

ACADEMIC COUNCIL – STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 7 April 2005

9.00-10.05 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor Martin Henry (Chair), Professor Eugene Kennedy, Dr Breandán Leahy, Dr Seán Marlow, Mr Mícheál Mac Conmara, Dr Liam Mac Mathúna, Ms Louise McDermott (Recording Secretary), Mr Damian McLoughlin, Dr Ronnie Saunders, Mr Paul Sheehan

Apologies: Ms Brenda Gaughan, Dr Paraic James, Professor Maria Slowey

1. Adoption of agenda

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

2. Minutes of the meeting of 3 March 2005

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 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 draft guidelines on the use of videoconferencing at *viva voce* examinations would be discussed at the meeting of Academic Council of 13 April 2005. (Item 3.3)

3.4 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)

- 3.5 Noted that the issue of notional learning time within modules would be discussed by the Working Group on Modularisation. (Item 3.5)
- 3.6 Noted that the issue of frequency of appointment of external examiners within a given time period had been discussed at a meeting held on 14 March 2005 to review a range of issues relating to external examiners and research students. (Item 3.6)
- 3.7 Noted that the issue of direct entry to the PhD register had been discussed at the meeting referred to at 3.6 above. (Item 3.8)
- 3.8 Noted that the Registry was considering the option of removing the heading 'For Office Use Only' from the PGR9 (request for direct entry to the PhD register) form to make it easier to complete. (Item 3.10)
- 3.9 Noted that, once the regulations on frequency of appointment of external examiners (see 3.6 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 3.11)
- 3.10 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 3.14)
- 3.11 Noted that the issue of appropriate workloads for supervisors of research students had been discussed at the meeting referred to at 3.6 above. (Item 3.16)
- 3.12 Noted that the question of how external examiners' recommendations are dealt with had been discussed at the meeting referred to at 3.6 above. (Item 5.2)

Noted that, at the meeting of 14 March 2005 (see 3.6, 3.7, 3.11 and 3.12 above) it had been apparent that the issues which had been reviewed required considerable further discussion and action. Agreed that the advice of the Vice-President for Learning Innovation/Registrar would be sought as to the best way to proceed and the likely timeline.

4. Faculty/Committee/Programme Board minutes

- 4.1 Management Group: Science International, Common Entry into Science, 17/11/04. Noted and approved.
- 4.2 Teaching Meeting: Physics, 24/11/04. Noted and approved. Programme Board: BA in Applied Languages, BA in Languages for International Communication, BSc in Applied Computational Linguistics, 23/02/05. Noted and approved.

- 4.3 Programme Board: MSc in Bioinformatics, 23/02/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.4 Programme Board: Graduate Diploma/MSc in Information Technology, 23/02/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.5 Management Group: Environmental Science and Health, 16/02/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.6 Programme Board: MSc in Security and Forensic Computing, 23/02/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.7 Programme Board: MSc in Electronic Commerce (Business and Technical), 24/02/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.8 Programme Board: BSc in Computer Applications (Day and Evening), 09/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.9 Joint Programme Board: BA in Journalism/MA in Journalism, 09/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.10 Programme Board: BEng in Mechatronic Engineering, 09/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.11 Management Group: Science Education, 23/02/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.12 Joint Programme Board: BA in Economics, Politics and Law/BA in International Relations, 02/03/05. Noted and approved. The introduction of a new module deriving from the Business and Innovation theme was noted with approval. Noted that Mr McLoughlin intended to discuss the question of lecture duration with the Programme Chair.
- 4.13 Programme Board: BA in International Business and Languages/BA in International Marketing and Languages, 10/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.14 Programme Board: BA in European Business, 09/03/05. Noted and approved. Agreed that Mr Sheehan would report on the issue of Library skills training to the 5 May 2005 meeting of Standing Committee.
- 4.15 Programme Board: Access/Graduate Diploma/MSc in Computer-aided Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, 23/03/05. Noted and approved. Agreed that the issue referred to in Item 6 would be followed up with the Registry.
- 4.16 Programme Board: BA in Accounting and Finance, 16/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.17 Programme Board: Graduate Diploma in Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, Graduate Diploma in Intercultural Studies, Graduate Certificate in Comparative Literature, 16/03/05. Noted and approved. Agreed to ask the Programme Chairs if they were aware of the reason for the somewhat low attendance at the meeting by academic staff members of the Programme Board.
- 4.18 Joint Programme Board: BEng in Electronic Engineering, BEng/MEng in Electronic Systems, BEng in Information and Telecommunications Engineering, BEng in Digital Media Engineering, Common Entry into Electronic Engineering, 11/03/05. Noted and approved. Agreed that it would be important 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, for example their rights to study and examination leave. Agreed that the issue referred to in Item 15.2 would be followed up with the relevant staff.

