

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday 29 October 2014

2.00-3.30pm in A204

**Present:** Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Professor John Costello, Professor John Doyle, Mr Gary Gillick, Dr Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, Professor Alan Harvey, Mr Billy Kelly, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Professor Barry McMullin, Dr Anne Sinnott, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

**In attendance:** Ms Aisling McKenna

**Apologies:** Dr Sarah Ingle

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

##### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted subject to the deferral of Item 8 to a future meeting.

##### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 1 October 2014**

The minutes were confirmed and were signed by the Chair.

##### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

**3.1** Discussions on grouping of marks on transcripts for students on the Joint Honours programme in the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences are continuing.

**3.2** Response to Faculty reports on the APR process in 2013/14 will be a full agenda item on the next meeting of Education Committee.

## **SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **4. Update on activities undertaken within the IUA**

The Chair reported on recent discussions at the IUA Registrars' meeting. These included a discussion on the proposed International Education Mark (IEM) and the place of universities within that branding.

Professor Looney reported that work on the *National Framework for Doctoral Education* – a joint IUA, QQI, HEA and IOTI project – is

ongoing and is due for launch in Q1 2015. The Deans of Graduate Studies group has been discussing a report on the Bologna process as it impacts on 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle degrees and reviewing some European documentation on quality assurance of joint programmes. The awarding of double degrees has been brought to Registrars' group for further discussion.

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

Mr Kelly noted that the report on the National Survey would be published on November 4<sup>th</sup>. This report will deal with sectoral results only but a follow up report based on case studies of activities in individual institutions will be published in January 2015.

Ms McKenna circulated a calendar showing options for the DCU implementation of the 2015 survey in a three-week window in February-March 2015. After discussion, Education Committee expressed a preference for the second window, namely the three-week period from March 9<sup>th</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **6. EC goals 2014/2015**

A list of goals that had been revised in the light of previous discussions was considered. It was agreed that it would be useful to reflect the synergies with *Transforming Lives and Societies* and the DCU compact in the goals document.

**7. Presentation on HEA First Destination Returns 2013**

Ms McKenna presented the findings of the HEA First Destination Survey of 2013 graduates. These showed an improvement from the previous years in the proportions of graduates in employment and proceeding to further study. The importance of employment relevant to award was noted. Ms McKenna recommended that further consideration be given to the analysis of this rich data source and to promoting its wider use at faculty and programme levels.

The Chair thanked Ms McKenna for this comprehensive report.

**8. Proposed stand-alone module in Community Leadership**

Deferred to the meeting of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

**9. Update in respect of validation proposal (LLM) approved by Academic Council 14 December 2011**

**9.1** It was agreed that it would not be necessary to refer this updated proposal for detailed consideration by the Education Committee Standing Committee and that it should proceed to accreditation.

**9.2** It was agreed that the accreditation proposal should address the following issues:

- a possible rationalisation of the module offering to any one cohort of entrants to ensure that the programme can be offered in a cost-effective manner and without an over-reliance on adjunct faculty
- a recommendation that the title of the ‘placement’ module be amended to reflect this is intended to be a piece of applied research
- a rationale for the variety of continuous assessment/examination splits across the modules.

**10. Validation proposal: MSc in Public Relations**

**10.1** It was agreed that that it would not be necessary to refer this proposal for detailed consideration by the Education Committee Standing Committee and that it should proceed to accreditation.

**10.2** It was noted that the programme would be delivered without any significant additional academic resources, i.e., almost entirely within existing resources. It was agreed that the accreditation proposal should address the following issues:

- the desirability of offering the programme such that it was accessible to both full-time and part-time students
- a recommendation that the ‘INTRA’ placement should be changed to ‘applied research placement’.

## **11. Validation proposal: MA in Irish Studies**

**11.1** The proposed programme was recognised as being an innovative and exciting one, reflecting the combined strengths of DCU, St Patrick’s College and Mater Dei Institute of Education.

**11.2** It was agreed that it would not be necessary to refer this proposal for detailed consideration by the Education Committee Standing Committee and that it should proceed to accreditation.

**11.3** The addition of Professor Mary Daly to the previously approved members of an accreditation panel was approved. It was recommended that the Accreditation Panel should, as far as possible, reflect broad-based expertise as opposed to a concentration on individual disciplinary expertise.

**11.3** It was agreed that the accreditation proposal should address the following issues:

- the naming of the module currently titled ‘Post-tiger Ireland’
- employment opportunities that should arise for graduates from the programme.
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## **12. Validation proposal: MEd in Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia)**

**12.1** This proposal was welcomed as one that clearly addresses an educational and professional need.

**12.2** It was agreed that it would not be necessary to refer this proposal for detailed consideration by the Education Committee Standing Committee and that it should proceed to accreditation.

**12.3** It was noted that the financial information associated with this proposal was incomplete but that this was a consequence of the application of a DCU costing model to a programme from SPD.

**13. Any other business**

None

**Date of next meeting:**

**Wednesday 3 December 2014, 2.00 p.m. in A204**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_