

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 16 March 2016

2.00 – 3.00 p.m. in A204

Present: Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Dr Claire Bohan, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Brian Corcoran, Professor John Costello, Professor John Doyle, Mr Billy Kelly, Ms Aisling McKenna, Professor Barry McMullin, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

Apologies: Professor Mark Brown, Professor Regina Connolly, Mr James Donoghue, Professor Alan Harvey, Professor Lisa Looney, Dr Anne Sinnott

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of one item under any other business.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 17 February 2016

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 17 February 2016

- 3.1** Mr Billy Kelly provided further information with respect to the proportion of students who do not fill in the R27 Notification of withdrawal form. It was noted that approximately two thirds of students who do not register in the following academic year have not formally withdrawn from the university (Item 7).

- 3.2** It was noted that issues with respect to external examiners were currently under consideration (Item 3.1).
- 3.3** It was noted that a second meeting to draft a set of rules in relation to publication of First Destination Survey outcomes on the university website was due to take place shortly (Item 3.2).
- 3.4** It was noted that Professor Regina Connolly has agreed to Chair the Working Group to audit activities in the University where research opportunities are integrated into undergraduate programmes. Committee members were asked to nominate appropriate colleagues to the Working Group (Item 3.3).
- 3.5** It was noted that the update of the *Validation and Accreditation of Programmes: Regulations and Guidelines* document to include space requirements for new programmes had been confirmed by Office of the Chief Operating Officer. The updated documentation will be on the agenda of the April 2016 meeting of Education Committee (Item 3.3).
- 3.6** Professor Barry McMullin provided an update on the outstanding issues with respect to the validation of the BSc in Data Science programme. Assurances had been received from the Chief Operating Officer that the programme can be accommodated with respect to the space requirements. He had also received a revised financial distribution model from the Finance Office, with which he was satisfied, however, it was noted that this model was only to be applied to the BSc in Data Science programme and was not a universal model for any future newly developed programmes.

On the basis that the conditional elements of the Validation of the BSc in Data Science had been resolved, Professor McMullin recommended that the validation of the BSc in Data Science be ratified by Education Committee. This was agreed (Item 3.5).

In a discussion which followed on the impact of the current budget model on the development of new programmes and ultimately the strategic development of the university, it was agreed that the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar would bring to the attention of senior management the need to look at budgeting processes as a whole and their impact on decisions with regard to academic innovation.

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING**4. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA**

Professor Eithne Guilfoyle reported on the meeting of IUA Registrar's which had taken place on 25 January 2016 as follows:

- Various QQI documents were reviewed and feedback was provided.
- It was noted that negotiations are ongoing in relation to the proposal to move the operational aspects of the HEAR and DARE schemes to the Central Applications Office. Consideration is also being given to where the policy development and support aspects of HEAR and DARE should reside and what support and resources will be available to it.
- Concern was expressed in relation to the costs associated with attending the Undergraduate Awards Ceremonies and the fact that students were seeking funding from their departments to attend.

5. Report on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement

It was noted that the response rate for the Irish Survey of Student Engagement is currently at 31%, which is a huge improvement on previous years' surveys. A note of thanks was extended the Students' Union team who have contributed significantly in encouraging student responses.

6. Education Committee Goals

This item was deferred to the next scheduled meeting of Education Committee.

7. Review of First Semester Examination Results 2016 and Review of 'at risk' profile**7.1 *Review of First Semester Examination Results***

Ms Aisling McKenna presented the report and noted the following:

- Overall DCU module level pass rates for undergraduate entrants are at their highest over the 3-year period of analysis, and the highest for the last ten academic years.

- Average pass rates among entering first year entrants on first year modules is 90%, which is marginally lower than in 2014/15.
- Module level pass rates are below 80% in only 12 of the 134 first year modules delivered in Semester 1.

In the discussion which followed it was noted that there were some modules in the report where there was a big variation in failure rate from one year to the next. It was agreed that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education would be asked to investigate the data at the module level and provide feedback to Education Committee.

7.2 *'At Risk' Students 2016*

Ms Aisling McKenna presented the report and noted that the number of 'at risk' students identified were at their lowest level since the analysis began in 2009, down from 303 (16% of entrants) to 221 (6.3% of entrants). It was noted too that the DARE/HEAR students represent a third of the total of 'at risk' students and the Access Office were developing an action plan to address this issue.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

8. Any other business

8.1 Timeframe for validation and accreditation of proposed Certificate in Peer Support Working: in Mental Health

It was proposed and agreed that following the validation of the proposed programme as above (expected to be in April 2016) that the accreditation process could be initiated within a shorter than usual timeframe. It was noted that the tender to deliver the programme had only recently been awarded and the programme was scheduled to commence in September 2016.

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday, 6 April 2016
at 2.00 in A204