

**UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

Thursday 21 May 2020

9.30 a.m. – 10.20 a.m. via Zoom

**Present:** Mr Callaghan Commons, Dr Lorraine Delaney, Dr Yseult Freeney, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Anna Logan, Prof Christine Loscher, Dr Kenneth McDonagh, Dr Catherine McGonagle, Mr Peter McGorman, Dr Jennifer McManis, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Prof Edgar Morgenroth, Ms Michele Pringle and Dr Joseph Stokes

**SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES**

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of 2 April 2020**

The minutes of 2 April 2020 were approved. It was noted that formal minutes would be signed once on-campus activity resumes.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of 2 April 2020**

- 3.1** It was noted that plans to hold an extraordinary Progression and Award Board to ratify the Professional Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education results, which pre-date incorporation, are ongoing (item 3.1).
- 3.2** It was noted that work on the linking of programme regulations to the Loop programme page will be deferred until 2020-2021 (Item 3.2).
- 3.3** It was noted that consideration of 'attendance' by TEU as reflected in the programme regulations will be deferred until 2021 (Item 3.3).
- 3.4** It was noted that the deferral of an assessment for a student taking a microcredential was approved by Chair's Action on 8 May 2020. The decision to allow this deferral was made in the context of the current circumstances brought about by Covid-19.

**SECTION B: FACULTY ISSUES****4. External examiners for taught programmes****4.1 Nominations**

## 4.1.1 NUI Galway

Modules in DCU Business School

Decision deferred, noted that the nominated external examiner was being proposed to examine two modules in accounting. It was requested that some further clarity would be provided to the Chair on the context of this appointment. The Chair indicated that he would consider the nomination by Chair's Action following such clarification.

## 4.1.2 University of East Anglia

MA in Translation Studies, MSc in Translation Technology

Approved

## 4.1.3 University of Manchester

Modules in School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies

Approved, subject to correction of the publication entry on the nomination form (provision of journal/publication name and authors)

## 4.1.4 NUI Galway

BSc in Physics with Astronomy, BSc in Applied Physics, BSc in Physics with Biomedical Sciences

Approved

## 4.1.5 University of Nottingham

Doctor of Education, taught modules

Approved

## 4.1.6 University of Glasgow

MA in Social Media Communications, MA in Social Media Studies

Approved, noted that the Uaneen non-contributing module should not be included in the list of modules to be examined

## 4.1.7 Goldsmiths, University of London

Modules in the School of History and Geography

Approved

## 4.1.8 University College Cork

BSc in Biotechnology

Approved, subject to correction of the publication entry on the nomination form (provision of journal/publication name and authors)

- 4.1.9 Newcastle University  
BSc in Analytical Sciences  
Approved
- 4.1.10 Dublin Institute of Technology  
Modules in the School of Mathematical Sciences  
Approved, subject to correction of the publication entry on the nomination form (provision of journal/publication name and authors), clarification of the modules MS134 and MS135 which appear as 'pending' and consequent correction to the average number of modules to be examined.
- 4.1.11 St. Mary's University College, Belfast  
MEd in Literacy Professional Practice  
Approved
- 4.1.12 Maynooth University  
Common Entry into Actuarial and Financial Mathematics  
Decision deferred, noted that the nomination is not in line with regulations. It was requested that an alternative nomination would be submitted, or a rationale provided to justify the second appointment from Maynooth University for the September 2020 meeting of USC.

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

- 4.2.1 University of London  
BSc in Children's and General Nursing  
Approved, noted a correction was required to the paperwork to ensure clarity as to which programme was to be added to the external examiner's duties.

## **5. OTHER ISSUES: FACULTY**

### **5.1 Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences**

- 5.1.1 Legacy readmission request: Bachelor of Arts: Joint Honours  
Approved
- 5.1.2 Legacy readmission request: BA in Economics, Politics, and Law  
Approved, it was recommended that clarity would be provided to Registry on the calculation of the precision mark in the context of the student's record.

### 5.1.3 Request for approval of exemptions for an *ab initio* re-admission

Not approved. It was noted that the mapping of exemptions to modules already completed did not reconcile and, in addition, the content of some of those modules would have changed substantially since the student was registered originally.

It was noted that where a student is applying *ab initio* to a programme through this process, given the time lapse involved, there would be a strong expectation of a requirement to complete additional taught modules to bring learning up to date.

It was agreed that the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning would discuss the matter with the Programme Chair and revert to the Chair with the outcome of those discussions. It was agreed that the Chair would take Chair's Action in advance of the September 2020 USC meeting in order to be able to provide clarity to the student to enable registration in September 2020.

## 5.2 DCU Institute of Education

### 5.2.1 Legacy readmission request: Professional Master of Education (Primary Teaching)

Approved, to exit with a Graduate Diploma in Education Studies

### 5.2.2 Legacy readmission request: Professional Certificate/ Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education

Approved

## 5.3 Faculty of Science and Health

### 5.3.1 Amendments to Programme Regulations for 2019-2020 (for noting)

The following amendments were noted:

- Additional statement to School of Psychology programme regulations related to contingency arrangements and the PSI
- Allowing BSc in Nursing programmes (all streams), to carry one failed or deferred practice module
- The calculation of the Previous Element Contribution will include Pass/Fail modules for the School of Health and Human Performance and School of Mathematical Sciences.

**SECTION C: OTHER ISSUES (NOT FACULTY-SPECIFIC)****6. Marks and Standards 2020.1**

Approved. It was noted that there were very minor amendments to Marks and Standards 2020.1.

**7. Programme Regulations 2020-2021**

It was noted that most programme regulations had been submitted and it was requested that there would be an extension to the date by which programme regulations for 2020-2021 would be approved to allow time for further review and the submission of late programme regulations.

The Chair informed USC it was likely in the planning for delivery of programmes for 2020-2021 that further modifications may have to be made to academic structures, and these may impact on programme regulations. It was anticipated that this work would be completed in early July and it was recommended the final date by which programme regulations would be approved would be set for mid-July.

The Secretary indicated that she would write out to faculties to confirm revised arrangements.

**8. Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2020-2021**

Approved

**9. Report on English Language derogation: Faculty of Engineering & Computing and Faculty of Science & Health**

Noted

The Chair outlined the background to the derogation indicating that it has been running since 2014 and allows students to enter the first year of a research degree without fully meeting the DCU English language requirements, but requires them to achieve them at the end of the first year, with formal support provided by the Faculty. In 2018 it had been agreed that reports on the operation of the derogation would be reviewed by USC every two years.

The Dean of Graduate Studies indicated that the operation of the derogation process in general had been successful and noted that the Graduate Research Studies Board (GRSB) would like to continue its operation and continue with reporting on student progress and outcomes every two years, as previously agreed.

The Chair observed that it was indicated in reports from both faculties that the process had not operated as set-out in every case, and he emphasised that the process places an obligation on the faculties concerned to ensure formal supports are in place for these students. The Chair recommended that the faculties in question should be reminded of their formal obligation to students who are admitted under this derogation.

It was agreed by USC that the operation of the derogation was successful and subject to the recommendation that participating faculties would be reminded of the formal process and their obligation to provide formal supports to individual students, that the two-year review of student progress and outcomes would continue. It was noted that USC's recommendation would be progressed at GRSB.

**10. Any other business**

It was noted that the annual schedule of meetings was being amended to accommodate the change in the start of the academic year 2020-2021 and USC meetings would begin one week later than originally scheduled in semester one 2020.

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

**Date of next meeting:**

Thursday, 10 September 2020

9.30 a.m. via Zoom