

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

Wednesday 6 April 2016

2.00 – 3.10 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, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Aisling McKenna, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

**Apologies:** Professor Mark Brown, Professor Regina Connolly, Mr James Donoghue, Professor Barry McMullin, Dr Anne Sinnott

**SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of 16 March 2016**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of 16 March 2016**

- 3.1** It was noted that the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar had written to university senior management on behalf of Education Committee requesting that it consider reviewing the university budget allocation model with a view to incentivising the development of new programmes (Item 3.6).

- 3.2** Education Committee was reminded to nominate members of the Working Group set up to audit research opportunities at undergraduate level (Item 3.3).
- 3.3** It was noted that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education had been provided with the first semester examination results data and will meet over the coming weeks to consider modules with a large variance (20% or above) in failure rate (Item 7.1).
- 3.4** It was noted that issues with respect to external examiners were currently under consideration (Item 3.1).
- 3.5** 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).
- 3.6** It was noted that action with respect to the Graduate Attributes was ongoing (Item 3.4).
- 3.7** It was noted the updated validation and accreditation document was on the agenda of this meeting (Item 3.3).

## **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 4 April 2016 as follows:

- Discussions are ongoing with respect to the final location of the HEAR and DARE unit.
- QQI cyclical reviews of Higher Education Institutions are about to commence.
- The Deans of Research have expressed some concern at the content of the Terms of Reference for a review and enhancement project to be carried out by QQI on the quality assurance of policies and guidelines in the Higher Education Institutions.
- Progress has not yet been made regarding the International Education Mark.

- ‘Educate Ireland’ has been invited to a meeting in the IUA to meet with the IUA Registrar’s Group and the Chair of the International Officers to discuss marketing strategy.

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

There were no updates on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement.

**6. Amendment to Validation and Accreditation documentation**

The document was approved.

**7. Approval Form for Faculties and Education Committee for Collaborative Academic Offerings: Off-site/Distance Delivery**

Professor Lisa Looney outlined that the form as circulated was a prototype for the variety of collaborative provision proposals which may be submitted to Education Committee for approval. It was planned, that once the necessary information to be captured is agreed, the form would be automated on the Guru system which is currently under development.

The form and questions were agreed, subject to a rephrasing of the question in Section 4 related to Academic Freedom.

**SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES**

**8. Proposal to collaborate with Communication University of China for the delivery of the MEng in Telecommunications Engineering programme.**

The proposal was approved.

The following items related to the proposal were noted:

- Under Section 5 of the Cooperation Agreement, it should be clear that the host institution provides facilities only for the delivery of DCU modules.
- The facilitation of remote examinations will need to be revisited.

**9. Restructure of the MEng in Electronic Systems with the addition of two new majors**

**9.1 *Revision of the existing Major in Nanoelectronics and Photonics and change of title to Major in Nanotechnology***

The proposal was approved.

**9.2 *Introduction of new Major in the Internet of Things***

The proposal was approved.

**10. Extension of Accreditation of Master of Education (Special Educational Needs) to 2016-2017, Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE)**

The decision to extend the accreditation of the Master of Education (Special Education Needs) CICE was deferred to the next meeting of Education Committee subject to the proposal being considered and approved by the Institute of Education Interim Faculty Board.

It was noted that the derogation from Marks and Standards granted for the academic year 2015-2016 should be submitted for approval by University Standards Committee for the academic year 2016-2017.

**11. Validation of Certificate, Peer Support Working in Mental Health**

The proposal for the Certificate, Peer Support Working in Mental Health was considered and referred to the meeting of Education Committee Standing Committee scheduled to take place on Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 3.30 pm.

The following feedback on the proposals was noted:

- Concern was expressed that it was planned to deliver a 30-credit programme over a sixteen-week period, on a part-time basis. Further clarification on the detail of the programme delivery should be provided to Education Committee Standing Committee and consideration given to offering the programme on a full-time basis.
- Education Committee requested that the programme learning outcomes would be re-written to reflect the NFQ level 8 programme learning outcomes.

## **12. Validation of level 9 postgraduate certificates**

### ***12.1 Graduate Certificate in Sexuality and Sexual Health Education***

Although the Irish Family Planning Association will contribute to the delivery of the programme, it was noted that the programme, once approved, will be a DCU only accredited programme. It was noted too that should a different partner wish to become involved in the programme, this would have to be considered in light of the protocol for decision to enter into a collaborative agreement.

The validation proposal was approved.

### ***12.2 Graduate Certificate in Relationships and Sexuality Education for People with Intellectual Disability***

The validation proposal was approved.

As the proposed Graduate Certificates contain modules in common, it was noted that a single Accreditation Board would consider both postgraduate certificates and it was noted too that the programme proposers should be advised to extend the range of nominees so that the gender balance and the expertise required for the Board would be assured.

## **13. Higher Diploma in Science in Software Development, Springboard, Open Education**

The proposal was approved subject to the application for Springboard funding being successful.

Clarification was requested on the entry level requirement (level 7 or level 8) specified in the proposal as 'primary degree'.

## **14. Any other business**

There were no items.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

**Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday, 4 May 2016  
at 2.00 in A204