

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 14 January 2016 in A204

9.30 – 10.10 am

Present: Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Deirdre Butler, Dr Brian Corcoran, Dr Eamon Costello, Dr Greg Foley, Ms. Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Ms. Barbara McConalogue, Dr David McKeon, Ms. Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Caroline McMullan, Dr Pádraig Ó Duibhir, Dr Andrew O'Regan, Ms. Michele Pringle, Dr Joseph Stokes

Apologies: Mr. James Donoghue, Dr Mark Glynn, Professor Lisa Looney, Professor Kevin Rafter, Ms. Annabella Stover

The Chair opened the meeting and welcome Dr Deirdre Butler to her first meeting of University Standards Committee in her capacity as Interim Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, Institute of Education.

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one item under AOB.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2015

The minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2015 were approved, subject to a minor change on page 8, 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** It was noted that principles with respect to the drafting of the examination timetable will be submitted in advance of Semester 2 examination timetabling (Item 7.1).
- 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 7.2).
- 3.5** It was noted that following on from feedback provided to the School of Law and Government with respect to the number and range of external examiners nominated for the meeting of 12 November 2016, the Head of School submitted nominations for four additional external examiners, which were approved by Chair's Action on 18 November 2015 (Item 4.1.2-4.1.9).
- 3.6** It was noted that the finalised Programme Regulations Guidelines and Template had been circulated to Faculties (Item 6.1).
- 3.7** It was noted that an External Examiner for modules in DCUBS had been approved by Chair's Action on 17 November 2015 (Original reference 2015/A5/4.1.35).
- 3.8** It was noted that an External Examiner for modules in DCUBS had been approved by Chair's Action on 17 November 2015 (Original reference 2015/A5/4.1.36).
- 3.9** It was noted that concerns expressed with respect to the Semester 1 examination timetable where students had been scheduled to have examinations in two different languages in the one day had been addressed (Item 7.1).

B. Faculty issues

4. External examiners for taught programmes

4.1 Nominations

- 4.1.1 Professor Colette Henry, Dundalk Institute of Technology
Modules in DCUBS
Approved
- 4.1.2 Dr Séamus Ó Tuama, UCC
BSc in Education & Training
Approved

- 4.1.3 Dr Bonnie Slade, University of Glasgow
BSc in Education & Training
Approved
- 4.1.4 Professor Paul Jackson, University of Birmingham
MA in Development
Approved
- 4.1.5 Professor Jack Holland, University of Leeds
MA in International Relations, MA in International Security and Conflict
Approved
- 4.1.6 Professor Jim Baird, Glasgow Caledonia University
MSc in Management of Sustainable Development, MSc in Management of Clean Technologies
Approved, subject to submission of an up to date form.
- 4.1.7 Dr Sara O’Sullivan, UCD
Modules in Open Education
Approved

4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties

There were no items for consideration.

5. Other issues

5.1 Open Education

- 5.1.1 Confirmation of external expert for Periodic Programme Review:
MSc in the Management of Sustainable Development and MSc in the Management of Clean Technology
Noted

5.2 Faculty of Engineering & Computing

- 5.2.1 Confirmation of external expert for Periodic Programme Review:
BEng in Biomedical Engineering
Noted

- 5.2.2 Confirmation of external expert for Periodic Programme Review:
BEng in Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Noted

5.3 St. Patrick's College

- 5.3.1 Request for derogation from Marks and Standards (paragraph 6.2.2):
Bachelor of Education
Approved
- 5.3.2 Request for derogation from Marks and Standards (paragraph 6.2.2):
Professional Masters of Education
Approved

It was noted that the derogations as approved above would apply to the student cohort of 2015-2016 and students have already been informed.

5.4 Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

- 5.4.1 Request to approve amendment to programme regulations:

Bachelor of Arts (Joint Honours) - continuing students
Bachelor of Arts - Year 1 students
BA in Applied Language and Translation Studies
BA in Communication Studies
BA in Contemporary Culture and Society
BA in Economics, Politics and Law
BA in International Relations
BA in Journalism
BCL (Law and Society)
BSc in Multimedia

The requested change to the programme regulations as listed above was approved.
USC requested an additional change, as follows, to be inserted into all the above named programme regulations:

'Module(s) that have already been carried forward, cannot be carried forward into a further academic year'

5.5 Faculty of Science & Health

5.5.1 Readmission request on a legacy basis: MSc in Plasma & Vacuum Technology Not approved.

It was noted that the student's transcript indicated he had completed 45 credits. Notwithstanding the fact that the original 7.5 credit modules had been amended to reflect a 10 credit weighting, it was agreed that the candidate would be asked to exit with a Graduate Certificate. It was agreed too, that should the candidate wish to exit with a Graduate Diploma he would be asked to complete an additional 15 credits in the form of an assigned project. It was the view of USC that this would address the currency of the award and credit shortfall issues.

C. Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6. Marks and Standards issues

There were no issues for consideration.

7. Incorporation Update

It was noted that it was anticipated that the main elements of Incorporation would be completed by June 2016.

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

Noted.

An amendment was made to the PPR activities planned in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to include the MA in Comparative Literature, a review of which had originally been postponed due to Incorporation.

9. Report on exceptional requests from Progression and Award Boards for exceptional repeat sessions for students following Autumn PABS

It was noted that no exceptional repeat requests had been made following the autumn 2015 Progression and Awards Boards.

10. Any other business

10.1 Course Builder/Akari

The Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning for the Faculty of Science and Health requested an update on the status of Course Builder. It was noted that an update would issue over the coming days.

End

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 25 February 2016

9.30 a.m. in A204