

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Wednesday 13 June 2001

2.00-4.10 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

A Pratt (Chairman)
P Barker
E Cassidy
F Corcoran
E Cunningham
A Daffy
J Dowling
L Doyle
M Drumm
B Flood
M Henry
J Hurley
B Kehoe
E Kennedy

J Kerrane
J Leyden
L Looney
L Mac Mathúna
L McDermott
C McDonagh
B McMullin
B McNamara
M Molony
R Morgan
J Morris
A Morrissey
T Moynihan
B Murphy (observer)

G Murphy
J Murray
S Ní Mhaolrúnaigh
C Nic Pháidín
E O'Connell
B Richardson
T Ryan
R Scaife
P Sheehan
M Shine Thompson
D Vender
D Walls
S Wickham
A Wood

APOLOGIES:

E Buffet
P Burke
M Byrne
J Carroll
M Clynes
U de Vries
M Farren
R Flynn
R Forster
T Glynn
K Grimes

S Hashmi
J Horgan
K Junker
C Kenny
P Kinsella
B Leavy
K MacKeogh
C Mac Murchaidh
S McBride
S McGovern
K Monks
G Murphy

R O'Kennedy
B Pierce
J Ryan
R Saunders
A Sinnott
A Smeaton
W Tuke
R Verbruggen
F von Prondzynski
A Wickham
P Willis

ACTION**1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted, subject to the inclusion of an additional item (Item 12: *Report on Summer 2001 Progression and Awards Boards from Mater Dei Institute*) and the renumbering of *Any Other Business* as Item 12.

It was noted that the papers relating to a substantial number of items had been circulated only shortly before the meeting and that this practice, while undesirable, was sometimes inevitable given the need to respond quickly to new developments.

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 11 April 2001

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of Academic Council**3.1 Amended guidelines for minute-writing**

The amended guidelines, and a pro-forma, are now on the website.

3.2 Transitional adjustment to Marks and Standards for Summer and Autumn examination diets 2001

A workshop was held for Registry staff, Faculty Administrators and Chairpersons of Programme Boards to clarify issues arising out of this adjustment.

3.3 IML/IBL4 oral/aural examinations 2001

Arrangements for these examinations have been agreed by all parties.

4. Reports from Standing Committee of Academic Council**4.1 Minutes of the meeting of 5 April 2001**

Noted.

4.2 Minutes of the meeting of 3 May 2001

Noted.

4.3 Minutes of the meeting of 7 June 2001

Noted.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

A discussion was held on the draft guidelines for circumstances in which plagiarism is suspected (meeting of 7 June 2001). It was agreed that the discussion on this issue would be widened and that revised guidelines, taking into account the outcomes of the discussion, would be presented to the meeting of Academic Council of 10 October 2001. The discussion will take place on the strategy e-mail list. **Registrar**

6. Accreditation recommendations

6.1 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Plasma and Vacuum Technology

The recommendation from the Accreditation Board to approve this programme, subject to modifications, was adopted.

6.2 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Nursing

The recommendation from the Accreditation Board to approve this programme, subject to modifications, was adopted. It was noted that a proposal on APEL was in the course of preparation and would be submitted to a future meeting of Academic Council.

6.3 Graduate Diploma/MSc in Integrative Psychotherapy

The recommendation from the Accreditation Board to approve this programme, subject to modifications, was adopted. A discussion took place on the implications for the University of accrediting programmes offered by institutions other than higher-education institutions, and the possible need for a policy to be formulated. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed by Executive. **Chairman**

7. Proposal on the appeals process

This proposal was discussed in detail and commended, particularly in regard to the increased transparency which it recommended. Some amendments were proposed. It was agreed that these would be incorporated into a revised proposal which would be submitted for legal advice and then presented to the meeting of Academic Council of 10 October 2001. **Dr Murray**

It was agreed that two of the recommendations made in the proposal - the keeping of minutes and the disclosure to each appellant of the reason(s) for the decision taken in his/her case - would be implemented with immediate effect. **Dr Murray**

8. Recognition of third-level qualifications for the purposes of teaching in voluntary secondary schools

Noted.

9. Students' Union proposals

9.1 Programme boards

It was agreed that the Students' Union Education Officer be made a non-voting *ex-officio* member of all Programme Boards.

Ms Cooke

9.2 Academic assessment

It was agreed that no academic exercises could be scheduled within the two-week study period before examinations unless through consultation with, and with the agreement of, the students involved (who would not necessarily have to constitute a majority of their class group).

9.3 Anonymous marking

It was agreed to set up a working group to examine this issue.

Registrar

9.4 Formal review of assessment

It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at a future meeting of Academic Council in the light of the recommendations to be made by the Working Group on the Modular Programme Structure.

10. Report and recommendations from Validation Committee – Bachelor of Commerce (Corporate)

The recommendation from the Validation Committee that this programme proceed to accreditation was approved. A discussion took place on the extent to which it is desirable that the University offer programmes tailored to the needs of corporate groups. It was agreed that the Accreditation Board would include members with divergent views on this issue. The issue of maintenance of academic freedom and transparent independence from the corporate customer was also discussed. It was noted that the University should have a protocol on this issue. It was agreed that the Director of Executive Education would be requested to prepare a paper for discussion at a future meeting of Academic Council and that the issue would also be referred to the Teaching and Learning Committee and the ethics awareness group.

**Dr Carey
Registrar**

It was agreed that, in future, reports from Validation Committees and Accreditation Boards would take place only if sponsors of the programme(s) in question were present at Academic Council.

11. Report on Summer 2001 Progression and Awards Boards from Mater Dei Institute

Noted.

12. Any other business

12.1 Proposal that the Director of Quality Promotion sit on Academic Council

Agreed.

12.2 Proposal to award an aegrotat degree to a recently-deceased student in the final year of the BA in Communication Studies

Agreed.

Date of Next Meeting:

<p>Friday, 29 June 2001</p>

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____