ACADEMIC COUNCIL – STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 6 May 2004

9.00-11.00 a.m. in AG01

Present: Professor Maria Slowey (Chairperson), Ms Brenda Gaughan,
                  Professor Martin Henry, Dr Paraic James, Dr Seán Marlow,
                  Dr Liam Mac Mathúna, Ms Louise McDermott (Recording Secretary),
                  Dr Ronnie Saunders

Apologies: Ms Anja Friedrich, Professor David Jacobson, Mr Paul Sheehan

1.   Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 1 April 2004

Confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes

3.1   Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.

3.2   Noted that Standing Committee would, at a future meeting, review the frequency of
          appointment of external examiners. (Item 3.2)

3.3   Noted that discussions were ongoing in the School of Communications about the
          possibility of adopting common compensation regulations across the three
          undergraduate programmes. (Item 3.5)

3.4   Noted that general proposal on procedures for dealing with students who are family
          members or otherwise in a situation which might give rise to a conflict of interest
          would be submitted to a future meeting of Standing Committee. (Item 3.6)

3.5 <u>Noted</u> that a revised proposal on notional learning time within modules would be available in due course. (Item 3.7)

3.6 <u>Noted</u> that discussions were ongoing with the Research Advisory Panel about possible interruptions to funding in cases where research students interrupt their studies. (Item 3.9)

3.7 <u>Noted</u> that the change of title from 'Faculty Board for Research Degrees' to 'Faculty *Awards* Board for Research Degrees' had been notified to all relevant staff and students. (Item 3.10)

3.8 <u>Noted</u> that the fact that, in the current *Marks and Standards*, only fifteen credits are normally allocated to the dissertation in a taught Master's programme often poses a problem for Programme Boards who feel that the credit rating does not reflect the work required for completion of the dissertation. <u>Noted</u> that this and related *Marks and Standards* issues would be discussed by the Working Group on Modularisation and would be addressed in due course.

3.9 <u>Noted</u> that the recommendations of Standing Committee in respect of the proposal on the admission of students on the basis of FETAC Level 2 awards would be made available to Academic Council at its meeting of 9 June 2004. (Item 9)

3.10 <u>Noted</u> that the proposals on initiatives relating to international students, and the recommendations of Standing Committee in respect of them, would be made available to Academic Council at its meeting of 9 June 2004. (Item 10)

4.   Faculty/Committee/Programme Board minutes

4.1   Joint Programme Board: MA in Communication and Cultural Studies/MA in Political Communication, 25/02/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.2   Programme Board: BSc in Biotechnology, 03/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.3   Joint Programme Board: BSc in Multimedia/MSc in Multimedia, 03/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.4   Programme Board: BA in Applied Languages/BA in Languages for International Communication, 03/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.5   Joint Programme Board: MA in International Relations/MA in Globalisation, 04/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.6   Programme Board: Diploma in Nursing: General (Beaumont Hospital), 09/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>. <u>Noted</u> that the issue of student attendance at lectures appeared to have been dealt with successfully in the course of the year.

4.7   Programme Board: Diploma in Nursing: Psychiatric (St Ita's and
        St Vincent's), 10/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>. <u>Noted</u> that the issue of
        student attendance at lectures appeared to have been dealt with successfully
        in the course of the year.

4.8   Programme Board: Diploma in Nursing: Mental Handicap (St Joseph's
        and St Louise's), 11/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>. <u>Noted</u> that the issue of
        student attendance at lectures appeared to have been dealt with successfully
        in the course of the year.

4.9   Joint Programme Board: BA in Journalism/MA in Journalism, 10/03/04.
        <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.10   Programme Board: BA in International Business and Languages/BA in
        International Marketing and Languages, 10/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.11   Joint Programme Board: SALIS postgraduate programmes, 10/03/04. <u>Noted</u>
        and <u>approved</u>.

4.12   Programme Board: Diploma in Nursing: General (James Connolly
        Memorial Hospital),12/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>. <u>Noted</u> that the issue of
        student attendance at lectures appeared to have been dealt with successfully
        in the course of the year.

