EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 4 June 2014

2.00-3.35 p.m. in A204

Present:	Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Dr Claire Bohan, Dr John Doyle, Dr Sarah Ingle, Mr Billy Kelly, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Mr Martin Molony, Mr Ciarán O'Connor, Dr Anne Sinnott, Dr Fionnuala Waldron, Dr Sheelagh Wickham
Apologies:	Professor Mark Brown, Professor John Costello, Dr Lisa Looney, Professor Barry McMullin
In attendance:	Ms Aisling McKenna

The Chair, on behalf of the Education Committee, expressed appreciation to the outgoing Vice-President – Education Officer of the Students' Union, Mr Ciarán O'Connor, for his significant contribution to the work of the EC during his term of office.

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1.   Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one submission under Item 15.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 7 May 2014

The minutes were confirmed and were signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 It was <u>noted</u> that the general protocol on the use of mobile telephone data was in place and being used, and that in the event of need, or of relevant advances in technology at a future date, the use of such data would be discussed again. (Item 3.2)

3.2 It was <u>noted</u> that an audit of assessment practice at module level was being carried out and that the outcomes would be available for the EC meeting of 1 October 2014.   (Item 3.4)

3.3 It was <u>noted</u> that the possibility of a new student records system would be discussed in the appropriate fora in the University. (Item 3.6)

3.4 It was <u>noted</u> that the ePortfolio initiative would formally be launched in due course. (Item 3.7)

3.5 It was <u>noted</u> that the working group on timetabling was continuing its deliberations. (Item 3.8)

3.6 It was <u>noted</u> that arrangements had been made with the Teaching Council with respect to transitional arrangements for teacher education students who do not proceed with their cohort so as to ensure that, when they eventually graduate, they will meet registration requirements.   (Item 3.9)

3.7 It was <u>noted</u> that the current meeting was the last at which proposed changes to programmes would formally be approved and that, with effect from September 2014, proposals of this nature would be referred to the newly-established Education Committee Standing Committee. (Item 3.10)

3.8 With respect to the revised Joint Honours programme in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, it was <u>noted</u> that the award title would be 'Bachelor of Arts' as distinct from 'Bachelor of Arts in Subject X and Subject Y', that learning outcomes for each subject combination had been drafted and that discussions were in progress about the feasibility of grouping subject combinations on transcripts of results for ease of reference. (Item 3.12)

3.9 It was <u>noted</u> that the Chair and Mr Kelly were in discussion about the feedback to be drawn up and circulated to Faculties on foot of the Faculties' reports to the EC on the implementation of APR in 2013/14. (Item 6)

3.10 With respect to the recommendations about the future strategic direction of OBIEE, the Chair <u>noted</u> that she had raised the matter with the Senior Management Group and that SMG would submit a document for the consideration of Executive. (Item 7)

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.   Update on activities undertaken within the IUA

The Chair noted that the next meetings of the IUA Registrars and the other IUA groups would take place on 9 June 2014 and that a report from these meetings would be made to the 3 September 2014 meeting.

5.   Report on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement

5.1   Ms McKenna presented the high-level outcomes from the 2014 ISSE. It was noted that, while the differences in outcomes across the universities are not statistically significant, there is always the possibility that such numerical differences as do exist will be assumed to be significant in and of themselves. It was noted too that the outcomes appeared likely to be most useful at Faculty level but that analysing them at School level was not likely to be a useful exercise given the low response rates.

5.2   These low response rates, institutionally and nationally, were noted as being significant in terms of preventing the ISSE from being as useful as it might otherwise be. The following points were made in discussion:
- the sectoral plan to donate to student hardship funds on the basis of numbers of responses submitted did not work well, partly because some institutions took unilateral decisions to provide other kinds of incentives also
- students are requested to respond to frequent surveys of different kinds, and this has a detrimental effect on their willingness to respond to any one survey; the situation would be even more serious were it not for the fact that the Students' Union acts as a gatekeeper in terms of regulating the number of surveys circulated by students themselves
- it would be desirable if the University could prioritise a small number of surveys each year and convey to students that these are the surveys to which it is particularly important to respond
- it would be desirable to enhance the methods of closing the feedback loop to students so that they could see concrete outcomes from their engagement with ISSE and other surveys
- experience indicates that, where surveys are conducted on a relatively local basis by academic staff whom students know, response rates tend to be relatively high.

5.3   It was agreed that Mr Kelly, Ms McKenna and Mr O'Connor would meet to discuss the above and related issues and develop a set of recommendations as to

how the issue of student surveys might best be managed in future years. It was further agreed that a short presentation on the 2014 ISSE outcomes would be made at the meeting of Academic Council of 11 June 2014 and that Council would be made aware that the recommendations on surveys were under development.

6.   EC goals 2013/14

6.1   The list of goals, with an indication against each one of progress made in 2013/14, was noted.

6.2   It was agreed to reword the description of progress with respect to QuEST to make it clear that what has been activated to date is, specifically, the SSOT (survey of student opinion of teaching) segment of QuEST. It was agreed that Mr Kelly would, in the Summer months, give consideration to the implementation issues with respect to the other two segments. It was noted that the existence of the QuEST SSOTs may have militated against the gathering of feedback by means of other types of questionnaires previously used by academic staff. The potential usefulness of Coursebuilder as a means of enabling academic staff to check the extent to which modules have been delivered as planned was noted.

6.3   The importance of the key performance indicators developed on foot of the HEA compacts was noted, as was the need for the EC to be aware of the content of these indicators so that it could inform the further development of the goals. The Chair undertook to mention this matter to the President. It was agreed that the 3 September 2014 meeting would consider the goals again (the list having been updated to reflect developments over the Summer months, as appropriate) and prioritise them for 2014/15, taking account of the information in respect of the KPIs, which it is expected will be to hand at that stage.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME- AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

7.   Proposal on exit award from the BA in Music Performance, Royal Irish Academy of Music

Approved.

8.   Proposal in respect of MPhil (Education) award as an exit award from the EdD programme

Approved subject to two changes to wording: the word 'context' is to be added to the title of ES605, on page 11, and the first section of Programme Outcome no. 2 is

to be deleted, on page 13. <u>Noted</u> that a proposed MPhil award for research students would be submitted for the consideration of Academic Council at its meeting of 11 June 2014 in the context of proposed amendments to *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*.

9.   Proposed changes to the MSc in Finance

<u>Approved.</u>

10.   Proposed restructuring of the post-experience taught Master's programmes in DCU Business School

<u>Approved.</u>

11.   Proposed retitling of the MSc in Computer-aided Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

<u>Approved.</u>

12.   Proposed new pathway on the MSc in Computing

<u>Approved.</u>

13.   Proposed restructuring of the BSc in Environmental Science and Health

<u>Approved.</u>

14.   Proposed change to title: MSc in Guidance and Counselling

<u>Approved.</u>

15.   Any other business

A protocol for initiation, approval, management and implementation of 3U joint academic programmes was <u>approved</u>. It was <u>agreed</u> that it would be submitted for the consideration of Academic Council at its meeting of 11 June 2014 (it has already been submitted to the Academic Councils of the two other 3U partner institutions). It was <u>noted</u> that, aside from its usefulness in relation to existing and proposed 3U programmes, the protocol might well be helpful as a guide in drawing up other such protocols with respect to other types of collaborative activities.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 3 September 2014, 2.00 p.m. in A204

Signed: _____   Date: _____
              Chair