ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

24 June 2013

2.00-2.50 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

C Bohan	B Flood	M Nic Giolla Mhichíl
J Bosak	Y Gao	C Ó Ciardubháin
M Brady	E Guilfoyle (VPAA)	R O'Connor
C Brennan	S Ingle	P Ó Flatharta
P Brereton	D Kenny	E O'Riordan
J Bruen	M Kirwan	J Péchenart
M Byrne	S Knowlton	P Sheridan
P J Byrne	L Looney	D Sinclair
J Carroll	B McConalogue	M Slowey
J Costello	B MacCraith (President)	A Stover
M Crane	L McDermott (Secretary)	R Tobin
P Cummins	P McMorrow	S Wickham
J Dowling	D Molloy	P Willis
H Esmonde		

APOLOGIES:

O Bree	P McDonagh	F Moran
B Casey	C McDonagh	K Moran
Mary Clynes	I McEvoy	C O'Connor
E Cunningham	Á McGillicuddy	C Palin-Stewart
Jim Doyle	C McGivern	A Prendergast
M Farren	E McGlynn	J Rami
A Harvey	A McGrady	C Renehan
I Kavanagh	P McNally	R Sadleir
B Kelly	M Molony	P Sheehan
P Landais	G Moore	A Sinnott
C Mac Murchaidh		

1.   **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one submission under Item 12.

A: **Minutes and related issues**

2.   **Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 5 June 2013**

The minutes were confirmed subject to the inclusion of the words 'Advanced drafts of' at the beginning of Item 6.3 and the inclusion of the word 'almost' between 'has' and 'been' in the second sentence of Item 6.4. They were signed by the Chair.

3.   **Matters arising**

None.

4.   **Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 1 May 2013 and 29 May 2013**

The minutes of the meeting of 1 May 2013 were approved. The minutes of the meeting of 29 May 2013 were approved subject to the deletion of the words 'and Training' from the title of Item 13.

5.   **Minutes of the meetings of the University Standards Committee of 4 April 2013 and 30 May 2013**

Approved.

5.1   **Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Board of 7 March 2013**

Approved.

B: **Policy and strategy issues**

6. **President's report**

6.1 Some clarification has been provided by the HEA about the clustering arrangements specified in the 'Landscape' document, *Report to the Minister for Education and Skills on system reconfiguration, inter-institutional collaboration and system governance in Irish higher education.* Specifically, it is recognised that the primary focus for Dublin Institute of Technology, together with the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown and the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, is on the submission process for designation as a technological university. This is expected to limit the scale of engagement for these institutions in the short term in the development of a coherent cluster.

6.2 The deadline for response to the HEA call for submissions in respect of Strand I of the HEA Strategic Innovation and Development Fund has been moved to 31 August 2013. The deadline for submission for funding in respect of Strand II of the fund (in the case of the University, Strand II is particularly relevant to the forthcoming incorporation process with St Patrick's College, Mater Dei Institute of Education and the Church of Ireland College of Education – see Item 6.4 below) remains at 1 July 2013.

6.3 The first anniversary of the 3U Partnership was celebrated on 21 June 2013, with the recently-appointed Director, Dr Ruth Davis, in attendance. The significant progress made by the Partnership to date towards the development of a range of collaborative activities was noted at this event.

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 to determine, at its meeting of 28 June 2013, the outcome of the bid to select an external facilitating organisation which will support the incorporation process.

6.5 Discussions with Dundalk Institute of Technology are ongoing and have been positively endorsed in the 'Landscape' document.

6.6 The President's Fujitsu Awards for Innovation 2013 were presented at a ceremony on 7 June 2013.

6.7 A very successful honorary conferring ceremony took place in New York on 11 June 2013, with the recipients of the awards being two prominent Irish-Americans known, *inter alia*, for their commitment to the peace process in Northern Ireland, John Fitzpatrick and Brian O'Dwyer. Further honorary conferring ceremonies will

take place later in 2013. Members of Council, and all staff members in the University, are encouraged to submit nominations and to give particular consideration to nominating women. The criteria, as always, centre on excellence in terms of achievement and exemplification of the University's values.

