

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, 21 May 2024

3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

A204, Glasnevin Campus

- Present:** Professor Dominic Elliott, Professor Derek Hand, Dr Rachel Keegan, Ms Pauline Mooney, Professor Sharon O'Brien, Dr Monica Ward (Chair) and Professor Blánaid White
- Apologies:** Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Dr Jennifer Bruton, Mr Eoin Crossen, Professor John Doyle, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon, Professor Anne Looney, Professor Lisa Looney, Dr Jennifer McManis and Dr Paul Young
- In attendance:** Dr Jing Burgi-Tian and Dr David Mc Carthy (Secretary)

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

2.1 Revised Academic Offering: MA in Gender Studies

The Standing Committee met with Dr Orla Springer to consider the RAO for the MA in Gender Studies.

Dr Springer informed the Committee that 'MA in Gender and Sexuality Studies' is the dominant programme title across the sector and has replaced 'Gender Studies'. Dr Springer

confirmed that four core modules contain “sexuality” in their title and/or content and that four of the six option modules contain “sexuality” in their title or module descriptor. The Committee reiterated the importance that the programme title reflects the curriculum and content of a programme.

The Committee queried whether any content relating to gender and sexuality studies is missing from the curriculum. Dr Springer explained that all the relevant content is included in the curriculum and that “sexuality” is being used more frequently in a socio-cultural context across humanities disciplines.

The Revised Academic Offering: MA in Gender Studies was **approved** subject to the following:

- Changing the programme title to 'MA in Gender and Sexuality Studies' as this most accurately reflects the overall curriculum structure and content of specific modules.
- Reversing changes to module titles, module descriptors and indicative content that removed 'sexuality' in light of the proposed change to the programme title.

Based on discussions with the programme proposer, the Standing Committee noted that:

- Exit Awards should reflect the above programme title, i.e. Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Graduate Diploma in Gender and Sexuality Studies.
- The RAO document should be revised to (i) confirm the programme will be delivered in-person full-time, (ii) remove or update, as appropriate, the reference to the Academic Framework for Innovation (2009), and (iii) update the career pathways section to reflect the learning outcomes and curriculum content.

3. DCU Business School

3.1 Revised Academic Offering: MSc in Investment, Treasury and Banking

The Standing Committee met with Jonathan Begg and Dr Aref Mahdavi Ardekani to consider the RAO for the MSc in Investment, Treasury and Banking.

Dr Ardekani set out the rationale for creating a Graduate Certificate in Investment, Treasury & Banking (30 ECTS Credits) as an Exit Award from the MSc in Investment, Treasury &

Banking. The programme is being closed out and this award will allow students who have not completed sufficient credits for the MSc or Graduate Diploma to exit with an award.

The Committee explained that, in these circumstances, DCU would normally close registrations and allow a two-year period to close out the programme to provide reasonable accommodation to students to complete their programme of enrolment. This requires a programme structure to remain in place for the duration of this period and suggested that DCUBS should explore including substitute modules from comparable programmes, which would allow students to meet the programme learning outcomes and complete sufficient credits for the MSc or Graduate Diploma. The Committee reiterated the importance that all options available to the student should be explained to them.

The proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Investment, Treasury & Banking as an Exit Award from the MSc in Investment, Treasury & Banking was **approved**.

The Committee noted that the RAO document should be revised to:

- Indicate that the Graduate Certificate in Investment, Treasury & Banking is a Minor Award.
- Make clear that DCUBS will honour the maximum registration period as set out in Marks & Standards and make reasonable accommodations to allow students to complete the MSc/Graduate Diploma in Investment, Treasury & Banking. This would include retaining a programme structure and exploring how cognate modules could be included in the structure once they allow students to meet the programme learning outcomes.

4. Faculty of Science and Health

4.1 Direct Entry to BSc in Chemistry with Artificial Intelligence

The Standing Committee met with Dr Emma Coyle to consider the request to establish a Direct Entry route to the BSc in Chemistry with Artificial Intelligence.

Dr Coyle set out the rationale for the request. The BSc in Chemistry with Artificial Intelligence is unique in the sector and creating a Direct Entry route poses an opportunity for DCU to establish itself as the preeminent university in this discipline area.

Dr Coyle explained to the Committee that establishing a Direct Entry route to the BSc in Chemistry with Artificial Intelligence would align it with the BSc in Analytical Science and the BSc in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr Coyle confirmed that transfers to the BSc in Chemistry with Artificial Intelligence from Chemical Sciences General Entry will continue.

The request to establish a Direct Entry route to the BSc in Chemistry with Artificial Intelligence was **approved**.

5. Any other business

There were no items of other business.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 September 2024
at 2.00 pm
Room AG01, Glasnevin Campus