified in more detail vis-à-vis committee structures generally; further consideration would need to be given to a range of issues relating to governance (for example, the extent to which authority to give final approval to matters of substance could be delegated); it would be essential to devise a timetable for the detailed work involved in any reorganisation of structures.
- 10.2 Agreed that the Chair would revise the proposals in the light of the contribution of Standing Committee and that the revised proposals would be submitted to Academic Council for consideration at its meeting of 8 June 2005.

11. Any other business

Noted with concern that no distinction was made, for fees purposes, between part-time and full-time research students. Agreed that this matter would be discussed at the meeting referred to at Items 3.5, 3.6 and 3.9 above and also referred to the Working Group on Modularisation.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 7 July 2005

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____