

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday 1 April 2015

2.00 – 3.40 p.m. in A204

**Present:** Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Dr. Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Professor John Costello, Professor John Doyle, Mr Gary Gillick, Dr Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly, Professor Barry McMullin

**Apologies:** Prof. A. Harvey, Dr Sarah Ingle, Dr Anne Sinnott, Professor L. Looney, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

**In attendance:** Ms Aisling McKenna, Mr Chris Spierin joined the meeting for item 6.

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

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of 4 March 2015**

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

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

- 3.1** It was noted that the proposed mechanism for the Quality Assurance of Graduate Training Elements has been approved by Graduate Research Studies Board (GRSB) (Item 3.1).

- 3.2** It was noted that the work of the timetabling group is currently suspended due to the ongoing Incorporation timetabling group project (Item 3.2).
- 3.3** 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).
- 3.4** 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).
- 3.5** It was noted that work on the non SSOT elements of QuEST was ongoing. It was further noted that the Deputy Registrar is working on a version of QuEST which doesn't rely on SSOT, details of which will be made available for the next meeting of Education Committee. It was also noted that work is ongoing to introduce a mobile friendly version of SSOT to enable students to complete the survey during class time (Item 3.6).
- 3.6** It was noted that a consultation meeting had taken place on the proposal documentation from the Task Group on Reform of University Selection and Entry (TGRUSE) and feedback had been provided to the Admissions Officer for submission to TGRUSE.

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

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

There was no report as no meetings have taken place.

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

It was noted that the ISSE had closed on 29 March 2015 and there had been a 26% response rate, with 1600 responses. This represents a considerable improvement in response rate by comparison with the previous two years. It was further noted that the success of the survey was contributed to by: the placing of the survey on moodle

from the start of the survey period, the incentives and prizes offered, and the consistent communication from the Students' Union.

Ms. A. McKenna noted that an ISSE questionnaire review is currently taking place. The emphasis on the review is to shorten the survey and to focus on seeking information for the universities, on which they can act.

## **6. Presentation on CAO data**

Ms. A. McKenna introduced this item, noting that the report as presented is a detailed and forensic examination of CAO and other data to inform the marketing and student recruitment areas, and to provide a resource for Schools and Faculties to inform their marketing strategies.

### **6.1 A report on undergraduate programmes within DCU's regional catchment area—application and entry tariff analysis**

The national strengths of DCU, based on CAO entry data were identified in the report. It was noted that the report also contains recommendations based on the data which aim to enhance DCU's marketing and brand message.

It was noted that Ms A. McKenna would circulate the report to Heads of School and the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education.

### **6.2 An analysis of current market activity for domestic CAO recruitment**

Mr Chris Spierin introduced this item, noting that the report reviewed the second level market in DCU's core catchment area of the Eastern Corridor, examined DCU's intake from the schools in this geographical location, and made recommendations for future student recruitment marketing activity for the Communications and Marketing office, Student Recruitment office and Faculty/Schools.

## **7. Review of Education Committee Goals**

It was noted that a review of the university strategy is currently taking place and in that context a review of Education Committee goals, to ensure that they are aligned closely to Transforming Lives and Society was timely.

In the discussion which ensued the following were noted:

- In response to the recent informal feedback through Academic Council, it was suggested that where university input is required, Education Committee could seek feedback on goal-related proposals from Academic Council.
- The implementation of the Generation 21 framework is still at an early stage, with the e-portfolio having been launched mid-year, and there will be significant work completed next year to roll it out across DCU, and further work to be completed in relation to Incorporation.
- M. NicGhiolla Mhichil informed the Committee that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning have been asked to be advocates for the Undergraduate Research Awards Competition.

It was noted that Education Committee goals were ongoing, and further consideration would be given to the proposal in relation to Academic Council.

#### **8. Academic Programme Review 2014, response from University Executive**

It was noted that Education Committee had received a response from University Executive to the memo sent by the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar highlighting the infrastructural deficits, staff shortages and concerns about quality of experience overall for students, which had been communicated by Faculties through the Annual Programme Review reports. The Chair reported that Executive had acknowledged the constraints under which staff are working and indicated that, where possible, steps were being taken to address the issues.

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

#### **9. Use of BA (International) nomenclature for all Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences' Programmes where students complete a year abroad**

Noted: It was agreed that the change in nomenclature could apply to all incoming students from 2015-2016 and could also be offered to the current cohort of year 2 students in 2015-2016, who are making a decision to take the year abroad option.

- 10. CVs of the proposed members of the Accreditation Board for the 2015-entry Graduate Diploma in Learning Support and Special Educational Needs, Church of Ireland College of Education.**

Approved.

- 11. AOB**

- 11.1 Guru**

Prof. B. McMullin outlined to the Committee that the Guru system had been approved by University Executive to be rolled out university wide in the next academic year. It was noted that the system will provide academic staff with enhanced teaching related data and will also provide support around the submission of exam papers. It was further noted that a presentation would take place at the next meeting of Academic Council in April.

*End.*

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

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

**Date of next meeting:**

<p><b>Wednesday 6 May 2015, 2.00 p.m. in A204</b></p>
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