

## **UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Thursday 31 October 2024

10:05 am – 11:35 am

G401, St. Patricks' Campus

**Present:** Ms Aoife Butler, Dr Martina Crehan, Mr Justin Doyle, Dr Jennifer Foster, Professor Yseult Freeney, Professor Theo Lynn, Professor Anne Matthews, Dr Ruth McManus, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Mark O'Brien, Ms Miriam Ryan, Dr Monica Ward (Chair), and Ms Aedín Whelan (Secretary), and Ms Jennifer Yore

**Apologies:** Professor Sharon O'Brien

**In attendance:** Ms Georgina Roberts (for item 7)

The Chair opened the meeting and expressed her gratitude to Dr Jennifer Mc Manis, Faculty of Engineering and Computing, and Dr Niamh O'Sullivan, Faculty of Science and Health, whose terms as Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning have recently concluded.

The Chair welcomed Dr Jennifer Foster, Faculty of Engineering and Computing, and Professor Anne Matthews, Faculty of Science and Health, who have recently taken up the position as Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in their respective Faculties. The Chair also welcomed Ms Miriam Ryan, DCU Institute of Education, to her first meeting as Interim Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning.

The Chair acknowledged that the term for the representative from the Director of Information Systems Services and the University Librarian is due to rotate in November to the University Librarian, therefore this will be the last meeting for Mr Justin Doyle.

**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 29 August 2024 were approved.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of the University Standards Committee of 29 August 2024**

- 3.1 It was noted that the maximum number of modules to be assigned to External Examiners would be placed on the agenda of the 9 January 2025 meeting.
- 3.2 It was noted that all required information regarding the Unihaven international entry route had been received by Registry from the Faculties therefore this item is now complete.
- 3.3 It was noted that a review of the wording of carry forward modules in the context of programme specific regulations is included on the agenda of this meeting (item 9).
- 3.4 It was noted that the composition of Progression and Award Boards within DCU Business School has not been raised as an item for further consideration and this item can be closed.
- 3.5 It was noted that no further documentation was received in respect of the BSc in Computer Applications exceptional readmission request considered at the USC meeting of 31 August 2023. This item is deemed complete.
- 3.6 It was noted that programme regulations for the Graduate Certificate in Autism Education and the Masters in Special Education Needs were approved by Chair's Action, 6 September 2024.

- 3.7 It was noted that the expansion of duties of the external examiner for the European Master in Law, Data and Artificial Intelligence was approved by Chair's Action, 11 October 2024.

**B. Faculty issues**

**4. External examiners for taught programmes**

**4.1 Nominations**

- 4.1.1 University of Galway  
BSc in Bioprocessing  
Approved
- 4.1.2 Queen's University Belfast  
BA in International Relations  
Approved
- 4.1.3 Maynooth University  
BSc in Analytical Science  
Approved

It was noted that additional information regarding the nominee's external examiner experience was provided, and the nomination was approved taking this additional information into consideration.

- 4.1.4 University of Stavanger  
MA In Social Media Communications  
Approved
- 4.1.5 Aberystwyth University  
MA in Documentary Practice  
Approved
- 4.1.6 Queen's University Belfast  
Modules in the DCU Business School  
Approved

4.1.7 University of Bath  
Modules in the School of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies  
Approved

4.1.8 South East Technological University  
BEng in Mechatronic Engineering  
MEng in Mechatronic Engineering  
Approved

4.1.9 Technological University Dublin  
MSc in Computing  
Approved

4.1.10 University of Leeds  
Modules in the DCU Business School  
Approved

It was noted that module MNA1132 'Organisational Psychology' should be removed from the list of modules assigned to this examiner.

4.1.11 Virginia Commonwealth University  
MSc in Business Administration  
Approved

4.1.12 Queen's University Belfast  
Modules in the School of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies  
Approved

4.1.13 Washington State University  
MEd in Literacy and Professional Practice  
Approved

4.1.14 University of Southern Denmark  
Modules in the School of Law and Government  
Approved

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

There were no items for consideration.

**5. Other issues: Faculty****5.1 Faculty of Engineering and Computing**

5.1.1 Programme Regulations approval: BSc in Data Science  
Approved

**5.2 DCU Business School**

5.2.1 Legacy Readmission Request: MSc in Management of Internet Enterprise Systems  
Approved

5.2.2 Module Exemption Request: MSc in Management (Digital Marketing)

Following detailed discussion, it was agreed that the student would be required to complete 20 credits to address the shortfall in credits that currently exists, and an additional 10 credits to maintain the currency of the learning outcomes of the existing programme. DCU Business School will liaise with Registry to confirm the exact modules the student will be required to complete.

