

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday 28 October 2015

2.00 – 3.15 p.m. in A204

**Present:** Professor John Costello, Mr James Donoghue, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Professor L. Looney, Professor Barry McMullin, Dr Anne Sinnott, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

**Apologies:** Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Brian Corcoran, Professor John Doyle, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Professor A. Harvey

**In attendance:** Ms Aisling McKenna

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

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

The agenda was adopted with the addition of one item under AOB:

- Request to approve Postgraduate Diploma in Guidance Counselling

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 30 September 2015**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of 30 September 2015**

- 3.1** It was noted that student retention would be maintained as an ongoing issue in the background throughout the year and opportunities to source funding to support retention initiatives would be availed of as and when they arose (Item 3.1).
- 3.2** It was noted that issues with respect to external examiners were currently under consideration. A set of guidelines to address communication with external examiners had recently been circulated to the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education and it was intended to review the statistics on the rate of report submission by external examiners (Item 3.2).
- 3.3** It was noted that the Faculty Annual Programme Review outcomes had been reviewed by the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar and the Dean of Teaching and Learning/Deputy Registrar. It was noted that the issues raised last year and which had been the subject of communication with Executive had arisen again. It was noted that the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar would send a memo to Executive as a reminder of the ongoing issues (Item 3.3).
- 3.4** It was noted that it was intended to present to Heads of School in relation to the implementation of QuEST at School level (Item 3.4).

In a brief discussion on the response rate with respect to the SSOT, it was noted that in cases where response rates were high the module co-ordinator had given 5-10 minutes of class time for the students to complete the survey.

- 3.5** It was noted that the elements relating to the decision-making with respect to ‘revised academic offerings’ would be revisited during the year (Item 8).

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

It was noted that a meeting of the IUA Deans of Graduate Research had taken place in October. The following items were noted:

- The QQI had hosted an international panel to review guidelines for the provision of research awards.

- A presentation was made by a member of the Maynooth University Graduate Studies Office who had just completed a dissertation on postgraduate student mobility. Some useful data has emerged from the study.
- The IUA International Officer provided a report on activity in Brazil and Vietnam. After the next cohort, it is unlikely that any more Brazilian undergraduates will be supported by the current *Brazil Science without Borders* scheme. An IUA delegation will visit Vietnam over the coming weeks to make presentations on pursuing a PhD in Ireland.

#### **5. Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) 2015-2016**

It was noted that the 2016 ISSE survey will be conducted during the weeks, Monday 29 February 2016 – Friday 18 March 2016. In light of the decision to conduct the survey as a single entity (DCU, St. Patrick's College and Mater Dei Institute) some planning is required to ensure a coherent communications strategy in the approach to the survey.

#### **6. HEA First Destination Survey of 2013 Graduates**

Ms. Aisling McKenna presented on the HEA First Destination Survey drawing attention in particular to the following:

- The survey, which was conducted by the Careers Service in May and July 2015, shows a slight improvement in response rate, up from 41% to 49%.
- Based on a 3-year trend, there was a slight increase in the number of graduates employed after 6-9 months and a small decline in those pursuing further study.
- The Faculty of Engineering and Computing had the highest numbers in terms of employment.
- Around 70% of respondents across all Faculties, indicated that their qualification was relevant to their employment.
- The data collected will be stored on the CRM system and owned by the Careers Service.

It was noted that Ms Aisling McKenna is part of the National Steering Group which is reviewing the First Destination Survey. It is anticipated that a more longitudinal approach to the survey will be taken.

A brief discussion followed on the publication of the First Destination Survey on the DCU website. It was noted that a decision had been taken a number of years ago to take the data down from the web as the programmes with low numbers of respondents skewed the survey outcomes. It was agreed that the Deputy Registrar, the Head of the Career's Service and the Institutional Research and Analysis Officer would discuss this issue.

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

### **7. Validation of BSc in Data Science**

It was recommended that the validation proposal for the BSc in Data Science be referred to Education Standing Committee which will take place on Tuesday 3 November 2015.

The following items of feedback were noted:

- Because of the national policy to reduce number of routes of entry, consideration should be given to using existing entry routes, rather than creating an additional entry pathway
- The financial risk to the Faculty of Engineering and Computing and the consequent potential impact on the other Faculties, including the Institute of Education should be explored further. In advance of the meeting of ECSC to consider this proposal, it is recommended that the financial arrangements are discussed with senior management
- The financial template should include details on distribution to other Faculties
- The recently announced funded Chair in Data Analytics should be included in the financial model for the first five years
- Consideration should be given to the implications for workload of a large number of new modules and the possibility of using existing resources, to reduce the workload, and the number of new modules to be developed
- To be consistent with the National Framework for Qualifications there should be eight programme level outcomes rather than nine
- The programme, as outlined, is based on a traditional model of delivery; given the involvement of industrial partners could more innovative models of delivery be explored and proposed?

**8. Proposed restructuring with respect to the integration into one programme of the existing Doctorate in Education (EdD) programmes delivered by DCU/MDI and St. Patrick's College (SPD)**

The proposal was approved subject to:

- Inclusion under Section 3, of the dates of the original accreditation of the EdD in SPD
- A change to the exit route name to reflect the original approved title
- The structure indicating 60 credits per year for years 3 and 4
- Exploration with Registry of the operation implications of a July intake.

**9. Any other business**

*9.1 Proposal to approve a level 9 Postgraduate Diploma in Guidance Counselling*

It was noted that the proposal to admit students directly onto a Graduate Diploma had arisen as a result of a request for tenders issued from the Department of Defence to provide a level 9 postgraduate Diploma in Guidance Counselling to the Defence Forces.

The proposal was approved, in the context of these particular funding arrangements only.

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

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

**Date of next meeting:**

**Wednesday 2 December 2015, 2.00 p.m. in A204**