

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

9 October 2013

2.00-2.35 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

S Belton
C Bohan
M Brennan
P Brereton
J Bruen
J Brunton
J Carroll
K Casey
B Corcoran
R Devery
J Dowling (Chair)
John Doyle
H Esmonde
B Flood
M Gannon
M Glynn

S Ingle
P James
I Kavanagh
P Landais
C Long
L Looney
J Lynch
L McDermott (Secretary)
C McDonagh
Á McGillicuddy
C McMullan
C Mac Murchaidh
G Moore
F Moran
G Murphy

M Nic Giolla Mhichíl
M O'Brien
Ciarán O'Connor
N O'Reilly
C Palin-Stewart
A Prendergast
K Rafter
J Rami
C Renehan
P Sheehan
A Sinnott
J Stokes
A Stover
R Tobin
S Wickham

APOLOGIES:

M Byrne
J Connolly
J Costello
M Crane
Y Crotty
B Daly
Jim Doyle
C Fagan
E Guilfoyle (VPAA)

B Kelly
D Kenny
B MacCraith (President)
E McGlynn
A McGrady
P McMorrow
B McMullin
P McNally

D Molloy
P Ó Duibhir
P Ó Flatharta
J O'Hara
D Reynolds
M Roantree
D Sinclair
P Willis

IN ATTENDANCE:

J McKenna
Cillian O'Connor

The Chair welcomed all the members of Academic Council, especially the new and returning members and the student representatives, to the first meeting of Academic Council of the academic year. On behalf of Council, he expressed sympathy to Mr Billy Kelly, Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning, on his recent bereavement.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of two submissions under Item 13.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 24 June 2013**

The minutes were confirmed and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Noted that Dr Lisa Looney, Dean of Graduate Studies, had made a presentation to the Heads' and Deans' meeting of 19 September 2013 on the implementation of the revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* in 2013/14. Noted that hard copies of *Roles and Responsibilities of those involved in postgraduate research supervision, support and examination* had been distributed to groups of stakeholders and that the document would be made available on a wider basis, as appropriate, shortly. (Item 8.3)

3.2 Noted that a meeting between interested parties had taken place to agree wording about copyright with respect to DORAS and that this wording had been incorporated into the guidance on PhD by publication. (Item 8.4)

3.3 Noted that revised postgraduate research forms for use in 2013/14 were available on the Registry website and that only these revised versions, and not prior versions that might be stored by individuals on hard drives, should be used. Dr Looney is to raise with Registry the question of whether or not an all-campus e-mail might be helpful as a reminder about this matter. Noted that the PGR2 (annual progression) form had

- been made available electronically, on a pilot basis, to certain Schools, that the feedback from the pilot was due to be made available to the Graduate Research Studies Board in Autumn 2013 and that the PGR2 form would be available electronically to all Schools by the Summer of 2014. (Item 8.6)
- 3.4** Noted that issues relating to Marks and Standards had been discussed at the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 12 September 2013 and that the USC had agreed to refer them to its standing subgroup on Marks and Standards for detailed consideration. (Item 9.2)
- 3.5** Noted that the ‘Certificate in Education’ and ‘Diploma in Education’ in St Patrick’s College had been renamed ‘Professional Certificate in Education’ and ‘Professional Diploma in Education’ respectively, in line with amendments to Marks and Standards, and that this had been approved by the Education Committee on an electronic basis on 28 June 2013 and by Academic Council on an electronic basis on 1 July 2013. (Item 12)
- 3.6** Noted that three proposals in respect of All Hallows College programmes had been approved by the Education Committee on an electronic basis on 28 June 2013 and by Academic Council on an electronic basis on 1 July 2013. (Item 12)
- 4. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Studies Board of 18 April 2013, 23 May 2013 and 27 June 2013**

Approved. Noted that, with effect from 2013/14, the former GSB had been renamed Graduate Research Studies Board (GRSB).

B: Policy and strategy issues

5. President’s report

- 5.1** The Chair noted the historic nature of the honorary graduation ceremony which had taken place on 8 October 2013 and had involved the awarding of honorary doctorates to Mr Séamus Mallon and Lord David Trimble.
- 5.2** The Chair noted that the University’s draft compact with the HEA had been submitted and that dialogue about it would take place with the HEA in November 2013 with a view to its being finalised in early 2014. He expressed appreciation to all who had worked, in a concentrated manner over a short period of time, on the preparation on the draft compact.

C: Items for formal approval/noting**6. Items from subcommittees**

Approved.

7. Register of Academic Council members 2013/14

Noted. Noted, however, that a small number of changes still needed to be made to this register and that they would be made as soon as possible. The revised membership structure for Academic Council was also noted.

8. Register of members of the Education Committee, the University Standards Committee, the Graduate Research Studies Board and the Examination Appeals Board 2013/14

Noted. Noted, however, that a small number of changes still needed to be made to the committee registers that they would be made as soon as possible.

9. Update on quality-related initiatives 2012/13

Noted. Agreed to change the name of this (annual) submission to Council to remove the reference to 'quality', so as to avoid possible confusion with documentation coming from the Quality Promotion Office.

10. Reports from Autumn 2013 examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

Approved. Concern was expressed at the fact that a number of errors in marks, that required correction following PABs, were mentioned in the report from the University. A brief discussion took place on the effectiveness or otherwise of the anonymous marking system in terms of ensuring the accuracy of module marks. It was noted that it would be important to distinguish between, on the one hand, the number of errors and, on the other, the proportion of errors vis-à-vis the number of marks dealt with at PABs as a whole. The Chair undertook to refer these issues to Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Vice-President Academic Affairs (Registrar).

11. Reports from Autumn 2013 examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

Approved.

12. Report from the Disciplinary Appeals Committee

Noted.

13. Any other business

13.1 Noted that a nomination procedure and, if necessary, an election would take place with respect to the professorial representation per Faculty (besides the Dean of Faculty) from Academic Council on the Academic Promotions Committee.

13.2 Noted that, because of the very large number of doctoral graduands at the November 2013 graduation ceremonies (the highest ever in the University), the titles of the theses would not be read out but would instead be printed in the convocation booklet. This system will be kept under review.

Date of next meeting:

<p>Wednesday 11 December 2013 2.00 p.m. in AG01</p>

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____