

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 6 May 2015

2.00 – 4.10 p.m. in A204

Present: Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Dr Jennifer Bruen, Professor John Costello, Mr Gary Gillick, Dr Sarah Ingle, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly, Professor L. Looney, Professor Barry McMullin, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

Apologies: Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Professor John Doyle, Prof. A. Harvey, Dr Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, Dr Anne Sinnott, Ms Aisling McKenna

In attendance: Mr James Donoghue

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Mr James Donoghue as incoming Students' Union Education Officer.

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 1 April 2015

The minutes were confirmed, and were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** It was noted that the change of nomenclature for the current BA Joint Honours programme had inadvertently been omitted from the listing of programmes approved by Education Committee on 1 April 2015. The change relating to the current BA Joint Honours programme was noted.
- 3.2** It was noted that a funding call from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning was anticipated shortly and that the issues relating to student retention would be reviewed in that context (Item 3.4).
- 3.3** It was noted that external examiner related items, e.g. the review by external examiners of samples of continuous assessment and the non-submission of reports by external examiners were being considered as a single item, and progress in this regard was ongoing (Item 3.5).
- 3.4** It was noted that further work on the SSOT element of QuEST would be deferred until the next academic year 2015-2016.

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Update on activities undertaken within the IUA

The Chair reported that the IUA Registrar's meeting, which had included a meeting with the Quality Officers, had taken place in Maynooth University on 13 April 2015.

With respect to the meeting which included the Quality Officers the following was noted:

- A new Institutional Review model and the associated guidelines have not been finalised with the sector. A new round of institutional reviews is expected to begin in 2016/2017.
- The roll-out of the International Education Mark process will not be completed in 2015 and the QQI Quality Assurance Guidelines which are required to precede it have yet to be finalised.

- The QQI Annual Institutional Dialogue (AID) meeting with DCU will take place on 11 May 2015.
- A QQI Enhancement Seminar will take place on 28 May 2015. Mr. David Molloy and Dr Sarah Ingle will present a breakout session on Guru, and Aisling McKenna will facilitate a session on ISSE.

With respect to the meeting of the IUA Registrars the following was noted:

- The HEAR/DARE scheme will operate from the IUA for one more year but there is still an outstanding issue in relation to the long-term home of the scheme.
- The review of draft proposals in relation to revised Matriculation requirements has been deferred due to the recently announced changes to Leaving Certificate grade bands.

With respect to the meeting of the IUA Deans of Graduate Studies and graduate research issues the following were noted:

- The implications of the new National Framework for Doctoral Education are being considered, particularly in the context of the funding agencies and the impetus which the framework might provide.
- The Group is working together with the IUA International officer on a Vietnam initiative and will also feedback on existing challenges related to implementing the 'Brazil without Borders' scheme.
- In the context of exploring approaches to monitoring research graduate careers, the researcher who carried out a recent study of Research Council funded graduates has been invited to speak to the next meeting of the IUA Deans of Graduate Studies.
- Vitae has approached the IUA with a view to consideration of their framework for providing professional development for researchers. This will also be on the agenda for the next Dean's meeting.
- The Graduate Deans are in discussion with the Irish Research Council in relation to the staggering of their funding calls and the fit of their start dates with university requirements.

5. Report on Annual Programme Reviews as operated in Faculties 2014-2015

The outcomes per Faculty were noted. The university level issues and recommendations identified in the annual programme reviews broadly mirrored those identified last year and related to staffing and the need to address the aging infrastructure, and in particular the need to update teaching equipment.

The issue of the frequency of reviews was raised. It was noted that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education were evaluating the review process with a view to its modification and an examination of the intersections between PPR and professional accreditation schedules.

It was noted that the Chair and the Deputy Registrar will draw up a report based on the Faculties' university level feedback with a view to submission to Executive.

6. EC goals 2014-2015

6.1 Revised Quality Enhancement and Survey of Teaching (QuEST) document

The Deputy Registrar outlined the background to QuEST, and the requirements on the university under the European Standards for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The QuEST process has been running since 2012, however it has become clear that the online student survey using SSOT on the Loop (Moodle) page had resulted in very low response rates. He proposed, based on feedback from colleagues, and in an attempt to improve response rates, that module co-ordinators would be allowed to opt to use an alternative instrument to survey students e.g. standard paper-based surveys.

In the brief discussion which followed the effectiveness and implementation of QuEST at School level was discussed. It was noted that the process has not been approached in a systematic way and engagement with it had been less than expected.

It was agreed that this item would be raised with Heads of School directly with a view to increasing engagement with the process.