6.8   The University features positively in two university rankings lists from 2013: the QS 'Top 50 Under 50' universities (in which it moved up to 40th place, from 46th in 2012) and the Times Higher Education '100 Under 50' universities (in which it moved up to 84th place, from 86th in 2012). These placings have led to a significant amount of positive comment about the University. Members of Council are encouraged to foreground the information about the placings in their communications with external stakeholders.

6.9   Sincere thanks are expressed to the members of Council for their commitment to, and engagement with, the University's endeavours in the course of a very challenging academic year.

7.   Revisions to Marks and Standards

Approved.

8.   Revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*

8.1   Approved subject to clarification in respect of one issue (see Item 8.4 below).

8.2   Dr Lisa Looney, Dean of Graduate Research, noted the following:
- the revisions to the *Regulations* are relatively extensive and represent the culmination of a period of very focused engagement on the part of the Graduate Studies Board and all stakeholders which is greatly appreciated
- it is not likely that a similarly large number of revisions will be made in any one year in the foreseeable future
- notwithstanding this, a need may emerge for changes determined by the external environment, e.g. in respect of credits relating to structured PhDs
- among the reasons for the revisions to the *Regulations* are the evolving external environment (e.g. the eligibility rules for supervisors now reflect the scarcity of permanent contracts) and developments in a number of relevant areas (examples include PhD by publication, the management of professional doctorates and the resolution of disputes)

- the associated *Roles and Responsibilities* document is aimed, *inter alia*, at raising awareness of the revised *Regulations*
- both the *Regulations* and the *Roles and Responsibilities* documents are informed by the IUQB *Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education*.

8.3   Dr Looney <u>noted</u> that she would make a presentation on the implementation of the revised *Regulations* to the Heads' and Deans' meeting of 19 September 2013.

8.4   A query arose about copyright issues relating to the submission of PhD theses to DORAS where the PhD has been awarded by publication. Dr Looney undertook to discuss this query with Mr Paul Sheehan, Director of Library Services. In the event that Mr Sheehan's advice necessitates a minor amendment to the *Regulations*, this will be made; if, however, significant consideration needs to be given to the issues, this will be undertaken in the course of 2013/14 and no amendment will be made to the *Regulations* at present.

8.5   With respect to PhD by publication, a query arose as to whether or not publications which existed prior to the period of the student's registration in DCU could be considered as part of the submission for the award. The current sectoral position is that such publications should not be so considered. Any Faculty which wishes to make a proposal relating to this issue is welcome to do so.

8.6   Dr Looney <u>noted</u> that the postgraduate research forms would undergo significant revision before the beginning of 2013/14 academic year.

8.7   The Chair, on behalf of Council, expressed appreciation to Dr Looney both for her work in leading the revision of the *Regulations* and the development of the associated documentation and for the clarity of her presentation on the issues to Council.

9.   Policy on assessment

9.1   <u>Approved.</u> It was <u>noted</u> that technology exists to facilitate the implementation of guideline no. 3 and that this was evident from a project carried out relatively recently in the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

9.2   It was <u>noted</u> that the policy does not form part of Marks and Standards (see Item 7 above) and <u>agreed</u> that two issues which were raised in the discussion about the policy, and which do relate to Marks and Standards, would be brought to the attention of the University Standards Committee. These are the fitness for purpose of the resit examination categories and the extent to which the provision of formative, as distinct from summative, assessment opportunities is facilitated by Marks and Standards.

10.   *Aegrotat* **award requests in respect of two deceased students**

     <u>Approved.</u>

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

11.   **Examination and Progression and Awards Boards reports, Summer 2013**

     <u>Approved.</u>

12.   **Any other business**

     <u>Noted</u> that a small number of outstanding issues were under consideration by the Education Committee and the University Standards Committee and that, if approved by the relevant committee, they would be submitted to Academic Council, electronically, with a request for formal approval.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 9 October 2013
2.00 p.m. in AG01

Signed: _____   Date: _____
         President