

## **ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

10 December 2014

2.00 - 2.55 p.m. in AG01

#### **PRESENT:**

P. Brereton  
D. Brougham  
M. Brown  
J. Bruen  
J. Brunton  
J. Butterly  
J. Carroll  
K. Casey  
B. Corcoran  
E. Costello  
Y. Crotty  
R. Devery  
J. Doyle  
P. Flynn  
S. Fox  
T. Furlong

G. Gillick  
M. Glynn  
E. Guilfoyle  
B. Harman  
A. Harvey  
S. Ingle  
M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)  
B. Kelly  
P. Landais  
M. Loftus  
L. Looney  
B. MacCraith (President/Chair)  
C. McDonagh  
A. McGrady  
P. McMorrow  
D. Molloy

K. Moran  
G. Murphy  
B. Nolan  
K. Nolan  
P. Ó Duibhir  
R. O'Connor  
A. O'Regan  
N. O'Reilly  
K. Rafter  
J. Rami  
M. Roantree  
A. Stover  
X. Wang  
P. Willis

**APOLOGIES:**

L. Barry	Y Daly	P. McNally
S. Belton	J. Dowling	G. Moore
C. Bohan	B. Flood	M. Nic Giolla Mhichíl
M. Brennan	G. Foley	C. Renehan
M. Byrne	C. MacMurchaidh	A. Sinnott
J. Costello	C. McMullan	M.R. Sweeney
M. Crane	B. McMullin	A. Way

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

**A: Minutes and related issues****2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 8 October 2014**

The minutes of 8 October 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters arising**

The Secretary noted that Dr J. Bruen had been nominated as the Academic Council representative on Education Committee.

**4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 3 September 2014 and 1 October 2014**

The minutes were approved.

**5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 11 September 2014**

The minutes were approved.

**6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 8 September 2014**

The minutes were approved. The Dean of Graduate Studies outlined to Academic Council that procedures on the use of videoconferencing for viva voce examinations had been revised. She asked members to note that the viva voce should, as the norm, take place in DCU and that video conferencing should only be used in very exceptional circumstances which relate to the extern (e.g. bereavement, unexpected disruption to travel, etc.).

**B: Policy and strategy issues**

**7. President's report**

- 7.1 The Incorporation Project is moving forward apace and meeting its milestones. The project is highly complex and time consuming and it was recently estimated that over 150 staff are directly involved in the Project. One of the key ongoing processes is the design of the structure of the new Faculty of Education and of the expanded Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. A significant amount of dialogue is currently taking place in this regard.

Dialogue is ongoing with the HEA and the Department of Education and Skills for additional recurrent funding and capital support for the expanded DCU. It was noted that most of the €50 million capital development in St. Patrick's College was committed by the exchequer prior to Incorporation. DCU is now seeking additional funds to support the infrastructural needs of the Project.

As all first year students from St. Patrick's College and Mater Dei Institute will be registered as DCU students in September 2015, this will have a very significant impact on many DCU systems and processes, especially from a Registry perspective. All staff involved were working diligently to meet this deadline.

- 7.2 The DCU-DKIT Graduate School was launched by Minister for Education and Skills, Jan O'Sullivan at the DKIT campus in October 2014. From September 2014, all new postgraduate research students will have their degrees accredited by DCU.

- 7.3 Mr. Trevor Holmes, Vice President for External Affairs, has recently taken up his post and will be leading on the external engagement functions of the University, encompassing international affairs, communications and marketing, student recruitment and civic engagement.
- 7.4 Recent DCU research successes under Horizon 2020 were commended, most notably in the Marie Curie Actions area where DCU has outperformed all other institutions in terms of Innovative Training Networks (ITNs).
- 7.5 In relation to the broader community involvement, the Green Campus Flag had been awarded to DCU and the huge community effort, led by Dr Samantha Fahy and involving the Students' Union and nearby St. Aidan's school, was acknowledged. In addition, it was noted that the Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development, coordinated by DCU, had been designated recently by the United Nations University.
- 7.6 With regard to the recent conferring ceremonies in November, all staff involved were complimented for their participation in the event and, in particular, Registry for the smooth and professional organisation of all ceremonies.
- 7.7 Council members were reminded of the forthcoming Christmas celebrations noting that the celebrations will include the marking of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of DCU's achievement of University status.
- 7.8 Arising from Government support for the Irish language, an Oifigeach na Gaeilge will be set up in DCU with this Irish Language Officer spending fifty per cent of her time in support of Irish on the DCU campus.

