

## **UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Thursday 29 August 2024

10:05 am – 11:05 am

A204, Glasnevin Campus

**Present:** Ms Aoife Butler, Dr Martina Crehan, Mr Justin Doyle, Professor Yseult Freeney, Professor Theo Lynn, Dr Jennifer McManis, Dr Ruth McManus, Ms Phylomena McMorro, Dr Mark O'Brien, Dr Niamh O'Sullivan, Dr Monica Ward (Chair), and Ms Aedin Whelan (Secretary), and Ms Jennifer Yore

**Apologies:** Professor Sharon O'Brien and Ms Miriam Ryan

The Chair welcomed Ms Aoife Butler, Students' Union Vice President for Academic Life, to her first meeting of University Standards Committee.

The Chair acknowledged that the terms of the current Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning of the Faculty of Science and Health are due to end soon, and this will impact on the membership of University Standards Committee.

### **A. Minutes and related issues**

#### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**2. Minutes of previous meetings**

Minutes of the University Standards Committee meeting of 16 May 2024 had been approved electronically.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the University Standards Committee of 16 May 2024**

It was noted that there are no immediate matters arising for action. The Secretary will review all items in advance of the October meeting of the Committee, which is the first meeting of the 2024/2025 academic year.

**B. Faculty issues****4. External examiners for taught programmes****4.1 Nominations**

4.1.1 University of Neuchatel  
Module Examiner in DCU Business School  
Approved

4.1.2 Trinity College Dublin  
BSc Computer Applications  
BSc Computer Science  
Approved

4.1.3 University of Limerick  
BSc Sport Science and Health  
Approved

- 4.1.4 Dundalk Institute of Technology  
BA Media Production Management (Ballyfermot College of Further Education)  
Not approved

There was insufficient information provided on the nomination form for University Standards Committee to make a decision. It was requested that additional information would be provided with respect to the previous teaching experience of the nominee.

- 4.1.5 Univerzita Komenského  
Modules in the School of Applied Languages  
Approved

- 4.1.6 Trinity College Dublin  
MSc Emergency Management  
Approved

- 4.1.7 University of Limerick  
MSc Advanced Nursing Practice (PNU)  
Approved

#### **4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties**

- 4.2.1 Newcastle University  
MA in Children's and Young Adult Literature  
Approved

- 4.2.2 Queens University Belfast  
MSc in Specialist Nursing  
Approved

- 4.2.3 University College Dublin  
Certificate in Peer Support Working Mental Health  
Approved

- 4.2.4 University of Eastern Finland  
MSc in Health and Social Inclusion  
Approved

**5. Other issues: Faculty**

**5.1 Faculty of Science and Health**

5.1.1 Legacy Readmission Request: BSc in Physics with Astronomy  
Approved

**5.1.2 Programme regulations approval**

5.1.2.1 BSc in Athletic Therapy and Training  
Approved

5.1.2.2 BSc in Athletic Therapy and Training/MSc in Athletic Therapy and Strength and  
Conditioning (Integrated)  
Approved

5.1.2.3 BSc in Physical Education with Biology  
Approved

5.1.2.4 BSc in Physical Education with Maths  
Approved

**5.2 DCU Institute of Education**

**5.2.1 Programme regulations approval**

5.2.1.1 Bachelor of Education  
Approved

5.2.1.2 BSc in Science Education  
Approved

5.2.1.3 BSc in Science and Mathematics Education  
Approved

**5.3 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences****5.3.1 Programme regulations approval**

5.3.1.1 European Master in Law, Data and Artificial Intelligence  
Approved

5.3.1.2 International Master in Security, Intelligence, and Strategic Studies  
Noted

**5.4 Faculty of Engineering and Computing**

5.4.1 Nomination form for the appointment of an External Reviewer for Periodic Programme Review for the BEng in Biomedical Engineering and BEng/Meng in Biomedical Engineering  
Approved

**C: Other issues (not Faculty-specific)****6. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Update**

The Chair advised that the National RPL Project, funded by the Human Capital Initiative, is ongoing and will run until March 2025. The project aims to elevate Ireland's national ability to acknowledge formal, non-formal and informal learning experience of applicants. DCU is one of fourteen Irish Higher Education Institutions taking part in the project.

DCU's RPL Hub is now live to assist potential applicants through the application process. RPL applications will be assessed by the relevant Programme Chair and another academic colleague, who will note the decision to Registry once it has been approved by the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning. It was reported that further training regarding the process will be provided to Programme Chairs and Faculty Support Staff. A rationale for the decision made on each applicant assessed via RPL will be noted. It was remarked that the RPL applications for Research and Springboard students will differ from the standard process, as is currently the case.

The Director of Registry signalled that even where an RPL application results in a positive outcome for the applicant, it does not guarantee them a place on their preferred programme, as in some cases applications will far exceed the available capacity.

For the 2024/25 academic year, until the end of March 2025, DCU's focus will be on agreeing a process for the assessment of previous learning that could be used to gain advanced entry to a programme and/or module exemptions.

**7. Schedule of meetings for 2024-2025**

It was noted that all meetings of University Standards Committee for the 2024/2025 academic year will take place in person, with one meeting per semester scheduled for St. Patricks' Campus.

**8. Any other business**

There were no items of business.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of next meeting:**

Thursday, 31 October 2024 10:00am Room G401, St Patricks' Campus
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