

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

8 October 2014

2.00-2.40 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

L Barry
C Bohan
M Brennan
P Brereton
D Brougham
M Brown
J Bruen
M Byrne
P J Byrne
J Carroll
K Casey
B Corcoran
J Costello
E Costello
Y Crotty
J Doyle

P Flynn
S Fox
M Gannon
N Gaynor
G Gillick
M Glynn
E Guilfoyle (VPAA – Chair)
S Ingle
B Kelly
L Looney
L McDermott
S McGovern
A McGrady
P McMorrow
C Mac Murchaidh

G Moore
G Murphy
K Nolan
P Ó Duibhir
R O’Connor
A O’Regan
N O’Reilly
J Rami
C Renehan
M Roantree
J Stokes
A Stover
R Tobin
F Waldron
A Way

APOLOGIES:

J Brunton
M Crane
J Dowling
H Esmonde
B Flood
A Harvey

D Kenny
M Loftus
B MacCraith (President)
C McDonagh
C McMullan
B McMullin

P McNally
D Molloy
M Nic Giolla Mhichíl
C Pressler
A Sinnott
P Willis

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the deferral of Item 5 to the meeting of 10 December 2014 and the inclusion of one submission under Item 15.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 30 June 2014**

The minutes were confirmed and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

The Chair noted that Professor Philip Nolan, Chair of the Task Group on Reform of University Selection and Entry, had indicated that further relevant documentation would be available shortly, and that she would circulate this documentation, upon receipt, to the members of the DCU working group on TGRUSE. (Item 7)

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 22 May 2014 and 26 June 2014

Approved.

B: Policy and strategy issues**5. President's report**

Deferred to the meeting of 10 December 2014.

6. Presentation on developments with respect to the National Institute for Digital Learning

6.1 Professor Mark Brown, Director of the NIDL, made the presentation. In the course of this presentation, and in the ensuing discussion, the following were noted:

- digital approaches to learning are intended to provide appropriate services and to enable learning; to this end, the concept of ownership by the University generally,

and by Faculties in particular, is very important, as is the concept of ongoing discussion and engagement between Faculties and the NIDL

- alignment of digital approaches with programme outcomes (and not merely with module outcomes) is likewise very important
- digital approaches cannot, of themselves, directly address problems such as lack of student engagement, though they can encompass ways of encouraging participation (such as making online engagement mandatory); there may, however, be differences across disciplines with respect to the feasibility of encouraging participation through online engagement
- in the context of a competitive external environment and very rapidly changing technology, a proactive approach on the part of the University is essential
- it is not necessarily easy to distinguish between blended, online and distance learning – overlap and terminological confusion can exist
- interest in such learning appears stronger, at present, among postgraduate (particularly part-time) than among undergraduate learners
- dedicated studio facilities will shortly be made available for use by academic staff in the University, though it is understood that some may prefer to use smaller-scale equipment such as laptops
- transitional issues between Moodle and Loop are being addressed.

6.2 The Chair, on behalf of Council, expressed appreciation to Professor Brown and his colleagues with respect to both the presentation and the ongoing work of the NIDL.

7. Request for Aegrotat award: Graduate Diploma in Supervisory Practice

Approved.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

8. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved.

9. Register of Academic Council members 2014/2015

Noted. Noted, however, that a small number of changes still needed to be made to this register and that they would be made as soon as possible.

10. Register of members of the Education Committee, the University Standards Committee, the Graduate Research Studies Board, the Examination Appeals Board and the GRSB Appeals Standing Committee 2014/15

Noted. Noted, however, that a small number of changes still needed to be made to the committee registers that they would be made as soon as possible.

11. Updated terms of reference: Academic Council and subcommittees

Approved.

12. Update on committee initiatives 2013/14

Noted.

13. Reports from Autumn 2014 examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

Approved.

14. Report from Autumn 2014 Faculty Awards Boards for Research Degrees

Approved.¹

15. Any other business

Noted that a call for nominations for the Academic Council representative on the Education Committee, from October 2014, had been issued and that, if more than one nomination was submitted, an election would take place. Noted that a call for nominations in respect of Faculty professorial representation from Academic Council on the Academic Promotions Committee would be made as soon as possible.

¹ This report was not to hand on 8 October 2014, as the meetings of the Faculty Awards Boards for Research Degrees were still in progress. The report was approved by Academic Council, electronically, on 13 October 2014.

Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 10 December 2014
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
 President

Date: _____