

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 13 January 2016

2.00 – 3.30 p.m. in A204

Present: Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Brian Corcoran, Professor John Doyle, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Aisling McKenna, Dr Anne Sinnott, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

Apologies: Professor John Costello, Professor Regina Connolly, Mr James Donoghue, Professor Alan Harvey, Professor Barry McMullin

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 2 December 2015

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 2 December 2015

3.1 It was noted that issues with respect to external examiners were currently under consideration (Item 3.1).

- 3.2 It was noted that a meeting would take place shortly to discuss the publication of First Destination Survey outcomes on the web and the drafting of a set of rules in relation to publication (3.4).
- 3.3 It was noted that the update of the *Validation and Accreditation of Programmes: Regulations and Guidelines* document to include space requirements for new programmes was awaiting confirmation of the process to be put in place from the Office of the Chief Operating Officer (Item 3.4)
- 3.4 It was noted that a review of Graduate Attributes would take place over the coming months (Item 7).
- 3.5 It was noted that a working group would be set up shortly to audit university activities which integrate research opportunities into undergraduate programmes (Item 7).
- 3.6 It was noted that feedback had been provided to the Director of the International Office with respect to the proposal on the recognition of the Pearson Test for DCU admission and a re-submitted proposal had been received for the consideration of this meeting.
- 3.7 It was noted that amendments recommended by Education Committee to the proposal for the restructure of the Graduate Diploma/Masters in Special Educational Needs had been completed, and an updated version submitted (Item 11).
- 3.8 It was noted that a memo restating the issues arising from Faculty Annual Programme Reviews had been submitted by the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar to Executive (Item 3.2).
- 3.9 It was noted that a presentation had been made to Heads of School with respect to the implementation of QuEST (Item 3.3).
- 3.10 It was noted that the proposed BSc in Data Science had been approved to proceed to accreditation by Academic Council at its meeting of 9 December 2015 however, financial and space resourcing remain as outstanding items to be resolved.

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA

There was no update.

5. **Report on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement**

There was no update.

6. **Education Committee Goals**

6.1 Presentation on measurement of Graduate Attributes in DCUBS, by Dr Caroline McMullan

The Chair introduced the presentation on the tracking and measurement of Graduate Attributes in DCUBS, indicating that the model could be adapted for use in other Faculties and advice, based on the experience of DCUBS, was available to take it forward university-wide.

Dr Caroline McMullan presented on the methods used for the tracking of Graduate Attributes in DCUBS. In the discussion that followed the following points were noted:

- The measurement of Graduate Attributes is embedded in the normal assessment of the module.
- The measurement and tracking is ongoing and continuous rather than retrospective.
- The performance measurement used is as follows: above standard (60%), at standard (pass – 59%) and below standard (below pass mark).
- The e-portfolio and the measurement of Graduate Attributes conducted by DCUBS are complementary to each other and the synergy of both measurement tools could be further explored.
- The process of Graduate Attribute tracking in DCUBS enables confirmation of the measurement of Graduate Attributes on the Annual Programme Review form by the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning.
- It would be possible to fully integrate a statement with respect to Graduate Attributes within Programme Learning Outcomes.

7. **Resubmitted proposal to recognise the Pearson Test of English for entry to DCU**

Approved

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES**8. Validation of Masters in Literacy (Write to Read)**

The proposal for the Masters in Literacy (Write to Read) was approved for further development towards accreditation subject to the following:

- It is recommended, in taking account of the resource implications of the introduction of new modules that consideration is given to the delivery of new modules with other programmes.
- It is recommended that the programme development team seek to address the gender imbalance on the proposed Accreditation Board, if at all possible.
- As the programme includes two practicum modules, which are resource intensive, it is recommended that the proposed fee is re-examined with a view to its increase.
- It is recommended that the *Financial Impact of the Proposal* is amended to take account of the university distribution model with respect to the revenue projected for the Institute of Education.
- It is recommended that the number of Programme Learning Outcomes (PLO) is reduced, to conform to the norm of 4/5 PLOs, and to make assessment of all outcomes feasible.
- Given the broad definition of ‘literacy’ provided, the programme proposers are asked to consider how numeracy connects with this qualification, and would there be value in providing a mechanism for students to take an optional module on other forms of literacy?

It was noted that the financial elements (fees and financial projections) of the proposal would be discussed with the Finance Office as soon as possible.

9. Any other business

There were no items.

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday, 17 February 2016
at 2.00 in A204