

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES

22 June 2020

2.00 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

**Present:**

B. Anderson	SJ. Belton	F. Blin
S. Blott	C. Bohan	L. Boran
M. Brown	J. Brunton	J. Bruton
M. Butler	PJ. Byrne	B. Corcoran
E. Costello	M. Coulter	D. Curran
N. Dunne	O. Feeney	L. Fitzsimons
P. Flynn	Y. Freeney	C. Furlong
L. Gallagher	P. Gallagher	R. Gillanders
P. Guasoni	E. Guilfoyle	D. Hand
S. Hegarty	G. Jones	A. Kearns
R. Keegan (Secretary)	B. Kelly	D. Keogh
A. Logan	L. Looney	J. Lovatt
B. MacCraith (Chair)	C. Mac Murchaidh	C. McArdle
K. McDonagh	E. McDonald	C. McGonagle
A. McKenna	J. McManis	P. McMorrow
E. McNulty	M. McSharry	P. Meleady
P. Mooney	E. Morgenroth	J.-P. Mosnier
G.-M. Muntean	R. Murphy	C. Ni Mhurchú
D. Nic Mhathúna	S. O'Brien	C. O'Carroll
A. Parle-McDermott	P. Robbins	P. Rosati
K. Sanders	P. Sharkey Scott	G. Sinclair
A. Sinnott	J. Stokes	T. Szecsi
J. Travers	J. Usher	L. Van der Werff
P. Van Kampen	L. Waugh-Daly	B. White

**In attendance:** V. Cooke

**Apologies:**

D. Collings	G. French	G. Hughes
J. Kelly	A Looney	A. McAuley
E. McGlynn	P. Ó Duibhir	M. R. Sweeney

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**A. Minutes and Related Issues****2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 3 June 2020**

The minutes were approved. It was noted that formal minutes would be signed once on-campus activity resumes.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 29 April 2020 and 27 May 2020**

Approved

**5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 21 May 2020**

Approved

**B. Policy and Strategy Issues****6. President's report (oral report)**

6.1 The President updated Council on the impact of COVID-19 on the sector, drawing attention to the economic impact arising from the loss of commercial revenue and international students into Ireland in 2020/21. The President also drew attention to the draft Programme for Government which calls out the significant role of universities in the recovery of Ireland and the need to develop a long-term sustainable funding model for the higher education sector.

6.2 The President informed Council that we have now transitioned from emergency crisis management to planning and implementation for the next academic year. He emphasised the gratitude of Senior Management to staff who have been at the coal face of these transitions. The President indicated that, in moving to a hybrid delivery model for 20/21, we are well prepared in regard to expertise and infrastructure. He acknowledged the substantial work at an individual academic level and emphasised his gratitude to staff for undertaking this work.

6.3 The President informed Council that many ceremonies and awards have moved online and the first online graduation ceremony has taken place for graduates of the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health. He commended Registry, Communications and Marketing and the President's Office for the huge undertaking in ensuring that the warmth and

professionalism of DCU ceremonies was replicated in an online setting. The President also thanked DCU staff for their engagement and support in the first virtual open days which took place last week.

6.4 The President provided a brief update on the return to campus work. He informed Council that some research students are now back on campus for laboratory work. He indicated that preparatory work was ongoing, led by Prof. Keogh and Prof. Sinnott, to ensure we optimise the student experience in the coming academic year.

6.5 The President informed Council that this is his last Academic Council as President. He highlighted his ongoing appreciation to the DCU community and applauded DCU's ongoing commitment academic quality and innovation.

## **7. COVID-19 – Continuity arrangements**

Prof. Guilfoyle provided a summary of work being undertaken in preparation for the 20/21 academic year:

- In closing out the last academic year, Progression and Award Boards have now been concluded and results will be published at the end of this week.
- Faculties are currently reviewing programme structures and working towards the development of hybrid-models of delivery for 20/21.
- Preparations for the appeals process is ongoing with the process moving online.
- The processes for postponement of examinations and extenuating circumstances were both simplified this year. Prof. Guilfoyle informed Council that there was an expected increase in postponements but a reduction in the number of extenuating circumstances.

## **C. Items for Formal Approval/Noting**

### **8. Examination and Progression and Awards Board Reports, Summer 2020**

Approved

### **9. Dublin City University Honorary Doctorate Committee: Terms of Reference**

Noted

### **10. Accreditation reports**

#### **10.1 Doctor of Elite Performance (Sport)**

Approved

**11. Any other business**

11.1 The Secretary informed Council that Education Committee will be seeking an Academic Council nominee to the Committee. Nominations forms will be circulated in due course.

11.2 Prof. Guilfoyle noted that this was Prof. MacCraith's last meeting of Academic Council as President and thanked him for his academic leadership over the past ten years which saw many changes including the significant expansion of DCU's programme portfolio resulting from incorporation.

Other members of Council communicated their thanks to the President, highlighting his student centric approach to leadership, his commitment to teaching and learning and his foresight and vision which has transformed DCU and continues to challenge its community to be the best that it can be.

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

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

**Date of next meeting:**

14 October 2020

2:00 pm

**Location TBC**