

ACADEMIC COUNCIL – STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 5 May 2005

9.00-11.00 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor Maria Slowey (Chair), Professor Martin Henry,
Dr Breandán Leahy, Mr Mícheál Mac Conmara, Ms Louise McDermott
(Recording Secretary), Mr Damian McLoughlin, Dr Seán Marlow,
Dr Ronnie Saunders

Apologies: Ms Brenda Gaughan, Professor David Jacobson,
Professor Eugene Kennedy, Dr Liam Mac Mathúna, Mr Paul Sheehan

The Chair recorded thanks to Ms Gaughan, who is about to leave the University, for her considerable work in relation to Standing Committee.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of six additional submissions under Item 5.2, one additional submission under Item 8, one submission under Item 10 and one submission under Item 11.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 7 April 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 Noted that the Registry would, as soon as possible, devise a form to cater for applications for direct entry to Master's degrees by research. (Item 3.4)
- 3.4 Noted that the issue of notional learning time within modules would be discussed by the Working Group on Modularisation. (Item 3.5)
- 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. Noted that considerable further discussion would be needed about this and related issues. (Item 3.6)
- 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. Noted that considerable further discussion would be needed about this and related issues. (Item 3.7)
- 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 3.9)
- 3.8 Noted that a policy on APL would be drafted once a member of staff with appropriate expertise could be sourced to carry out this work. (Item 3.10)
- 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. Noted that considerable further discussion would be needed about this and related issues. (Item 3.11)
- 3.10 Noted that Mr Sheehan would make a verbal report on Library skills training to the 2 June 2005 meeting of Standing Committee. (Item 4.14).
- 3.11 Noted that a Programme Board had confirmed that low attendance at a particular meeting of the board had been anomalous and that attendance was normally much higher. (Item 4.17)
- 3.12 Noted that the Chair of the Joint Programme Board for undergraduate degree programmes in the School of Electronic Engineering intended to ensure that agreement was reached between all parties involved in the proposed internship

- programme on matters which would impact on the academic success of students on the programme. (Item 4.18)
- 3.13 The current regulations on the use of libraries in examinations were noted. (Item 4)
- 3.14 The revised proposal on the élite sportspersons entry scheme was approved. It was noted that this proposal would be submitted to Academic Council for consideration at its meeting of 8 June 2005. (Item 9)

4. Faculty/Committee/Programme Board minutes

- 4.1 Programme Board: BA in Communication Studies, 23/02/05. Noted and approved. Agreed that the School of Communications would be requested to explain the policy in relation to five-credit modules referred to in Item 3.
- 4.2 Programme Board: Diploma/BSc in Education and Training (part time), 09/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.3 Programme Board: BSc in Education and Training (full time), 09/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.4 Programme Board: Graduate Diploma/MSc in Education and Training Management, 09/03/05. Noted and approved. Noted, in relation to the issue raised in Item 5.1.1, that the Registry was obliged to register students in accordance with the academic structure of the programme. Agreed that Mr McLoughlin would submit, for the 2 June meeting of Standing Committee, information on the numbers of students across the University who initially register for a Graduate Diploma but ultimately graduate with a Master's degree.
- 4.5 Programme Board: Graduate Diploma in Applied Language and Intercultural Studies/Graduate Diploma in Translation Studies/Graduate Diploma in Community Interpreting, 16/03/05. Noted and approved. Agreed to request the Chairperson responsible for the Graduate Diploma in Translation Studies to clarify the matter referred to in Item 9.1.
- 4.6 Programme Board: MA in International Relations/MA in Globalisation/MA in International Security and Conflict, 16/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.7 Joint Programme Board: BSc in Multimedia/MSc in Multimedia, 16/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.8 Programme Board: Professional Diploma in Accounting, 22/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.9 Minutes of Director's meeting (i.e. the meeting chaired by the Director): MBS in Marketing/MBS in Strategic International Marketing, 22/03/05. Noted and approved.

- 4.10 Joint Programme Board: MSc in Science Communication/MA in Film and Television Studies, 23/03/05. Noted and approved. Noted, in relation to the issue raised in Item 5, that a Facilities and Services Group, set up at the request of Executive, had examined similar issues in the course of its work in 2003.
- 4.11 Programme Board: Diplóma do Chéimithe/MSc i nGnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais, 23/03/05. Noted and approved. Noted, in relation to the issue raised in Item 4.2, that the Registry was obliged to register students in accordance with the academic structure of the programme.
- 4.12 Programme Board: Teastas Iarchéime/Diplóma Iarchéime/MA sa Chleachtas Dátheangach, 23/03/05. Noted and approved. Noted, in relation to the issue raised in Item 2.1, that the Registry was obliged to register students in accordance with the academic structure of the programme.
- 4.13 Joint Programme Board: BEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering/BEng in Manufacturing Engineering with Business Studies/BEng in Medical Mechanical Engineering/BEng in Computer-aided Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, 23/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.14 Programme Board: International Foundation Certificate, 23/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.15 Standing Committee of Programme Board: BSc in Computer Applications, 30/03/05. Noted and approved. Agreed, however, that there were some reservations about the decision that had been taken and that these would be conveyed to the Programme Chair.
- 4.16 Programme Board: MSc in Investment and Treasury, 31/03/05. Noted. Agreed that the minutes could not be approved because the attendance at the meeting had been significantly low. Noted also that the minutes were particularly concise.

5. Appointment of external examiners

5.1 Taught programmes

None.

