

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 10 October 2001

2.00-4.00 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

P Barker
J Bruton
A Burke
P Burke
M Byrne
T Carey
J Carroll
G Carty
B Corcoran
F Corcoran
R Costello
E Cunningham
J Dowling
J Doyle
M El-Baradie
S Hashmi
M Henry
E Kennedy
J Kerrane
P Kinsella
M Mac Conmara

L Mac Mathúna
C Mac Murchaidh
S McBride
L McDermott
E McGlynn
B McMullin
B McNamara
K Monks
J Morris
A Morrissey
T Moynihan
B Murphy
G Murphy
J Murray
S Ní Mhaolrúnaigh
C Nic Pháidín
B O'Connor
R O'Connor
R O'Kennedy
B Pierce
A Pratt

P Preston
W Richardson
M Roantree
T Ryan
R Saunders
R Scaife
M Shields
M Shine Thompson
A Smeaton
T Szecsi
B Trench
J van Genabith
D Vender
R Verbruggen
F von Prondzynski (Chairman)
P Walsh
A Wickham
S Wickham
P Willis
A D Wood
P Young

APOLOGIES:

C Bohan
M Boland
R Byrne
M Clynes
D Doyle
E Dubsky
O Finlayson
A N Glynn
C Long

C McCorkell
C McDonagh
S McGovern
S Marlow
R Morgan
E Ó Maoláin
E O'Connell
N O'Connor
O O'Reilly

C Petite
H Ruskin
M Ryan
G Scalzo
A Scott
A Sinnott
M Smyth
D Walls
J Williams

The Chairman, in welcoming all members, mentioned in particular those who were attending for the first time.

Action

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meetings of Academic Council of 13 and 29 June 2001

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of Academic Council

Noted.

4. Reports from Standing Committee of Academic Council

4.1 Minutes of the meeting of 5 July 2001

Noted. With regard to Item 3, it was observed that students may sometimes feel justified in 'throwing' interviews. The Director of Innovation and Business Relations had requested that Programme Chairs assist IBR by reinforcing the message that students should see themselves as representing the University and should behave professionally during the interview selection process.

4.2 Minutes of the meeting of 6 September 2001

Noted. It was observed that some staff members were experiencing difficulties with online completion of postgraduate research forms (Item 3.2). The Registry is to discuss this issue with the Computer Services Department.

Ms McDermott

5. Matters arising from the minutes of Standing Committee

Noted.

6. Proposed foundation/access programme

In the course of the discussion on this item, the following issues were raised: the possible need to distinguish between access programmes and foundation programmes;

whether topics such as Study Skills should be taught in stand-alone modules or integrated into specific disciplines; whether access/foundation programmes should be generic in nature or geared to the requirements of specific degree programmes; the need to distinguish between overseas students with a high level of English-language proficiency and those whose primary initial need is English-language tuition.

The proposal was approved in principle. It was agreed that work on it should continue in parallel with the deliberations of the Working Group on Modular Programme Structures rather than after this Group had reported, and agreed that this work should be carried out by Standing Committee of Academic Council.

Registrar

7. Proposal on post-examination information

In the course of the discussion on this item, the following issues were raised: the crucial importance of transparency in giving examination feedback; the likelihood that students would continue to make increasing use of e-mail for post-examination queries as well as, or instead of, availing of designated consultation days; the fact that a system for reviewing examination papers had already been implemented in the second-level sector; the possibility that the issue might be examined by a Working Group which would include students and members of academic staff; the possibility that the issue might be examined as part of a wider-ranging analysis of examination-related issues (to include, for example, marking deadlines, anonymous marking and provision of full information on marks to academic staff after Progression and Awards Boards).

It was agreed that work on this proposal should progress, taking into account the points raised in discussion, and that the possibility of integrating the proposal into a wider review of examination-related issues should be examined.

Registrar

8. Examination guidelines for students with disabilities

Noted and approved subject to a review of the regulation which states that computers to be used in examinations must be handed in at least three days in advance (on the basis that students might need their computers during this period).

Agreed to request the Disability Service and the Examinations Office to consider the possibility of drawing up examination guidelines for pregnant students.

Ms McDermott

*** 9. Current register of Academic Council members**

Approved, subject to the inclusion of a small number of amendments, which were notified after the printing of the register.

10. Register of finalised accredited programmes

Noted. The MSc in Information Technology is to be included.

11. DCU modular programme structure: review of consultation

Following a discussion which covered progression regulations and flexible modular provision, it was agreed that the proposed pilot scheme would be implemented in the two Faculties which had indicated their interest in participating, i.e. the Faculty of Science and Health and Dublin City University Business School. It was further agreed that any other Schools or Faculties which wished to participate at this stage would be welcome to do so and that they should discuss their plans in advance with
Dr McMullin. **Dr McMullin**

12. Report from Appeals Board (Summer 2001)

A discussion was held on issues arising out of this report, in particular the fact that anomalies in terms of credits and weightings exist in a number of programmes. Dr Murray explained that he had taken on a new role in the Registry which involved managing all issues relating to academic structures and that he would be working with Chairpersons of Programme Boards to ensure that current problems were eradicated and future problems forestalled. It was agreed that he and Dr McMullin would also discuss academic structure issues, in view of their relevance to the Working Group on Modular Programme Structures. **Dr Murray & Dr McMullin**

13. Report from Progression and Awards Boards (Autumn 2001)

The reports on the Progression and Awards Boards and Faculty Research Boards held in the University, and the reports on the Progression and Awards Boards held in St Patrick's College, Mater Dei Institute of Education, All Hallows College and the Royal Irish Academy of Music were approved and all results were formally adopted.

It was noted that the review of the academic structure referred to in Item 12 above would enhance the timely and efficient processing of examination results.

Mr Kinsella raised a complaint about a failure in the ITS system which resulted in results being issued to students which were incorrect. The Registrar was requested to investigate the matter.

Registrar

14. Revised proposal on the Appeals process

This proposal was approved subject to legal advice, which had been requested, being obtained.

15. Accreditation recommendation

The recommendation in respect of the GD/MSc in Renal Nursing was approved. It was noted that this recommendation related not to a proposed new degree programme but to a proposed new pathway on an existing approved degree programme.

16. Any other business

The Registrar encouraged all members of Academic Council to attend the Graduation ceremonies on 2 and 3 November, and reminded members of the practice to be introduced at these ceremonies whereby Chairpersons of Programme Boards are to shake hands with each graduand immediately after the presentation of the parchment.

Date of next meeting:

**Wednesday 12 December 2001
2.00 p.m. in AG01**

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____