

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**9 December 2015**

**2.00 – 3.05 pm in AG01**

**PRESENT:**

C. Bohan  
M. Brennan  
C. Brennan  
P. Brereton  
M Brown  
J. Bruen  
J. Brunton  
J. Bruton  
J. Carroll  
E. Costello  
J. Doyle  
P. Flynn  
S. Fox  
J. Gallen

E. Guilfoyle  
C. Gurrin  
M. Helfert  
M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)  
G. Jones  
B. Kelly  
D. Kenny  
L. Looney  
B. MacCraith (Chair)  
C. MacMurchaidh  
A. Matthews  
K. McDonagh  
E. McGlynn  
A. McKenna

P. McMorrow  
B. McMullin  
G. Murphy  
B. Nolan  
P. O’Duibhir  
M. O’Brien  
R. O’Connor  
M. O’Hagan  
A. O’Regan  
J. Rami  
M. Roantree  
R. Sadleir  
S. Stan  
J. Stokes  
A. Stover

**APOLOGIES:**

J. Costello  
Y. Crotty  
H. Esmonde

B. Flood  
P. Landais  
A. McGrady

J. O’Hara  
E. O’Riordan  
A. Sinnott

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Y. McLoughlin (Item 8)

**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted. It was noted that the following items from Section C of the agenda would be discussed:

- Validation Report: BSc in Data Science (Item 13.1)
- Report from the DCU Appeals Board 2015 (Item 16)

**A: Minutes and related issues****2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 7 October 2015**

The minutes of 7 October 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters arising**

It was noted that the membership of Academic Council and its sub-committees for 2015-2016 had been finalised.

**4. Minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee of 30 September 2015**

The minutes were approved.

**5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 10 September 2015**

The minutes were approved.

**6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 7 September 2015**

The minutes were approved.

## 7. President's report

- 7.1 With respect to HEA performance-based funding, full funding has been granted to DCU on the basis of its performance against the seven institution objectives and performance indicators agreed in the Mission-based Performance Compact.

It was noted that the regional cluster group received 48% more funding over and above the normal RGAM distribution. The funding will support cluster activity and will also provide some funding for institutional activities.

It was noted that the Incorporation Board had just completed the quarterly review of the Incorporation project plan. The detailed planning is now focused on the January-June 2016 period. An agreed objective is that the legal process with respect to Incorporation will be completed by the end of June.

The outcome from the HEA of the bid for continuation of the funding of Incorporation is awaited.

It was noted that a review of the 3U Partnership is underway, with the focus on the next phase of activity.

- 7.2 The President noted DCU's placing at 46 in the QS World University Rankings in the 'Top 50 under 50' 2015. He noted that this ranking has significant international value and is an endorsement of the quality of the work achieved in DCU.

- 7.3 Thanks were extended to all those involved in the twelve graduation ceremonies held in November 2015. In particular the efficient contribution of Registry and colleagues from the linked colleges was noted.

- 7.4 The DCU Women in Leadership Initiative was launched in early November 2015. One of the seven initiatives announced is the *Monthly Listening Lunch*. The event is targeted at female staff in the university and the first lunch will take place on Wednesday 16 December 2015.

- 7.5 The President noted that the final approval from Rome has been granted for the purchase of the All Hallows Campus. This will allow the final legal phase to be completed. The Campus will become known as the DCU All Hallows Campus.

- 7.6 It was with deep regret that the University learnt of the very sad and untimely death of Dr Paraic James of the School of Chemical Sciences, who passed away on Thursday 3 December 2015. Dr James had worked in DCU since 1986. Deepest sympathy is extended, on behalf of Council, to Dr James' family and to his colleagues in the

School. A memorial ceremony will take place during the week of 7 December 2015 for students and staff to mark his valued contribution to the DCU community.

**8. Presentation on First Destination Survey by Ms. Yvonne McLoughlin, Head of Careers Service**

In the course of the presentation, the following were noted:

- The survey, which was conducted by the Careers Service in May and July 2015, shows an improvement in response rate, up from 41% to 49%
- 93% of respondents were in employment, further study, unpaid internship or not available for employment six months after graduation
- With the increase in employment, a corresponding decline in the numbers who pursue further study is evident

Ms Yvonne McLoughlin acknowledged the assistance and support from Faculties and Units in encouraging graduates to respond to the survey. She also acknowledged the data analysis provided by Ms. Aisling McKenna with respect to the survey outcomes. She indicated that she would be able to provide information at School and Faculty level, as required

The Chair thanked Ms. Yvonne McLoughlin for her presentation.

**9. Discontinuation of the practice of publishing the grades of graduands' degrees in the booklet provided at the DCU graduation ceremony**

The following proposal was approved.

*'That the practice of including the grades of graduands' degrees in the text of the booklet provided at the DCU graduation ceremony be discontinued'.*

It was noted that the change in practice will commence with the March 2016 graduation ceremonies.

**C: Items for formal approval/noting****10. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council**

Approved.

**11. Proposed Academic Calendar 2016-2017**

Approved

**12. Report from the Research Committee 2014-2015**

Noted

**13. Validation report**

## 13.1 BSc in Data Science

Approved. It was noted that discussions are ongoing with respect to the financial model and space resourcing for the roll-out of the BSc in Data Science.

**14. Accreditation report: MSc in Public Relations and Strategic Communications**

Approved

**15. Report from Winter 2015 Examinations/Progression and Awards Boards**

Noted

**16. Report from Appeals Boards for taught programmes 2015**

The Chair of the Appeals Committee acknowledged the valuable work done by all those who contribute to the appeals process and brought a number of matters/suggestions contained in the Appeals Report 2015 to the attention of Academic Council as follows:

The University should:

- Explore the feasibility of providing a module exam paper review facility to be implemented at School level.
- Explore the possibility of instituting resit arrangements for existing Category 3 modules which are appropriate to the learning outcomes and more equitable for the student.
- Review the practice of permitting students to carry failed modules
- Explore a standard approach to Consultation Days
- Increase efforts to ensure students are aware of arrangements which apply to continuous assessments relating to resit module examinations.

Following a brief discussion on the matters raised, it was agreed that a Working Group would be set up to consider the proposals and make recommendations to Academic Council.

**17. Reports from the Disciplinary Committee 2014 and 2015**

Noted

**18. Any other business**

There were no items.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of next meeting:**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday, 10 February 2016</b> <b>2.00 p.m. in AG01</b></p>
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