7. Collaborative provision

The document entitled ‘Collaborative Provision’, drawn up by Mr Billy Kelly and Prof. Lisa Looney was discussed. It was noted that the document was at an initial stage and was being developed in the context of a growing and more diverse set of collaborations. The aim of the document was to bring together a comprehensive list of existing types of collaborations and to define what level of quality assurance procedures are appropriate in the case of each collaboration.

Members were requested to review the list with a view to identification of any other types of collaborations which may be happening at local level and which should be included in the documentation.

The Chair congratulated Mr Billy Kelly and Prof. Lisa Looney for the documentation as produced to date.

8. Adopting the common points scale to broader grade bands

The Chair provided the background to the documentation, confirming that the Leaving Certificate grade bands have been revised by the Department of Education and Skills, and as a direct consequence, the CAO points have to be revised. It was confirmed that the change will impact on those in second level entering 5th year in 2015.

As a result of the change to Leaving Certificate grade bands, there was now a requirement on all the universities to agree a common points scale. The first stage of the process was for all universities’ Academic Councils to agree the principles to apply to the common points scale and to also agree to delegate the task of reaching sectoral agreement to the Chief Academic Officers, with the parameters set by these agreed principles.

The principles were outlined as follows:

- (i) To maintain, in as far as possible, the current relationship between the points awarded at higher level and the points awarded at ordinary level.
- (ii) The points scale should be non-linear to reduce the use of random selection.
- (iii) Point should be awarded for H7 (30-40%) to increase the incentive and decrease the risk of taking the higher level examination.

- (iv) Bonus point will be awarded for higher level mathematics.

It was noted that this proposal will be on the agenda of 10 June 2015 meeting of Academic Council and Committee members were asked to share the document in Faculties in advance of the Academic Council meeting.

It was noted too that the Task Group on Reform on University Selection and Entry (TGRUSE) Recommendation on the revised model for converting A-Level grades to Leaving Certificate Points had been circulated recently to Education Committee.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME- AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

9. Proposed change to title of MSc in Management (Digital Marketing)

The re-titling of the MSc in Management (Digital Marketing) to MSc in Digital Marketing was noted.

10. Proposed change to title of MA in Social Media Studies

The re-titling of the MA in Social Media Studies to MA in Social Media Communication was noted.

11. Proposed stand-alone module, School of Nursing and Human Sciences: Surgical Skills for Healthcare Practitioners

The stand-alone module, Surgical Skills for Healthcare Practitioners, was noted, subject to revision of the learning outcomes to reflect NFQ level 9 and re-submission to Education Committee.

12. Proposed stand-alone module, School of Nursing and Human Sciences: Dementia and Every Day Ethics

The stand-alone module, Dementia and Every Day Ethics, was noted subject to provision of details of the breakdown of the 174 hours of Independent learning time and re-submission to Education Committee

13. Proposed stand-alone module, School of Nursing and Human Sciences: Therapeutic Responses to People with Dementia

The stand-alone module, Therapeutic Responses to People with Dementia, was noted subject to provision of details of the breakdown of the 150 hours of Independent learning time.

14. Proposed new programme pathway on the MSc in Management, MSc in Management (Aviation Leadership)

The new pathway was not approved and a re-submission to Education Committee requested which would address the following items:

- (i) For the three new modules which are proposed: Airport Operations Management, Aviation Governance and Regulation and Aviation Leadership and Management, the module learning outcomes to be revised to reflect level 9 learning outcomes
- (ii) For the modules: Airport Operations Management, Aviation Governance and Regulation, further detail to be provided on the breakdown of activities for independent learning hours
- (iii) Provision of a statement/description of the coherence of the whole programme e.g. how the new pathway relate to the existing programme/modules etc.

15. Proposal for the creation of an exit award from the currently accredited BA programme at All Hallows

This outline proposal submitted by All Hallows College was proposed in the context of its planned closure at the end of the academic year 2015-2016. It was noted that a more detailed proposal would be submitted to Education Committee at a later date, and this outline proposal was being considered in the context of initiating discussions with current students who have yet to complete their programme of study.

Following discussion, it was noted that within the sector a three-year 180 credit programme is considered the norm. The proposal was agreed in principle with the understanding that it would go through the normal channels of Faculty approval and be referred back Education Committee.

16. Any other business

The Chair congratulated Dr Sarah Ingle on her recent appointment, wished her well in her new role and thanked her for her significant contribution to Education Committee.

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 3 June 2015, 2.00 p.m. in A204