5.2 Postgraduate research students

- 5.2.1 Professor M Hynes, University College Cork
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.1, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved.

- 5.2.2 Dr J MacKenzie, University of Strathclyde
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.2, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.3 Professor S Papathanassopoulos, University of Athens
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.3, PhD, School of Communications
Approved.
- 5.2.4 Dr MEJ O'Kelly, NUI Galway
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.4, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2.5 Dr B Acar, Bogazici University, Turkey, and Dr A Kokaram,
Trinity College, Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.5, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.6 Professor J Paradiso, MIT Media Laboratory
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.6, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.7 Dr P Chabert, École Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.7, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.8 Dr T McGloughlin, University of Limerick
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.8, MEng, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.9 Dr K Dawson-Howe, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.9, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.10 Dr P Sturm, INRIA Rhône-Alpes
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.10, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.11 Dr C Mar-Molinero, University of Southampton, and Dr M Ó Laoire,
Institute of Technology, Tralee
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.11, PhD, School of Applied Language and
Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.2.12 Dr PJ Murphy, University of Limerick
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.12, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2.13 Dr R Gormley, The National Food Centre
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.13, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.14 Dr E Slater, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.14, PhD, School of Communications
Approved.

- 5.2.15 Professor K Whelan, Keough-Notre Dame Centre, Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.15, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.2.16 Dr A Pierotti, Glasgow Caledonian University
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.16, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.2.17 Dr P Kieran, University College Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.17, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.2.18 Dr N O'Brien, University College Cork
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.18, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.2.19 Dr D Kennedy, Dublin Institute of Technology
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.19, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.20 Dr R Crampton, Sheffield Hallam University
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.20, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.21 Dr J McGovern, Dublin Institute of Technology
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.21, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.22 Dr PJ Armstrong, Queen's University, Belfast
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.22, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Decision deferred until it can be established whether or not an alternative nominee can be found (in view of Professor Armstrong's heavy workload as an external examiner in recent years).
- 5.2.23 Professor P Hamilton, Queen's University, Belfast
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.23, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.2.24 Professor A Pandit, National University of Ireland, Galway
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.24, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.25 Dr D Fitzpatrick, University College Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.25, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

- 5.2.26 Professor M Gallagher, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.26, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved. Agreed, however, that an additional external examiner would need to be nominated in view of the stipulation in Section 8 of *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Awards by Research and Thesis* that two external examiners are required where a research candidate is a staff member of the University.
- 5.2.27 Dr P Childs, University of Limerick
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.27, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.28 Professor WG Graham, Queen's University, Belfast
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.28, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.29 Dr J Munday, University of Surrey
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.29, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.2.30 Professor F Martin, University College Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.30, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.2.31 Mr V Wade, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.31, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2.32 Dr H Evans, University of Plymouth
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.32, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.33 Professor Juliane House, University of Hamburg, and Dr M Olohan, University of Manchester
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.33, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.2.34 Dr M Sheller, Lancaster University
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.34, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.2.35 Dr P J Armstrong, Queen's University, Belfast
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.35, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Decision deferred until it can be established whether or not an alternative nominee can be found (in view of Professor Armstrong's heavy workload as an external examiner in recent years).

- 5.2.36 Dr R MacIntosh, University of Strathclyde
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.36, PhD, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.37 Dr P Walsh, Institute of Education, University of London
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.37, PhD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 5.2.38 Professor JT Pembroke, University of Limerick
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.38, MSc, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.2.39 Professor C Williams, Cardiff University, and Professor J Lee,
University College Cork
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.39, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 5.2.40 Dr R Reilly, University College Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.40, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.2.41 Professor SF Mjølunes, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.41, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2.42 Professor G Castledine, University of Central England
Student ref. SC/2005/A5/5.2.42, MSc, School of Nursing
Approved.

6. Postgraduate research matters

6.1 Application for direct entry to the PhD register

None.

6.2 Applications to transfer to the PhD register

- 6.2.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A5/6.2.1, School of Biotechnology
Approved.

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

- 6.3.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A5/6.3.1, School of Biotechnology
Approved.

6.4 Definition of staff members in relation to the nomination of external examiners for research students

Agreed that the stipulation, in Section 8 of *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Awards by Research and Thesis*, that two external examiners are required where a research candidate is a staff member of the University might be rewritten to make the sense clearer and that, furthermore, a more precise definition of what constitutes a staff member in this context would be helpful. Agreed to convene a working group to examine the issue and to invite Dr Gary Murphy, who had submitted the document on which the discussion of the issue was based, would be invited to join this group, along with a member of the Human Resources Department. The other members of the group will be Mr Mac Conmara, Ms McDermott, Dr Marlow and Dr Saunders.

6.5 Change of internal examiner

6.5.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A5/6.5.1, School of Electronic Engineering

Approved.

7. Requests for special-case admission

None.

8. Requests for exemption from modules

8.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A5/8.1, BA in Journalism

Approved.

8.2 Student ref. SC/2005/A5/8.2, BSc in Computer Applications (CASE)

Approved.

9. Proposal in relation to the Certificate in Equality/Diversity Studies

Approved.

10. Proposal on a stand-alone module (School of Nursing)

Approved.

11. Task Group on Committee Structures

Noted that a proposal would be made to the 2 June meeting of Standing Committee about the ways in which the tasks currently undertaken by Standing Committee, Validation Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee might be distributed across the proposed new committees currently under consideration by the Task Group on Committee Structures. The views of Standing Committee on this issue would be requested.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2 June 2005

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____