ACADEMIC COUNCIL – STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 March 2002

9.00 -10.30 a.m. in Executive Meeting Room

Present: Professor Patricia Barker (Chairman), Dr Eoin Cassidy,
Professor Martin Henry, Professor David Jacobson, Dr Paraic James,
Ms Louise McDermott (Recording Secretary), Dr Liam Mac Mathúna,
Mr Barry Murphy, Dr Jim Murray, Mr Paul Sheehan

Apologies: Professor Robert Forster, Dr Barry McMullin, Dr Ronnie Saunders

Observer: Ms Brenda Gaughan

Action

1.   Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one submission under Item 10.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 7 February 2002

Confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes

Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.

It was noted, with regard to Item 6.2, that the work of the group on the recognition of overseas Bachelor's degrees was in progress.

It was noted, with regard to Item 6.4, that the outstanding information had now been received. The request from the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering was therefore approved.

4.   Faculty/Committee/Programme Board minutes

4.1   Programme Board: BSc in Computer Applications, 17/10/01. Noted.

4.2   Programme Board: GD/MSc in Computer Applications, 07/02/02. Noted.

4.3   Programme Board: BA in Journalism, 18/02/02. Noted and approved. It was noted that the request should, ideally, have been submitted at an earlier stage. The Programme Chair is to be asked to ensure that all necessary details about students and modules are submitted to the Registry as soon as possible.

4.4   Programme Board: MSc in Electronic Commerce, 19/02/02. Noted and approved. The joint Programme Chairs are to be requested to ensure that students are not identified by ID number in minutes. Following a discussion on the proposal referred to in Item 2 (iv) and amplified in the explanatory memo of 21/02/02 – i.e. the proposal that applicants for PhD degrees who hold a taught Master's degree might not, in all cases, first have to register for a research Master's degree – it was agreed to set up a working group to examine the issue and report to the next meeting of Standing Committee.

Registrar

4.5   Programme Board: BA in Applied Languages, BA in International Marketing/Business & Languages, BA in European Business, 26/02/02. Noted and approved.

4.6   Programme Board: MA in International Relations, 20/02/02. Noted and approved.

5.   Appointment of external examiners

5.1   Taught programmes

5.1.1   Professor G Cockerham, Sheffield Hallam University
        GD/MSc in Computer-aided Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
        Approved.

5.2   Postgraduate research students

5.2.1   Professor JAMS Duarte, Porto University, Portugal
        Student ref. SC/2002/A2/5.2.1, MSc, School of Computer Applications
        Approved.

    5.2.2   Professor B O'Leary, University of Pennsylvania
           Student ref. SC/2002/A2/5.2.2, PhD, DCU Business School
           <u>Approved.</u> The School is to be asked to ensure that forms are completed electronically.

    5.2.3   Professor C Whitehouse, University of Sheffield
           Student ref. SC/2002/A2/5.2.3, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering
           <u>Approved.</u>

    5.2.4   Dr C Cardin, University of Reading
           Student ref. SC/2002/A2/5.2.4, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
           <u>Approved.</u> It was <u>noted</u>, however, that the PhD could be submitted only after an outstanding issue relating to the student's registration status was resolved.

    5.2.5   Dr S Bell, Queen's University, Belfast
           Student ref. SC/2002/A2/5.2.5, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
           <u>Approved.</u>

It was <u>noted</u> that, while there was no evidence across the University to suggest that any external examiner acted other than in a totally independent way, no statement of principle existed which would emphasise and uphold the need for total independence. It was <u>agreed</u> that the Registrar would draft such a statement.

Registrar

6.   **Postgraduate research matters**

6.1   **Applications to transfer to PhD Register**

6.1.1   Student ref. SC/2002/A2/6.1.1, School of Chemical Sciences
         <u>Approved.</u>
6.1.2   Student ref. SC/2002/A2/6.1.2, School of Physical Sciences
         <u>Approved</u>.
6.1.3   Student ref. SC/2002/A2/6.1.3, School of Mathematical Sciences
         <u>Approved.</u>
6.1.4   Student ref. SC/2002/A2/6.1.4, School of Electronic Engineering
         <u>Approved.</u>

7.   Proposal on students registering for more than one programme

Approved subject to the deletion of the words 'in any third-level college including DCU' from the first sentence.

8.   Recognition of BSc in Computer Applications by the Teachers' Registration Council

Standing Committee complimented the Programme Board on obtaining this recognition.

9.   Proposal to extend the Dioplóma do Chéimithe/MSc i nGnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais (GD/MSc in Business and Information Technology) to part-time students (Fiontar)

Approved.

10.   AOB

10.1   Request for changes to the assessment schedule for the BA in Applied Languages

Approved. It was noted that a permanent member of staff or – if this was not possible – the Programme Chair should be nominated as module co-ordinator and that the module co-ordinator should in no circumstances be designated as 'various'. Dr Murray is to discuss this with the Programme Chair.   **Dr Murray**

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4 April 2002.

Signed: _____   Date: _____
              Chairman