

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday 13 February 2008

2.00-2.45 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

F Blin	H Hayes	P O'Byrne
S Blott	M Henry	P O'Connor
O Bree	C Holland	N O'Reilly
P Brereton	G Hughes	J O'Sullivan
J Bruton	S Knowlton	R Saunders
E Buffet	C Mac an Bhaird	R Scaife
P Burke	N McClave	M Shine Thompson
J Carroll	L McDermott (Secretary)	A Simon
E Conway	K MacKeogh	M Slowey (VPLI/R and Chair)
J Costello	P McMorrow	P Smith
J Doyle	C Mac Murchaidh	M Smyth
M Farren	B Murphy	R Tobin
B Flood	P Meleady	R Walshe
N Gathergood	R Morgan	A Wickham
S Grimes	G Murphy	P Willis
E Guilfoyle	M Nic Giolla Mhichíl	

APOLOGIES:

J Connolly	B Leavy	H Ruskin
M Drumm	B Le Juez	A Scott
O Finlayson	C McDonagh	P Sheehan
S Fox	P McDonagh	A Sinnott
D Ging	A McGrady	C Stevenson
S Hashmi	R Munck	B Tolan
T Hogan	E O'Connell	R Verbruggen
L Hourihane	P Ó Flatharta	F von Prondzynski
J Hughes	O O'Reilly	A Way
S Ingle	B Pierce	C Woods
M Irwin-Bannon		

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council of 12 December 2007**

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

With regard to Item 8.3, it was noted that the decision taken by the Council in relation to anonymous marking involved the implementation of a university-wide system only on the basis that a workable system was available.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Academic Strategy Committee of 5 December 2007 and 9 January 2008**4.1 Noted.**

4.2 Noted that Dr Claire Bohan, Director of Student Affairs, had joined the ASC as the representative of the elected members of Executive. Noted that a call for nominations for an Academic Council member on the ASC had been made and that a further call would be made shortly.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 6 December 2007**5.1 Noted and approved.****5.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Board of 10 January 2008**

Noted and approved.

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Learning Innovation Advisory Panel of 17 January 2008

Noted and approved.

7. President's report

The Chair noted, on behalf of the President, that the university had taken a conservative approach to preparing the current budget and that this was of assistance in the current constrained financial climate.

B: Policy and strategy issues

8. Strategy implementation

The Chair noted that the preparation for the next university strategic plan had begun.

9. Strategic Innovation Funding

The Chair noted that the members of the Council would be informed as soon as information on the outcome of the funding submission became available and that the university's concerns about the timing of the announcement had been brought to the attention of the Irish Universities Association.

10. Presentation on the Academic Framework for Innovation

10.1 Professor Martin Henry, Academic Director of the Academic Framework for Innovation, made a presentation on current developments with regard to the AFI, noting that four project teams (on *Marks and Standards*, learning outcomes, information systems and a budgetary model) were now in operation and that recommendations relating to the four areas would be made to the Council in due course.

10.2 The following were noted in the course of the presentation:

- the provision of funding for part-time students would be of considerable assistance in implementing the AFI
- decisions will need to be made about several areas relating to *Marks and Standards*, including the standard/minimum module size, the desirability or otherwise of a grade point average system, and possible modifications to the academic calendar and the timetabled day

- the week beginning Monday 28 April 2008 has been designated 'Learning Outcomes Week', and a range of seminars and workshops is being organised
- a document addressing issues commonly raised in relation to learning outcomes is in the course of preparation
- when learning outcomes are being drawn up, it is important to focus in the first instance on the award level
- discussions are to take place about the desirability and feasibility, or otherwise, of determining the defining feature(s) of a DCU graduate, or perhaps arriving at a definition per Faculty.

10.3 It was noted that the members of the Council were supportive of the implementation of the AFI as a matter of principle (as indicated by their approval of the proposals on the AFI at the meeting of 13 June 2007) while remaining concerned about the feasibility of implementation unless sufficient resources are made available.

11. Update on anonymous marking

Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Director of Registry, noted that further consultations on possible systems would be undertaken with Faculties, either at Faculty Teaching and Learning Committees or by other agreed means. The Chair noted that the matter would also be discussed by the University Standards Committee.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

12. Validation recommendations:

12.1 BA in Law and Society

Approved.

12.2 BSc in Enterprise Computing

Approved.

13. Accreditation recommendations:

13.1 MA in International Communication and MA in International Journalism Studies

Approved.

13.2 Revisions to Bachelor of Arts programme, All Hallows College

Approved.

14. Revised inventory of non-major awards made by the University

Approved.

15. Amendments to Academic Calendars 2007/2008 and 2008/2009

Approved.

16. Faculty Awards Boards recommendations for March 2008 conferring

Noted and approved.

17. Progression and Awards Boards recommendations for March 2008 conferring

Noted and approved.

18. Report from the meeting of the Appeals Board of 10 December 2007

Noted.

19. Report from the meeting of the Disciplinary Appeals Committee of 14 January 2008

Noted.

20. Report on INTRA activities 2007

Noted.

21. Any other business

The Chair noted that a report from the Research Committee would be submitted to the 9 April 2008 meeting of the Council and that a presentation on current developments in relation to the Foresight exercise would also be made to it.

Date of next meeting:

<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 9 April 2008 2.00 p.m. in AG01</p>
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Signed: _____
President

Date: _____