

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 7 May 2014

2.00-3.05 p.m. in A204

Present: Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Professor John Costello, Professor Alan Harvey, Dr Sarah Ingle, Mr Billy Kelly, Dr Lisa Looney, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Professor Barry McMullin, Mr Martin Molony, Mr Ciarán O'Connor, Dr Anne Sinnott, Dr Sheelagh Wickham

Apologies: Dr Claire Bohan, Dr John Doyle, Dr Fionnuala Waldron

In attendance: Professor Mark Brown, Ms Aisling McKenna

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 2 April 2014

The minutes were confirmed and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** It was noted that processes and templates for collaborative research supervision had been discussed by the Graduate Research Studies Board at its meeting of 6 March 2014. Following this, discussions had taken place with the Finance Office about matters such as insurance, and relevant wording for insertion in the documentation had been drawn up. The documentation will now be made available

- for use, and its fitness for purpose will be monitored on an ongoing basis.
(Item 3.1)
- 3.2** It was noted that discussions were in progress about a number of issues relating to the use of mobile telephone data. (Item 3.2)
- 3.3** It was noted that the working group on challenging modules had met on a number of occasions and had discussed relevant issues with module co-ordinators and Programme Chairs. As a result of the discussions, some amendments had been made to some modules available in Semester 2 2013/14 and to some modules and academic structures for Semester 1 2014/15. It was agreed that a report on the effect of these changes would be made to the EC in 2014/15 as part of standard reporting on examination performance. (Item 3.3)
- 3.4** It was noted 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 3 September 2014. (Item 3.4)
- 3.5** The following were noted as having been completed or nearing completion:
- The combined policy on feedback and assessment will be placed on the web pages of the Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning. (Item 3.4)
 - The policy and procedures in respect of non-payment of fees by students, and interactions with relevant students, is being drawn up. (Item 3.8)
 - A request from the Gaelic Players' Association was discussed as appropriate. (Item 4.2)
 - The information on QuEST will be placed on the web pages of the Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning. Incentives have been put in place to encourage students to complete SSOTs in Semester 2 2013/14. (Item 9)
 - Discussions on the proposed MA in Irish Studies will be progressed in due course. (Item 11)
- 3.6** It was noted that the working group on the student records system had submitted its report to the Chief Operations Officer and that this report would, if he so advised, be made available to the EC. The report is not a specification for a proposed new system but rather a description of the strengths (such as reliability and robustness) and weaknesses (as pointed out by various stakeholders) of the current system. (Item 3.5)
- 3.7** It was noted that the e-portfolio initiative would formally be launched in due course. (Item 3.7)
- 3.8** It was noted that the working group on timetabling was continuing its deliberations. (Item 3.9)

- 3.9** It was noted that the Teaching Council was aware of the importance of making 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. The IUA Registrars' group is to make recommendations to the Council in this regard. (Item 4.3)
- 3.10** The planned implementation of the revised approval procedures for changes to programmes, from September 2014, was noted. All existing documentation will be withdrawn following the 4 June 2014 meeting of the EC and will be replaced by the new documentation, detailed procedures will be drawn up, and stakeholders will be made aware of these procedures. (Item 7)
- 3.11** It was noted that the addition of MPhil to the list of research awards would be submitted to the University Standards Committee meeting of 29 May 2014, in the context of consideration of revisions to *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* for 2014/15. (Item 8)
- 3.12** It was noted that work was ongoing to agree, and document, the exact titles of all awards in the revised/extended BA (Joint Honours) programme and to decide whether to have one overarching award title, i.e. 'Bachelor of Arts' or tailored titles such as 'Bachelor of Arts (Subject X and Subject Y)'. It was noted too that programme learning outcomes tailored to each possible subject combination were being written. (Item 10)

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.

5. Report on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement

It was noted that information on the outcomes of the 2014 survey would be available in time for a report to be made to the 4 June 2014 meeting of the EC. It was noted too that the ISSE plenary group had recommended that these 2014 outcomes not be made available on a per-institution basis and that this recommendation would be implemented. The situation with respect to publication of outcomes in future years is not known, but it was noted that whether or not they are published on a per-institution basis they are likely to yield increasingly useful information as trends become apparent over time.

6. Report on APR as operated in Faculties in 2013/14

The outcomes per Faculty were noted, as was the usefulness of the exercise and the appropriateness of the template that had been devised and used. A number of University-level issues of concern, such as the lack of resources for upgrading equipment required for teaching, were noted. It was agreed that the Chair and Mr Kelly would draw up a report to be sent to the Faculties which would indicate that these University-level issues had been noted and referred for the consideration of the relevant members of Senior Management (on the understanding, however, that such referral would not necessarily guarantee that the requisite resources could be made available). It was suggested that the template might, in future, incorporate sections relevant to the digital campus and to Library resources.

7. EC goals 2013/14

7.1 OBIEE

The report on developments with respect to OBIEE in 2013/14 was noted. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that further developments would benefit from consistency of funding and, in particular, from a focused strategic approach that would make it very clear what the University's priorities are with respect to the potential of OBIEE (as distinct from how OBIEE can be used to meet specific needs in the short term). It was agreed that the Chair would write to Executive on behalf of the EC to make a recommendation that arrangements be made to ensure such a strategic approach.

7.2 Other goals

Noted as ongoing.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME- AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

8. Proposed new pathway in Health Care Ethics on the MA in Ethics

Approved.

9. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 4 June 2014, 2.00 p.m. in A204

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____