Approved

5.2.3 Legacy Readmission Request: MSc in Management (Aviation Leadership)  
Approved

**5.3 Faculty of Science and Health****5.3.1 Programme regulations approval**

5.3.1.1 BSc in Biotechnology  
Approved

5.3.1.2 BSc Chemistry with Artificial Intelligence  
Approved

5.3.1.3 BSc in Nursing  
Approved

5.3.1.4 BSc Psychology with Mathematics  
Approved

5.3.1.5 MSc in Child and Family Health and Wellbeing  
Approved

5.3.1.6 MSc in Health and Social Inclusion  
Approved

**5.3.2 QQI Entry Routes: BSc in Psychology, BSc in Psychology and Disruptive Technologies, BSc in Psychology with Mathematics**

It was noted that the number of students that would be offered a place via this entry route would be limited due to the high demand for Psychology programmes and restrictions regarding staff/student ratio as imposed by the Psychological Society of Ireland. The provision of this entry route was deemed as a positive development in widening access to DCU programmes.

Approved

**C: Other issues (not Faculty-specific)**

**6. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Update**

The Chair provided an update regarding the National RPL Project, which is due to conclude in March 2025. DCU's RPL Working Group will meet in the near future and will continue to develop processes regarding the management of applicants who apply for advanced entry on to a programme, and/or exemptions, based on RPL. The RPL Working Group will collate resources for staff involved in RPL applications, after the conclusion of the National RPL Project.

**7. QQI Further Education Level 5 Maths Requirement**

*Ms Georgina Roberts, Student Admissions and Enrolment Manager, joined the meeting for this item.*

The Student Admissions and Enrolment Manager outlined that consultation had taken place between Admissions and the Executive Faculties regarding accepting the QQI FE Maths module Maths for Stem 5N0556 and to realign the grade acceptable for Maths module 5N1833 for entry 2025. It was noted that the Faculty of Engineering & Computing already accepted this module for entry. The remaining Faculties have now agreed that this module would meet the QQI FE maths requirement for entry to their programmes. In addition, some Faculties agreed to a realignment of the grade accepted for Maths module 5N1833. Faculties have approved the following changes through their relevant internal decision-making boards.

It was outlined that the implementation of the proposed changes would align with the strategic aim of widening access to DCU programmes and would also facilitate more consistency between entry requirements for Leaving Certificate and QQI Further Education students. It was noted that the Maths for Stem 5N0556 module is not currently widely offered among Further Education providers, however, some local Education and Training Boards have indicated that they would revise this, should the module be acceptable for entry to DCU.

Approved

*Ms Georgina Roberts, Student Admissions and Enrolment Manager, left the meeting after this item.*

**8. Granting of exceptional third repeat academic sessions by the Registrar, Annual Report (2023/24 and 2024/25)**

Noted

**9. Programme specific regulations: articulation of carry forward modules**

The Chair noted that this item has been included under Matters Arising, stemming from the desire to provide an articulation of carrying forward of modules, within programme specific regulations, that is clear and transparent to students.

The suggested wording was approved, subject to the inclusion of the additional text 'module content'. The updated text shall read:

- 'Students will **not** be permitted to carry modules. However, in exceptional circumstances<sup>1</sup> the Progression and Award Board may permit the student to carry up to xx credits. The academic record of the student to date, the module content, and mode of delivery will be taken into consideration when making this decision.'

It was noted that a guidance note would be included that a maximum of ten credits to be carried forward should not normally be exceeded.

**10. Academic Integrity Sub-committee**

The Chair noted that the Academic Integrity Sub-committee will be reconvened during the current academic year to review the Academic Integrity Policy, which was revised and approved by Academic Council in 2023.



**11. Any other business**

- 11.1 The Secretary provided an update regarding the programme regulations template for 2025/26. It was noted that the template will be considered by USC at its January 2025 meeting, for noting. The approval of programme specific regulations by USC will cease for the academic year 2025/26 onwards, in line with the implementation of the Curriculum Blueprint which approved a model where curriculum is owned and driven by Executive Faculties. It was noted that derogations from Marks and Standards will continue to be submitted for approval by USC as per the current process. The responsibility for the publication of programme regulations will remain centrally within the remit of the OVPAA under the Curriculum Management Service.

**Date of next meeting:**

Thursday, 9 January 2025 10:00am A204, Glasnevin
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