ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

5 June 2013

2.00-3.20 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

S Belton	M Farren	D Molloy
C Bohan	O Finlayson	M Molony
O Bree	B Flood	M Nic Giolla Mhichíl
C Brennan	S Fox	C Ó Ciardubháin
J Bruen	E Guilfoyle (VPAA)	P Ó Flatharta
J Brunton	S Ingle	J O'Hara
T Cafolla	B Kelly	E O'Riordan
B Casey	M Kirwan	J Péchenart
A Clogher	P Landais	J Rami
Martin Clynes	C Long	C Renehan
Mary Clynes	L Looney	M Roantree
E Connolly	B MacCraith (President)[1]	D Sinclair
J Costello	L McDermott (Secretary)	A Sinnott
P Cummins	I McEvoy	A Stover
E Cunningham	G McGuinness	R Tobin
Y Delauré	P McMorrow	F Waldron
R Devery	C McMullan	S Wickham
J Dowling	B McMullin	P Willis
H Esmonde		

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[1] Professor MacCraith chaired the meeting for Items 1-7 inclusive. Professor Guilfoyle chaired the meeting for Items 8-13 inclusive.

APOLOGIES:

L Barry	C Mac an Bhaird	K Moran
P Brereton	C Mac Murchaidh	Rory O'Connor
M Byrne	B McConalogue	Robert O'Connor
P J Byrne	P McDonagh	J O'Higgins-Norman
J Carroll	A McGillicuddy	M Pryce
J Connolly	C McGivern	D Reynolds
M Crane	E McGlynn	H Ruskin
M Doherty	A McGrady	R Sadleir
Jim Doyle	P McNally	R Walshe
Y Gao	G Moore	G Warrington
J Lynch		

IN ATTENDANCE
C O'Connor

1.   **Adoption of agenda**

        The agenda was adopted.

A: <u>Minutes and related issues</u>

2.   **Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 10 April 2013**

        The minutes were confirmed subject to the substitution of 'overall number of entry routes to Level 8 programmes' for 'overall number of Level 8 programmes' in the third line of Item 3.2. They were signed by the Chair.

3.   **Matters arising**

        Mr Billy Kelly, Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning, <u>noted</u> that two documents had been made available to Programme Chairs, one relating to the conduct of Progression and Awards Boards and the other outlining changes to the management of extenuating circumstances and to procedures in the event of absence from examination. It is intended that the contents of these documents will impact positively on the Progression and Awards Boards due to take place shortly. (Item 3.1)

4. **Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 6 March 2013 and 3 April 2013**

Approved.

5. **Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 28 February 2013**

Approved.

5.1 **Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Board of 24 January 2013**

Approved.

B: **Policy and strategy issues**

6. **President's report**

6.1 The 'Landscape' document, *Report to the Minister for Education and Skills on system reconfiguration, inter-institutional collaboration and system governance in Irish higher education,* and an associated letter from the Minster for Education and Skills, were published on 30 May 2013. They will be circulated to all members of Academic Council shortly, and the members of Council are very welcome to express their views. Challenges for DCU are apparent in the documentation, particularly with respect to the inclusion in Dublin/Leinster Pillar II, to which DCU belongs, of institutions with which significant dialogue, with respect to possible partnership, has not taken place to date. The implementation timescale is relatively short, and implementation is due to begin soon. The Senior Management Group is currently considering the documentation.

6.2 On 31 May 2013, the HEA launched a call for submissions for a strategic innovation and development fund, with a tight deadline of 1 July 2013. This matter will be on the agenda for discussion at the IUA Council meeting of 10 June 2013.

6.3 Advanced drafts of the five component strategic plans of *Transforming Lives and Societies* will be submitted for noting by Governing Authority at its meeting of 13 June 2013. A report on the achievements of the first year of implementation of *Transforming Lives and Societies* will be submitted to Governing Authority at its meeting of 12 September 2013, and plans for implementation in future years will be outlined.

6.4   The Joint Steering Group with respect to the incorporation of St Patrick's College, Mater Dei Institute of Education and the Church of Ireland College of Education is continuing its work, which includes regular communication with the working groups it has to date set up. The tendering process for an external facilitating organisation has almost been completed, and the identity of the successful organisation will be made known shortly. The work of the Joint Steering Group and its working groups is likely to be significantly enhanced by the involvement of this organisation. The Group recently held a very productive meeting with the Chancellor, Dr Martin McAleese, and the two Archbishops of Dublin.

6.5   The new DCU website was launched on 29 May 2013, and congratulations are extended to all involved in its development. Some further enhancements will be made; these will include, in the first instance, enhancements with regard to accessibility for visually impaired people.

6.6   Congratulations are extended to Professor Alan Smeaton of the School of Computing on his admission to the Royal Irish Academy.

6.7   Congratulations are extended to the outgoing Vice-President – Education Officer of the Students' Union, Mr Aaron Clogher, as he takes up his post as President of the Students' Union, and to the incoming Vice-President – Education Officer, Mr Ciarán O'Connor.

6.8   Congratulations are extended to the DCU students who recently won the Enactus Ireland national social enterprise competition for third-level institutions, for the second year in a row, and who will now represent Ireland at the Enactus Ireland 2013 World Cup.

6.9   The President's Fujitsu Awards for Innovation 2013 will be made on 7 June 2013.

7.   Reform of undergraduate selection and entry: principles to guide the broadening of entry routes

In the discussion of the principles, it was suggested that their implementation might involve a loss of distinctiveness on the part of the University in terms of its denominated programmes. It was also suggested, however, that this could be countered by maintaining a sharp conceptual distinction between admissions and marketing and by using the possibilities afforded by more detailed programme codes than are available at present. The President noted that approval of the principles, if

forthcoming, would represent the beginning of a process which would lead to detailed consideration on the part of the University of how it could optimally maintain and

enhance its current reputational advantages, and act in accordance with its strategic direction, while also upholding the principles. The principles were <u>approved</u>.

8.   **Revised draft policy on academic integrity/plagiarism**

<u>Approved.</u> <u>Noted</u> that, resources permitting, the policy would be submitted to NALA, the National Adult Literacy Agency, to avail of the service it provides in terms of ensuring that documentation is written in plain English, but that care would be taken to avoid a situation in which there would be two versions of the same document. <u>Noted</u> that the policy was intended to be a dynamic one, subject to change in the light of changing circumstances and experience. <u>Noted</u> that the range of resources available on Turnitin and Moodle could be used to minimise paperwork relating to the implementation of the policy and help to provide students with the widest possible exposure to ways of avoiding plagiarism and maintaining academic integrity.

C: **<u>Items for formal approval/noting</u>**

9.   **Matters from the Education Committee and the University Standards Committee**

<u>Approved</u> subject to the addition of the word 'Management' after 'MSc in Education and Training'.

10.   **Report from the Director of Quality Promotion**

<u>Noted.</u>

11.   **Report from the Disciplinary Appeals Committee**

<u>Noted.</u>

12.   **Updated terms of reference: Academic Council and subcommittees**

Approved. <u>Noted</u> that the documentation would be subject to a final check to ensure complete typographical accuracy. <u>Noted</u> that the updated terms of reference would come into effect at the beginning of the academic year 2013/14.

13.   Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 24 June 2013
2.00 p.m. in AG01

Signed: _____   Date: _____
                   President