- 4.19 Joint Programme Board: Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma/MEng in Telecommunications Engineering/Electronic Systems/RACeE Programme, 09/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.20 Programme Board: BSc in Airgeadas, Ríomhaireacht agus Fiontraíocht, 02/03/05. Noted and approved.
- 4.21 Programme Board: BSc in bhFiontraíocht le Ríomhaireacht/Gaeilge Fheidhmeach, 02/03/05. Noted and approved.

Agreed that the Registry would be requested to submit, for the 5 May 2005 meeting of Standing Committee, a summary of regulations in respect of the use of dictionaries at examinations, since this issue had been referred to in the minutes of several meetings.

5. Appointment of external examiners

5.1 Taught programmes

5.1.1 (Reappointment)

Dr S Horrocks, University of Salford
Modules on the BSc in Nursing
Approved.

5.1.2 (Reappointment)

Dr G Smith, University of Edinburgh
Modules on the BSc in Nursing
Approved.

5.1.3 (Reappointment)

Professor R Northway, University of Glamorgan
Modules on the BSc in Nursing
Approved.

5.1.4 Dr M Killeavy, University College Dublin In-service Certificate and Diploma in Education, St Patrick's College Approved.

5.2 Postgraduate research students

- 5.2.1 Dr P Mulholland, The Open University
Student ref. SC/2005/A4/5.2.1, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.

- 5.2.2 Professor J McKenna, Leeds Metropolitan University
Student ref. SC/2005/A4/5.2.2, PhD, Centre for Sport Science and Health
Approved.
- 5.2.3 Professor X Mao, University of Strathclyde
Student ref. SC/2005/A4/5.2.3, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.2.4 Dr E Wallace, University of Ulster
Student ref. SC/2005/A4/5.2.4, PhD, School of Sport Science and Health
Approved.
- 5.2.5 Dr M Boulton, Cardiff University
Student ref. SC/2005/A4/5.2.5, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.2.6 Professor A Keenan, University College Dublin
Student ref. SC/2005/A4/5.2.6, MSc, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.2.7 Dr D Dooley, University College Cork
Student ref. SC/2005/A4/5.2.7, PhD, 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/A4/6.2.1, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.2.2 Student ref. SC/2005/A3/6.2.2, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.2.3 Student ref. SC/2005/A4/6.2.3, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

6.3 Request in respect of additional supervisor

- 6.3.1 Student ref. SC/2005/A4/6.3.1, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

7. Requests for special-case admission

None.

8. Requests for exemption from modules

None.

9. Proposal on élite sportspersons entry scheme

Approved subject to clarification about the details of the admissions process. Agreed that the Working Group would be requested to address another issue, that of the provision of any additional supports which students admitted under the scheme might need. Noted that the principles underpinning the proposal could be extended to a wide range of activities besides sport - e.g. that the scheme could be used to recognise and promote excellence in areas such as the performing arts, thereby reinforcing the University's commitment to recognising talent in a wide variety of areas.

**10. Proposal for a taught MA in Humanities (Human Development),
St Patrick's College**

Approved.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5 May 2005

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____