

ACADEMIC COUNCIL – STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 7 February 2002

9.00 a.m.-12.00 midday in Executive Meeting Room

Present: Professor Patricia Barker (Chairman), Dr Eoin Cassidy, Professor Robert Forster, 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, Mr Barry Murphy, Dr Jim Murray, Dr Ronnie Saunders, Mr Paul Sheehan

Apologies: Dr Seán Marlow

Observer: Ms Brenda Gaughan

The Chairman welcomed Professor Robert Forster, Interim Dean of Research, who has joined Standing Committee, and Ms Brenda Gaughan, who will attend Standing Committee meetings as an observer on behalf of the Faculty Administration Peer Group.

Action

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the following:

- the inclusion of two additional submissions under item 4
- the inclusion of one additional submission under item 6
- the inclusion of two additional submissions under item 6.3
- the inclusion of two submissions under item 13.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 6 December 2001

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.

Item 4: The Chairman reported that the legal advice she had sought indicated that draft minutes of meetings should be released under the Freedom of Information Act. Where draft minutes contained an inappropriate reference (e.g. to the name or ID number of a student), this reference should be obscured before the draft minutes are released. It was agreed that draft minutes should not be withdrawn and destroyed as a matter of policy. However, our experience of the Act with regard to this issue will be kept under review.

4. Faculty/Committee/Programme Board minutes

- 4.1 Programme Board: BSc in Multimedia, 19/09/01. Noted and approved subject to clarification of whether the changes referred to in Items 2 and 5 relate to 2001/02 or 2002/03.
- 4.2 Programme Board: BA in Journalism, 10/10/01. Noted. Standing Committee commended the student referred to in Item 6.
- 4.3 Programme Board: MSc in Multimedia, 24/10/01. Noted and approved subject to clarification of two issues in Item 6: whether one module (CM564) had the same title as a module on the MSc in Multimedia, and whether the two external examiners referred to had come to the end of their terms of office. It was noted that the wording in relation to the latter item was somewhat unclear. It was further noted that the proposed changes to the programme which were referred to in Item 12 might (depending on how extensive they were) entail a requirement for re-accreditation.
- 4.4 Programme Board: Diploma in Education & Training, 07/11/01. Noted. The Programme Chair is to be asked to ensure that items are numbered in future minutes.
- 4.5 Programme Board: GD/MSc in Education & Training Management, 07/11/01. Noted. The Programme Chair is to be asked to ensure that subsections of items are clearly indicated in future minutes. The contraction in Library services (as a result of budgetary difficulties) referred to in Item 5 was noted. It was agreed that Academic Council would be requested to make a recommendation as to whether or not academic exercises should take place on campus at bank holiday weekends, and that – since the availability or otherwise of campus facilities at these weekends was a related issue – Executive would also be asked to make and publicise a decision on the matter. **Registrar**
- 4.6 Programme Board: BSc in Biotechnology, 07/11/01. Noted.
- 4.7 Programme Board: GD/MSc in Biological Sciences, 07/11/01. Noted.

- 4.8 Programme Board: BSc in Airgeadas, Ríomhaireacht & Fiontraíocht/ BSc in Finance, Computing & Enterprise, 07/11/01. Noted.
- 4.9 Programme Board: GD/MSc i nGnó & i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais/ GD/MSc in Business & Information Technology, 07/11/01. Noted.
- 4.10 Programme Board: GD/MA in Conference Interpreting, 07/11/01. Noted. The Programme Chair is to be asked to confirm that the students referred to in Item 7 are to be admitted as occasional students.
- 4.11 Programme Board: Diploma in Nursing: Psychiatric (St Ita's/St Vincent's), 13/11/01. Noted and approved. It was noted, in relation to Item 6.3, that all four of the Diploma Programme Boards had by now expressed agreement on the progression arrangements for current Diploma students. In relation to the Friday evening timetable slot referred to in Item 7.3, it was noted that the provision of Library services at times when few students used the Library might have to be reviewed in the light of the current budgetary difficulties.
- 4.12 Programme Board: Post-registration Nursing, 20/11/01. Noted.
- 4.13 Programme Board: BSc in Analytical Science, BSc in Pure & Applied Chemistry & Pharmaceutical Sciences, BSc in Chemistry with a Language, GD/MSc in Instrumental Analysis, 21/11/01. Noted.
- 4.14 Programme Board: GD/MSc in Counselling & Integrative Psychotherapy, 21/11/01. Noted.
- 4.15 Programme Board: BSc in Science Education, 21/11/01. Noted and approved.
- 4.16 Programme Board: MA in Journalism, 21/11/01. Noted and approved.
- 4.17 Programme Board: BA in Applied Languages, 28/11/01. Noted. The contraction in audio-visual service provision referred to in Item 6.2 was noted, and concern was expressed at the possible negative impact of budgetary cutbacks on academic standards. The proposed new module referred to in Item 8 was approved on the basis that the visiting lecturer who would teach it was available only in Semester 2 of 2002/03, though it was noted that the proposal should have been brought to the attention of Standing Committee at a much earlier stage. In view of the complexity of the derogations from marks and standards which apply to the programme, and of the fact that it is proposed to make changes to these, the Registrar is to arrange a meeting with the Programme Chair. **Registrar**
- 4.18 Programme Board: BSc in Sport Science & Health, 28/11/01. Noted and approved subject to clarification of whether the changes referred to in Items 5.1 and 5.2 relate to 2001/02 or 2002/03. Standing Committee commended the success of the special-entry pilot scheme. It was agreed that, on the basis of the pilot, Standing Committee could recommend to Academic Council that the scheme be formalised for future years. The requirement that students pay fees to the Sports Complex, referred to in Item 8.3, was noted. General concern was again expressed at the possible negative impact of budgetary cutbacks on academic standards.

