

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

11 February 2015

2.00 – 2.25 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

S. Belton
M. Brennan
P. Brereton
M. Brown
J. Bruen
M. Byrne
P. Byrne
J. Carroll
J. Costello
E. Costello
Y. Crotty
Y. Daly
J. Doyle
H. Esmonde

B. Flood
P. Flynn
G. Foley
S. Fox
T. Furlong
N. Gaynor
G. Gillick
E. Guilfoyle
M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)
D. Kenny
L. Looney
B. MacCraith (President/Chair)
C. MacMurchaidh
A. Matthews

C. McDonagh
A. McGrady
P. McMorrow
B. McMullin
D. Molloy
G. Murphy
M. Nic Giolla Mhichíl
B. Nolan
K. Nolan
P Ó Duibhir
M. O'Brien
R. O'Connor
J. Stokes
A. Stover
M R Sweeney

APOLOGIES:

D. Collings
B. Corcoran
M. Crane
Y. Crotty
R. Devery
J. Dowling
M. Glynn
S. Ingle

P. Landais
M. Loftus
C. McMullan
P. McNally
K. Moran
A. O'Regan
S. O'Neill
C. Pressler

K. Rafter
J. Rami
M. Roantree
A. Sinnott
A. Way
P. Willis

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 10 December 2014**

The minutes of 10 December 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

There were none.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 29 October 2014

The minutes were approved.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 13 November 2014

The minutes were approved.

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 30 October 2014 and 11 December 2014

The minutes were approved. The Dean of Graduate Studies drew the attention of Academic Council to the items on fees and deferrals for research students. Where liability around additional fees is unclear, clarification has been sought from the Fees Office and this information will be made available to research students through online and printed publication.

B: Policy and strategy issues**7. President's report**

- 7.1 An 'interim bilateral' dialogue with the HEA had taken place recently focusing on the progress made to date by DCU under the 'Mission-based Performance Compact' agreement between DCU and the HEA. This meeting is part of the process of performance funding whereby all Higher Education Institutions are required to set objectives aligned with national goals against which institutional performance is measured and funding allocated. This 'Compact' meeting was successful with DCU performing well on the majority of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that form the basis of our compact and are aligned both with DCU's strategic plan and Government policy for Higher Education.

The HEA had separate meetings with DCU and its linked colleges, and also with the regional cluster group comprising Maynooth University, Dundalk Institute of Technology and Athlone Institute of Technology. The HEA commended all institutions on the progress to date.

- 7.2 The President updated members on the current state of the Incorporation process.

Based on unofficial, preliminary CAO figures, there were positive indications relating in particular to programmes associated with incorporation.

- 7.3 DCU has recently signed a linkage agreement with Church of Ireland College (CICE) whereby DCU will accredit their programmes. This agreement precedes proposed incorporation in 2016.

- 7.3 Funding has been received through the DCU Educational Trust for a Chair in Assessment in Education, which includes funding for a number of researchers. It was noted that this funding was a significant achievement in the context of the difficulty in leveraging non-exchequer funding.

- 7.4 DCU has recently signed up to the Athena Swan Charter, the aim of which is to advance the representation of women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) in academia. This marks a significant milestone in DCU's commitment to addressing the gender imbalances in senior positions in academia.

- 7.5 DCU will host the 2015 Times Higher Education Young Universities Summit (YUS) in the Helix from 29 - 30 April 2015. The event will include the official worldwide launch of THE 100 under 50 rankings. This is the second such summit, with the first event held in the United States in 2014. The President noted that this is a highly significant event for DCU and noted that the DCU brand will be very visible throughout the event
- 7.6 DCU hosted a recent TEDx Event, which was successful and very well attended.

8. Proposed Academic Calendar 2015/2016 (detailed)

The Academic Calendar 2015-2016 was approved.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

9 Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved.

10. Recommendations from Progression and Awards Boards for March 2015 conferring

Approved.

11. Recommendations from Faculty Awards Boards for Research for March 2015 conferring

Approved.

12. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 15 April 2015
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
President

Date: _____