

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 25 February 2016 in A204

9.30 – 10.20 am

- Present:** Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Eamon Costello, Dr Greg Foley, Ms. Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Ms. Barbara McConalogue, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms. Phylomena McMorro, Dr Caroline McMullan, Dr Pádraig Ó Duibhir, Dr Andrew O'Regan, Ms. Michele Pringle, Dr Joseph Stokes, Ms. Annabella Stover
- Apologies:** Dr Deirdre Butler, Dr Brian Corcoran, Mr. James Donoghue, Dr Mark Glynn, Dr David McKeon, Professor Kevin Rafter

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one item under AOB as follows:

- Policy on Assessment and Feedback

2. Minutes of the meeting of 14 January 2016

The minutes of the meeting of 14 January 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** It was noted that the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy was under consideration (Item 3.1).
- 3.2** It was noted that the drafting of proposals with respect to issues related to the external examiners' process was ongoing (Item 3.2).

3.3 *Examination Timetabling Principles to be adopted in the Academic Year 2015/16*

The Examination Timetabling Principles document was considered and discussed in light of the experience of Semester 1 examinations (Item 3.3, Item 7.1 12 November 2015).

The following amendments were agreed:

- To delete the introductory sentence.
- To add the following suggested wording: *Examinations for a programme of study may be scheduled on any day within the examination period specified in the academic calendar.*

Subject to the amendments above, the Examination Timetabling Principles were approved for adoption. It was clarified that due to constraints with respect to the publication of the examination timetable for semester 2 and the timing of Academic Council, the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar would be consulted in relation to final approval of the document. It was noted that the principles as agreed would be incorporated into the Examination Regulations document.

3.4 It was noted that the follow-up with respect to a legacy re-admission candidate on the MA in International Relations programme was ongoing (Item 3.4).

3.5 It was noted that the promised update with respect to Akari was awaiting further development and that the first of two anticipated communications would issue over the coming days (Item 10.1).

3.6 It was noted that an application for legacy re-admission from the School of Nursing and Human Sciences for a candidate for the MSc in Nursing/Health Care Practice had been approved by Chair's action (8 February 2016).

3.7 It was noted that amended programme regulations for the BSc in Financial Mathematics 2015-2016 had been approved by Chair's Action (19 January 2016).

3.8 It was noted that Open Education had resubmitted the requested updated EE1 form (Item 4.1.6) and the item was completed.

3.9 It was noted that the additional changes to be made to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences programme regulations for 2015-2016 had been completed and the regulations had been re-submitted for publication (Item 5.4.1).

- 3.10** The legacy re-admission of a candidate onto the MSc in Plasma and Vacuum Technology programme (Item 5.5.1) which had been considered by USC at its meeting of 14 January 2016 was raised for re-consideration in light of information which had not been available, when initially considered. It was noted that due to the joint nature of the programme, the extended period of registration allowed for this programme, the recasting of 7.5 credit modules to 10 credits and the phasing out of the programme, that this legacy re-admission application presented complex issues. It was noted too that similar cases, which had been within the maximum registration period had been allowed by agreement with Registry at the Progression and Award Boards to be awarded the Graduate Diploma.

Following discussion on the issues it was agreed that the Chair would liaise with the Faculty to establish how many candidates were in a similar position to the applicant in question and to propose a solution to USC that would finalise the issues for all candidates on this programme in the 2015-2016 academic year.

B. Faculty issues

4. External examiners for taught programmes

4.1 Nominations

4.1.1 Dr Martina Crehan, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Module examiner in the Teaching Enhancement Unit &
Office of Graduate Studies
Approved

4.1.2 Dr Tess Maginess, Queen's University Belfast
BA for Personal & Professional Development, All Hallows College
Approved

4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties

4.2.1 Dr Colette Kelly, NUI Galway
School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Approved

4.2.2 Dr Margaret Landers
School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Approved

5. Other issues

5.1 Faculty of Science & Health

- 5.1.1 Readmission request on a legacy basis:
MSc in Integrative Counselling & Psychotherapy
Approved

5.2 St. Patrick's College

- 5.2.1 Request for derogation from Marks & Standards:
Bachelor of Education
Approved

C. Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6. Marks and Standards issues

6.1 *Paragraph 4.3*

Normally, undergraduate and taught postgraduate students may not be registered on more than one programme within DCU. Exceptions to this regulation must be approved by the University Standards Committee

It was noted that a query related to paragraph 4.3 above, had come from the Faculty of Science and Health. The Faculty requested if USC would devolve the decision to Faculty to allow students registered on another qualification to take modules from the Stand alone framework offered by the School of Nursing and Human Sciences.

It was agreed that USC would consider a proposal from the Faculty which would set out the proposal in principle, and also set-out a specific set of conditions/circumstances under which USC could delegate authority for this decision to the Faculty.

7. Incorporation Update

It was noted that there were no items currently with respect to Incorporation that fall within the remit of USC.

8. Any other business

8.1 Assessment and Feedback in Teaching and Learning at Dublin City University

It was suggested and agreed that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning would review and update the existing policy document ‘Assessment and Feedback in Teaching and Learning’ for the approval of USC. It was noted that they would ensure the policy’s greater visibility on the DCU website, once updated.

End

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 31 March 2016 9.30 a.m. in A204
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