- 4.19 Programme Board: Joint Physics Board, 28/11/01. Noted and approved. It was suggested that the quality review referred to in Item 5 should result in enhanced co-operation between academic and support services.
- 4.20 Programme Board: BSc in Computer Applications (Day & Evening), 12/12/01. Noted and approved.
- 4.21 Programme Board: MA in Political Communication, 13/12/01. Noted. It was noted that the bunching of assignment deadlines referred to in Item 3 could be avoided in future if the schedule were reviewed, and revised if necessary, at the first Programme Board meeting of the academic year.
- 4.22 Programme Board: MA in Communication & Cultural Studies, 19/12/01. Noted.
- 4.23 Programme Board: GD/MA in Translation Studies, 19/12/01. Noted. The Programme Chair is to be asked to specify the reason for one of the proposals referred to Item 6 - the proposal to admit students taking only one language - since entry requirements already provide for a single-language route. The Chair is also to be asked to clarify the reference to 'general rules and regulations for MA students' in the dissertation regulations attached to the minutes.
- 4.24 Programme Board: BSc in Applied Computational Linguistics, 21/01/02. Noted and approved. The Programme Chair is to be asked to ensure that, in future, minutes do not contain any references to student ID numbers.
- 4.25 Programme Board: GD/MA in Translation Studies, 21/01/02. Noted and approved.
- 4.26 Programme Board: MA in Journalism, 23/01/02. Noted and approved.
- 4.27 Programme Board: GD/MA in Intercultural Studies, 10/01/02. Noted and approved.
- 4.28 Programme Board: BSc in Multimedia, 28/01/02. Noted and approved.
- 4.29 Programme Board: BEng in Electronic Systems, 28/01/02. Noted and approved.
- 4.30 Programme Board: Joint Standing Committee for the Diplomas in Nursing, 31/01/02. Noted. The proposal contained in Item 2 was not approved, on the grounds that the proposed credits and weightings are insufficiently aligned.
- 4.31 Programme Board: MSc in Science Communication, 04/02/02. Noted and approved.

It was noted that some of the Programme Board meetings in respect of which minutes had been submitted for consideration at the present meeting of Standing Committee had taken place in early November, and that it would have been preferable if these minutes had been submitted earlier, in time for consideration by Standing Committee at its meeting of 6 December 2001.

It was agreed that the initial signs of adverse impact of budgetary restrictions on academic exercises be reported to Executive. It was agreed that a more comprehensive report be considered at the end of the semester **Registrar**

5. Appointment of external examiners

5.1 Taught programmes

- 5.1.1 Professor D. Kiberd, UCD
Modules for exchange students, School of Applied Language & Intercultural Studies
Approved. The School is to be requested to ensure that forms are completed electronically.
- 5.1.2 Dr D Riley, Queen's University, Belfast
Certificate in Plasma & Vacuum Studies, School of Physical Sciences
Approved. The School is to be requested to ensure that forms are completed electronically.

5.2 Postgraduate research students

- 5.2.1 Professor TA van Dijk, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.1, PhD, School of Applied Language & Intercultural Studies
Approved. The School is to be asked to ensure that forms are completed electronically.
- 5.2.2 Professor P Cooke, University of Cardiff
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.2, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved. The School is to be asked to ensure that forms are completed electronically.
- 5.2.3 Dr E Dempsey, IT Tallaght
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.3, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.4 Professor J William, University of Bath
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.4, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved. The School is to be asked to ensure that forms are completed electronically.

