

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

10 February 2016

2.00 – 2.40 pm in AG01

PRESENT:

M. Brennan
P. Brereton
J. Bruen
J. Carroll
E. Costello
J. Costello
Y. Crotty
P. Cummins
P. Davis
J. Doyle
P. Flynn
S. Fox
J. Gallen
E. Guilfoyle

M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)
G. Jones
B. Kelly
L. Looney
T. Lynn
B. MacCraith (Chair)
C. MacMurchaidh
A. Matthews
K. McDonagh
E. McGlynn
A. McGrady
A. McKenna
B. McMullin
G. Murphy

B. Nolan
K. Nolan
C. Ó Ciardubháin
P. O'Duibhir
R. O'Connor
E. O'Riordan
K. Rafter
J. Rami
C. Renehan
A. Simon
S. Stan
J. Stokes
P. Willis

APOLOGIES:

C. Bohan
C. Brennan
J. Brunton
M. Byrne
D. Collings
B. Corcoran
M. Crane
R. Devery

H. Esmonde
B. Flood
M. Glynn
M. Helfert
P. Landais
A. Lodge
C. McMullan
M. O'Hagan

J. O'Hara
A. O'Regan
M. Roantree
R. Sadleir
A. Sinnott
A. Stover
M. Sweeney
A. Way

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 9 December 2015

The minutes of 9 December 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 It was noted that the proposed Working Group to consider the recommendations made in the Report of the Appeals Board for taught programmes for 2015 is currently being formed.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 28 October 2015 and 2 December 2015

The minutes were approved.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 12 November 2015

The minutes were approved.

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 22 October 2015 and 3 December 2015

The minutes were approved.

7. President's report

7.1 The President noted that a meeting had taken place between the HEA and heads of institutions in the fourth quarter of last year. He noted that the key issues that emerged are performance-based funding and the regional clusters, and the intersection of these two issues. A discussion document had been considered and the heads of institutions had expressed concern at the proposed Dublin 'supercluster' and the increase in emphasis on cluster performance, the implication of which could be that performance in one institution could impact on the funding of another.

7.2 The President noted the recent publication by the HEA entitled *A Study of Progression in Irish Higher Education 2012/13 to 2013/14*. He noted the following figures relating to non-progression of first-year students 2012/2013 under the following categories:

- Across the whole sector, 16 % did not progress
- In the Institutes of Technology, 17% did not progress
- In the Universities 11%, did not progress.

The positive impact of the DCU Maths Learning Centre and Writing Centre on progression rates in DCU was noted.

7.3 With respect to Incorporation, the project is currently focused on the following: refreshing the Incorporation communication, the allocation of space, the appointment of Heads of School to the new Schools and addressing the legal elements of the process. The aim is to complete these legal elements by June 2016.

7.4 The *DCU Women in Leadership Initiative* continues. Two *Monthly Listening Lunches* have taken place, and the first lecture in the *Mary McAleese Women in Leadership lecture series* will take place on 30 March 2016, with Mary McAleese herself as the inaugural speaker.

The 30% Club which is a global movement of international Chairs and CEOs who are committed to better gender balance, commissioned a report in association with Dr Melrona Kirrane of DCU Business School. It will be launched in mid-February 2016 to mark the second Annual Conference of the 30% Club.

7.5 The President noted that DCU had produced a draft programme of events for the 1916 Centenary celebration (to be launched in February 2016) and that it had been commended for its inclusive and all-Ireland dimensions. He noted that the programme is an extensive one and reflects the significant contribution of staff across all institutions that relate to DCU.

- 7.6** The most recent number of DCU registered students was noted and is as follows: 13, 727 (54% female and 46% male). Of the total figure of registered students, 2915 are international students.

8. DCU Admissions Principles

It was noted that the DCU Admissions Principles document had been drafted in the context of providing a core set of values to underpin admission to the University. In taking account of the proliferation of entry routes (HEAR, DARE, mature), it had become necessary for the university to articulate a set of clear and transparent principles over which it can stand.

In the discussion which followed on the DCU Admissions Principles document the following was noted:

- It was suggested and agreed that the word ‘quota’ would be replaced with the word ‘places’ under point 1.
- With respect to point 4 ‘*only admits students to academic programmes with which it believes they can successfully engage*’, it was noted that it was important that an ongoing oversight is maintained on the minimum entry requirements and CAO points set for programmes.

The DCU Admissions principles document was approved, subject to the amendment as outlined in point one above. The President expressed his appreciation of the work undertaken by the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar, the Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning and relevant colleagues in the drafting of the principles.

9. Working Group on Student Engagement in Higher Education Institutions Consultation document (for discussion)

The Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar requested feedback from Council members with respect to the consultation document prepared by a Working Group on Student Engagement in Higher Education Institutions which is chaired by Professor Tom Collins. The Working Group aims ultimately to produce a set of guidelines relating to student engagement. Council members were asked to review and provide feedback in particular on the underpinning principles as outlined in the document.

It was noted that DCU is generally compliant with student engagement principles, however, it was noted that with respect to the specific principle 'Feedback and the feedback loop' improvements could be made with regard to providing a response once feedback has been received.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

10. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved.

11. Validation Report: Masters in Literacy (Write to Read)

Approved

12. Report from Progression and Awards Boards for March 2016 conferring

Approved

13. Recommendations from Spring 2016 Faculty Awards Boards for Research Degrees for March 2016 conferring

Approved.

14. AOB**14.1 *Irish Survey of Student Engagement***

The Director of Quality Promotion and Institutional Research informed Academic Council that the fieldwork for the Irish Survey of Student Engagement was due to commence on 29 February 2016 and would continue until 18 March 2016. It was noted that DCU, St. Patrick's College Drumcondra and Mater Dei Institute will operate as a single institution for the purposes of the survey. Council members were asked to urge colleagues to encourage students to participate.

Signed: _____
President

Date_____

Date of next meeting:

<p>Wednesday, 13 April 2016 2.00 p.m. in AG01</p>