## **8. Presentation on HEA First Destination Returns data 2013**

Ms. A. McKenna, the Institutional Research and Analysis Officer, presented the outcomes of the HEA First Destination Returns survey which was conducted in May/June 2014 and encompassed those who graduated at the 2013 ceremonies. In the course of this presentation, and in the ensuing discussion, the following were noted:

- The response rate of 41% marked a continuing decline in response rates, despite follow up by the Career's Office, and attributed to survey fatigue and the particular timing of the survey around the World Cup.

- A low percentage of graduates are involved in unpaid internships.
- The Faculty of Science and Health had the highest percentage of those recently employed in an area of most relevance to their degree, attributed mainly to the Nursing degree.
- An increased proportion of respondents reported attending DCU for further study, the highest proportion of which were pursuing taught programmes.

Ms A. McKenna indicated that she would make the presentation available in soft copy to Council members and indicated that Faculty and programme level statistics were available on request.

## **9. DkIT Linked Provider Schedule**

Introducing this item, the Dean of Graduate Studies outlined that the schedule as circulated follows on from the approval of Academic Council in June to accredit research degrees at DkIT. The Qualifications and Quality Assurance Act 2012 obliges institutions to ensure oversight of quality assurance in their linked providers and the agreement as presented represents a first instance nationally of such an agreement. The schedule captures how both institutions will work together and the responsibilities of each. Noting that the schedule document had been reviewed by Graduate Research Studies Board, the Dean of Graduate Studies requested that Academic Council members would also provide her with feedback. It was noted that the Schedule will go before DkIT Academic Council in January.

The Director of Quality Promotion wished to note thanks to the Dean of Graduate Studies for the development of the document which will provide a future template for new agreements within the sector.

## **10. Academic Calendars (2014-2015 and 2015-2016)**

The Chair indicated that under the annual schedule, the detailed academic calendar would normally be approved at this time of year, but in order to accommodate the adoption of the same calendar for all institutions for incorporation purposes and the registration of all first years in 2015, it would be necessary to agree an outline calendar for 2015-2016 with a view to agreeing a more detailed calendar early in the New Year.

**10.1 Academic Calendar 2014-2015 – Confirmation of provisional dates**

The Director of Registry outlined that the academic calendar for 2014-2015 had been approved but that some dates had remained as provisional and needed to be confirmed.

This was approved.

**10.2 Academic Calendar 2015-16**

It was indicated by the Director of Registry that the outline calendar as presented did not represent a change for DCU. It had been circulated to Heads and Deans and needed to be approved as an outline calendar to ensure start dates could be communicated to incoming students in a timely manner. It was noted that work will be completed in January to agree the more specific dates required for the calendar in the context of Incorporation.

It was noted that the outline calendar had been agreed by St. Patrick's College Academic Council last week and was due before Mater Dei Academic Council next week.

The outline calendar as presented was approved.

**C: Items for formal approval/noting****11. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council**

Approved.

**12. Report from the Research Committee**

Noted.

**13 Validation Reports**

13.1 LLM in Law

Approved.

13.2 MSc in Public Relations

Approved.

13.3 MA in Irish Studies

Approved.

13.4 M.Ed in Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia)

Approved.

**14. Accreditation report: Bachelor of Early Childhood Education**

Approved.

**15. Accreditation report: Master of Education (Special Educational Needs)**

Approved.

**16. Reports from Winter 2014 examinations/Progression and Awards Boards**

Noted

**17. Report from Appeals Boards for taught programmes 2014**

Noted

**18. Report from the Disciplinary Committee**

Noted

**19. Any other business**

The Chair reminded Council members of the Christmas event due to take place next week.

**Date of next meeting:**

<p><b>Wednesday 11 February 2015</b> <b>2.00 p.m. in AG01</b></p>
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
President

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