- 5.2.5 Dr I Graham, Liverpool John Moores University
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.5, PhD, School of Mechanical &
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.6 Professor J Monaghan, TCD
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.6, MEng, School of Mechanical &
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved subject to the submission of a full *curriculum vitae* for
Professor Monaghan.
- 5.2.7 Dr J Walshe, DIT
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.7, MSc, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.8 Dr G Stewart, University of Strathclyde
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.8, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.9 Dr V Casey, University of Limerick
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.9, MSc, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.10 Dr JP Gibson, NUI Maynooth
Student ref. SC/2002/A1/5.2.10, MSc, School of Computer Applications
Approved.

6. Postgraduate Research Matters

6.1 Applications to transfer to PhD Register

- 6.1.1 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.1.1, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.1.2 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.1.2, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 6.1.3 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.1.3, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.1.4 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.1.4, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.1.5 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.1.5, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.1.6 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.1.6, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing
Engineering
Approved.

- 6.1.7 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.1.7, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.1.8 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.1.8, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

6.2 Proposal by Professor Hashmi to recognise overseas Bachelor's degrees

Not approved, on the grounds that further investigation into the issues raised would be required. It was agreed that Professor Forster would convene a working group to investigate these issues. **Professor Forster**

6.3 Request to admit applicants as Master's qualifier students

- 6.3.1 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.3.1, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Approved subject to clarification of the reason the specified modules had been chosen, and the level of performance to be expected of the student in these modules and in the project.
- 6.3.2 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.3.2, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Approved subject to clarification of the reason the specified modules had been chosen, and the level of performance to be expected of the student in these modules and in the project.
- 6.3.3 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.3.3, School of Chemical Sciences
The decision was deferred because insufficient information about the student's prior qualifications had been submitted. The supervisor is to be asked to submit additional information.
- 6.3.4 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.3.4, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Approved subject to clarification of the reason the specified modules had been chosen, and the level of performance to be expected of the student in these modules and in the project.
- 6.3.5 Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.3.5, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Approved subject to clarification of the reason the specified modules had been chosen, and the level of performance to be expected of the student in these modules and in the project.

6.4 Request for direct entry to MEng by research

Student ref. SC/2002/A1/6.4, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

The decision was deferred, on the grounds that insufficient information about the student's prior qualifications had been submitted, and it was not clear why modules at levels 1 and 2 had been chosen as Master's qualifying modules. The School is to be requested to provide the reason for this as well as additional information about the student's qualifications.

6.5 Request for research student to study abroad

Student ref SC/2002/A1/6.5, School of Biotechnology
Approved.

6.6 Request for dual registration on DCU programmes

Student ref SC/2002/A1/6.6, School of Physical Sciences

Not approved, on the grounds that it was considered inappropriate to make a decision in respect of one student in the absence of a clear overall policy. It was agreed that the Registrar, after appropriate consultation, would draft a paper on the issue for discussion at the next meeting of Standing Committee.

Registrar

6.7 Appeals: transfer from Master's register to PhD register

It was agreed that the Registrar would draft a regulation as proposed.

Registrar

6.8 Appeal of decision made on item AC-SC2001/A10/6.5 from meeting of 6 December 2001

Agreed that the candidate should transfer from the Master's register in the normal manner. The Registrar is to discuss appropriate procedures with the Supervisor to permit early submission of the thesis for PhD examination.

Registrar

6.9 Request for direct entry to PhD register

Not approved, on the grounds that the proposal did not include evidence that substantial research had been carried out at Master's level.

7. Proposed revision of marks and standards for Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) – St Patrick's College

Approved.

8. Request for derogation from marks and standards for BSc in Multimedia programme

Approved.

9. Request for module exemption

Student ref. SC/2002/A1/9, Undergraduate Certificate in Plasma & Vacuum Studies

Approved.

10. Proposed International Science programme (Faculty of Science & Health)

Approved.

11. Graduate Programme in the Management of Operations – clarification of progression arrangements

Approved.

12. Nomination to screening committee of the Appeals Board from the membership of Academic Council Standing Committee

It was agreed that Professor Forster would represent Standing Committee on the screening committee.

Registry

13. Any other business

13.1 Reimbursements to DCU students studying abroad 2002/2003

It was agreed that reimbursements would continue to be made for students studying abroad in 2001/2002 and that a proposal to cease reimbursing students with effect from 2002/2003 would be put to Executive in early March. If such agreement is not possible by early March, the present arrangements should continue for 2002/2003.

13.2 Proposal on transfer from Access programmes to the GD/MSc in Nursing Programme

Approved.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 7 March 2002.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____