

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 30 September 2015

2.00 – 3.00 p.m. in A204

Present: Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Claire Bohan, Dr Brian Corcoran, Professor John Costello, Professor John Doyle, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Professor L. Looney, Professor Barry McMullin, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

Apologies: Professor Mark Brown, Mr James Donoghue, Mr Billy Kelly, Professor A. Harvey, Dr Anne Sinnott

In attendance: Ms Aisling McKenna

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Dr Brian Corcoran to his first meeting of Education Committee as representative of the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education.

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of two late items under AOB:

- Request to approve Certificate in Guidance Counselling to facilitate a proposed aegrotat award
- Approval of additional board members for the Accreditation Board for the MSc in Public Relations.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 3 June 2015

The minutes which had been approved electronically were noted and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 3 June 2015

3.1 It was noted that a meeting would be held in the near future with respect to student retention (Item 3.1).

3.2 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 outcomes in this regard would be considered by University Standards Committee early in the new academic year and will subsequently be notified to Education Committee (Item 3.2).

3.3 It was noted that the Faculty Annual Programme Review outcomes were currently being reviewed by B. Kelly and E. Guilfoyle. Any common issues will be brought to the attention of the relevant sections of the university as appropriate. (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).

3.5 It was noted that the Collaborative Provision document had been circulated to members and feedback had been received from Faculties. The Dean of Graduate Studies indicated that the list of collaborations had been agreed and funding identified to initiate a module within Guru to assist with the processing of approvals with respect to collaborations. System developments were now at an advanced stage and the Dean of Graduate Studies indicated that she would revert to Education Committee with regard to academic approval (Item 7).

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Update on activities undertaken within the IUA

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

- A position paper on collaborative awards was discussed by the Deans of Graduate Research and the IUA Registrars
- A presentation was made by the company commissioned to track the careers of Irish Research Council funded postgraduate fellows
- The Launch of the National Framework for Doctoral Education took place over the summer and Professor L. Looney spoke on behalf of the IUA Graduate Research Dean's Group at the event.
- The IUA is currently considering becoming a member of Vitae, the career and personal development website for researchers. It was noted that DCU has recently joined and now has the resources of Vitae available to it.

5. Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)

5.1 Irish Survey of Student Engagement 2015-2016

It was noted that the 2016 ISSE survey will be considerably shorter and easier to complete and based on the North American National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). It was noted that agreement had been reached that DCU, St. Patrick's College and Mater Dei Institute will be surveyed as a single institution for the 2015-2016 survey. In terms of timeframe, early indications were that the fieldwork will be conducted during the weeks, Monday 29 February 2016 – Friday 18 March 2016, but this is yet to be confirmed.

5.2 Irish Survey of Student Engagement, programme level data 2013-2015

Ms. A McKenna circulated sample programme level reports for review indicating that it had been possible to analyse the ISSE data provided over the three years from 2013-2015 and provide significant data at programme level in the majority of cases. Where response rates on particular programmes were poor and data was limited as a consequence, programme data had been grouped together.

It was proposed that the programme level data would be made available to programme chairs across the university. This was agreed.

6. Report on Examination Performance 2014-2015

Ms. Aisling McKenna reported on the examination performance data which had been circulated drawing attention in particular to the following:

- Pass rates continue to improve and are at the highest in five years, impacted in part by the improvements to results in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing
- For those repeating first year in 2014-2015, two thirds passed at the second attempt
- Even though there are increases in pass rates, precision marks remain relatively consistent over the period of analysis
- The number of students attaining first class honours awards remains stable
- Of the ‘at risk’ students identified in February 2014, only one third passed first year at the first attempt. It was suggested that some further linking with the work being done through PredictEd would be useful
- Consideration might need to be given to the review of entry requirements if the staff investment in the interventions with ‘at risk’ students were not proving effective.

7. Summary of PPR activities in 2014-2015 and planned activities for 2015-2016

The summary of PPR activities per Faculty was noted, with two minor changes being made to the document as follows:

- BEng Mechatronic Engineering, deletion of the phrase ‘in conjunction with the School of Electronic Engineering’
- Due to plans related to Incorporation, it was noted that the PPR for the MA in Comparative Literature will be postponed for 2015-2016.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME- AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES**8. Minor amendments to *Approval Form for Revised Academic Offerings: Faculties and Education Committee***

Proposed changes to the format of the Approval Form for Revised Academic Offerings were agreed. Amendments to page 7 (Proposal 1, 2 and 3), were not agreed.

Following a brief discussion on the devolution of decision-making to Faculties and the need to maintain a strategic view at Education Committee, it was suggested that some further guidance and training be provided to Programme Chairs on preparing proposals for submission to Education Committee and a broader general discussion on items to be 'approved' /noted' to take place at a later stage.

9. Proposed Graduate Certificate in Guidance Counselling¹

The proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Guidance Counselling, for the purposes of granting an aegrotat award, was approved.

10. Any other business

There were no items of AOB.

¹ Late item added to agenda

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 28 October 2015, 2.00 p.m. in A204