4.13   Programme Board: Postgraduate Nursing programmes, 16/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and
        <u>approved</u>.

4.14   Joint Programme Board: SALIS postgraduate programmes,16/03/04.
        <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.15   Joint Programme Board: SALIS postgraduate programmes, 22/03/04.
        <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.16   Joint Programme Board: BEng in Electronic Engineering/BEng in
        Information and Communications Engineering, BEng/MEng in Electronic
        Systems, BEng in Digital Media Engineering, 22/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and
        <u>approved</u>.

4.17   Board of Undergraduate Studies: DCUBS, 23/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.18   Joint Programme Board: Undergraduate Mechanical Engineering
        programmes, 24/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u> with regard to the proposals in
        Item 4. Standing Committee welcomed the proposal in Item 7 to make
        available a three-year BTech degree, and <u>agreed</u> to recommend that work on it
        be progressed so that it could proceed to validation. It was <u>noted</u> that the
        School of Electronic Engineering might wish to proceed in a similar direction.
        Standing Committee <u>noted</u> the proposed revisions to the existing undergraduate
        degree programmes in Mechanical Engineering and <u>agreed</u> to recommend that
        they not be progressed at this point but instead be discussed at a later stage in
        the context of a more thoroughgoing review of the durations of all of the
        Engineering programmes offered by the University. Standing Committee
        further <u>agreed</u> to recommend that the degree that would be awarded at the end
        of the revision process be described as a Bachelor of Engineering degree, not a
        Bachelor of Science degree.

4.19   Joint Programme Board: BSc in Mathematical Sciences, BSc in Financial and Actuarial Mathematics, MSc in Financial and Industrial Mathematics, 24/04/04. <u>Noted.</u> With regard to Item 3, the proposal on a revised method of calculating the degree classification for final-year students on the BSc in Financial and Actuarial Mathematics, it was <u>agreed</u> that the Programme Board would be requested to consider alternatives.

4.20   Programme Board: MSc i nGnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais, 24/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.21   Programme Board: BSc i bhFiontraíocht le Ríomhaireacht/Gaeilge Fheidhmeach, 24/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.22   Programme Board: BSc in Airgeadas, Ríomhaireacht agus Fiontraíocht, 24/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.23   Programme Board: BA in Communication Studies, 24/03/04. <u>Noted.</u> <u>Noted</u> that this meeting had taken place to allow an initial discussion of possible future revisions to the programme.

4.24   Joint Programme Board: BA in Economics, Politics and Law/BA in International Relations, 25/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.25   Standing Committee of Programme Board: BA in International Business and Languages/BA in International Marketing and Languages, 26/04/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.26   Programme Board: BSc in Applied Computational Linguistics, 25/02/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

4.27   Board of Postgraduate Studies, DCUBS, 25/03/04. <u>Noted</u> and <u>approved</u>.

5.   Appointment of external examiners

5.1   Taught programmes

5.1.1   Professor Anthony Walsh, Institute of Bankers in Ireland
          Extra-curricular Module
          <u>Approved.</u>

5.1.2   Professor L O'Malley, National University of Ireland, Galway
          Modules on programmes offered by the School of Law and Government
          (Reappointment)
          <u>Approved.</u>

5.1.3   Professor T Coffey, University of Limerick
          MSc in Security and Forensic Computing,
          MSc in Electronic Commerce (Technical)
          <u>Approved.</u>

5.1.4   Dr M Martin, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
        Graduate Diploma in Special Education,
        Graduate Diploma in Learning Support
        Approved.

5.2   Postgraduate research students

5.2.1   Dr M Byram, University of Durham,
        Dr M Rogers, University of Surrey
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.1, PhD, School of Applied Language and
        Intercultural Studies
        Approved.
5.2.2   Dr V Della Mea, Università degli Studi di Udine
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology
        Approved.
5.2.3   Professor A Keenan, University College Dublin
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.3, PhD, School of Biotechnology
        Approved.
5.2.4   Dr C Hensey, University College Dublin
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.4, PhD, School of Biotechnology
        Approved.
5.2.5   Dr A James, Coventry University
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.5, MSc, School of Computing
        Approved.
5.2.6   Dr D Pesch, Cork Institute of Technology
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.6, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering
        Approved.
5.2.7   Professor R P Brinkmann, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.7, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
        Approved.
5.2.8   Dr T Fleming, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.8, PhD, Education Department, S
        St Patrick's College
        Approved.
5.2.9   Dr R M Kaplan, Stanford University
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.9, PhD, School of Computing
        Approved.
5.2.10 Dr L Ramey, Cardiff University
        Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.10, PhD, School of Communications
        Approved.

5.2.11 Dr C A Daul, University of Fribourg
Student ref. SC/2004/A5/5.2.11, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.

6.   Postgraduate research matters

6.1   Application for direct entry to the PhD register

6.1.1   Student ref. SC/2004/A5/6.1.1, School of Communications
Approved.
6.1.2   Student ref. SC/2004/A5/6.1.2, School of Education Studies
Approved.
6.1.3   Student ref. SC/2004/A5/6.1.3, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing
Engineering
A decision was deferred pending the availability of additional information
about the candidate's academic background.

6.2   Application to transfer to the PhD register

6.2.1   Student ref. SC/2004/A5/6.2.1, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.

6.3   Change to qualifier modules for MA qualifier student

6.3.1   Student ref. SC/2004/A5/6.3.1, School of Communications
Approved.

7.   Requests for special-case admission

None.

8.   Requests for exemption from modules

None.

9.   Proposal on admission of students on the basis of FETAC Level 2 awards

The proposals on the final page of the proposal were approved. The following
recommendations were also made:

- It should be emphasised to Faculties that it will be important to ensure adequate support mechanisms for students entering with FETAC awards, as they may be likely to have had a less traditional exposure to the education system than Leaving Certificate entrants. These mechanisms need not be specific to FETAC entrants; rather, it should be ensured that such entrants have information about, and access to, the wide range of mechanisms already in place.

- Members of Standing Committee were sympathetic to the observations made by the School of Education Studies and recommended that consideration be given to a formulation which would be flexible enough to continue to facilitate admission to the School's programmes to applicants who - on the basis of experience gained recently in the School with similar applicants - would have a high chance of succeeding.

- The system, if implemented, should be reviewed after two years to determine how successful it has been.

The following observations were made:
- As noted in the minutes of the meeting of 1 April (Item 11), Standing Committee welcomes this proposal as being timely, positive and likely to widen the University's student base.

- Given the variation in the level of readiness across Faculties in relation to FETAC entrants, it is likely that applicant numbers, including the numbers of successful applicants, will vary across Faculties in the initial stages.

- It is hoped that the proposals, if implemented, will not have the effect of displacing students presenting with the Leaving Certificate or other qualifications who would have gained places if FETAC entrants had not.

- It is noted that Dublin City University Business School does not propose a quota for FETAC entrants separate from the existing quota for mature entrants.

10.   International issues

The proposals were approved. It was noted that they were likely to provide a comprehensive and structured framework within which to situate initiatives relating to international activities.

It was <u>agreed</u> that a list of approved institutions/programmes should be prepared, in relation to the initiatives, and submitted to Standing Committee for approval.

The following observations were made:

- It will be essential to ensure that adequate resources, including financial resources, are in place to handle the new initiatives outlined in the documents.

- It will be essential that any new initiatives are carefully targeted so as to maximise both the chances of success and the strategic benefit to the University.

- It will be essential that regular (yearly) and demanding review mechanisms be put in place to evaluate the success or otherwise of initiatives.

- The proposal on remote supervision will need to be examined in detail to determine the extent of its conformity with existing regulations on remote supervision. This may lead to a need for the existing regulations to be revised.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 3 June 2004

Signed: _____   Date: _____

            Chairperson