

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

8 February 2017

2.00 – 3.15. pm in AG01

PRESENT:

F. Blin
C. Brennan
J. Bruen
J. Brunton
J. Bruton
M. Butler
B. Corcoran
M. Cummins
J. Dongohue
J. Doyle
N. Dunne
M. Fitzpatrick
E. Guilfoyle
S. Hegarty
G. Hughes
M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)
A. Kearns

B. Kelly
J. Kelly
E. Kennedy
Q. Liu
J. Lovatt
B. MacCraith (Chair)
C. MacMurchaidh
A. Matthews
S. McArdle
K. McDonagh
D. McKeon
P. McMorrow
B. McMullin
E. McNulty
P. Mooney
A. Morrin

G-M Muntean
G. Murphy
F. Murphy
B. NíÁingléis
D. Nic Mhathúna
P. Ó Duibhir
R. O'Connor
N. O'Reilly
E. O'Riordan
J. Rami
A. Simon
A. Stevenson
J. Stokes
P. Tiernan
P. Willis
P. Young

APOLOGIES:

C. Bohan
M. Brown
D. Collings
E. Conway
E. Costello
S. Cullen
P. Davis
B. Flood
G. Foley
R. Forster
D. Hand

C. Holland
D. Keogh
P. Landais
T. Lynn
E. McGlynn
C. McGonagle
S. McGovern
G. McGuinness
A. McKenna
C. McMullan

R. Murphy
B. Nolan
M. O'Brien
C. Pressler
M. Quinn
M. Roantree
R. Sadleir
A Sinnott
M-R. Sweeney
D. Walls

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 7 December 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of 7 December 2016 were confirmed subject to the following revisions:

Under 8.4 change from *‘nineteen students had requested permission to progress carrying failed modules’* to *‘nineteen of the students who appealed requested permission to progress carrying failed modules’*.

Under 8.5 change from *‘subject to the inclusion of wording to make it clear that examination scripts cannot be scanned, photocopied or removed from the location in which they are being held and that consultation by means of e-mail is not permitted’* to *‘subject to the inclusion that examination scripts should at all times remain in the possession of the University and, except in cases of students on off-campus programmes, e.g., Open Education programmes, will not be scanned or photocopied’*.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 It was noted in the minutes of 7 December 2017 that *‘consideration would be given to the desirability of implementing revised arrangements as discussed by the University Standards Committee at its meeting of 29 May 2014. The Review Group will therefore consider these revised arrangements with a view to making a proposal to Council at its meeting of 8 February 2017. The Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning provided clarification on the minute indicating that in the initial instance discussions will be held with Faculties in this regard. A proposal will then be considered by University Standards Committee and subsequently submitted for the consideration of Academic Council.*

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 26 October 2016 and 30 November 2016

The minutes were approved.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 10 November 2016

The minutes were approved.

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 13 October 2016 and 1 December 2016

The minutes were approved.

B. Policy and strategy issues

7. President's report (oral report)

Sectoral Update

7.1 The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Skills is currently considering the findings of the Cassells Report *'Investing in National Ambition – A Strategy for Funding Higher Education'*. We are awaiting their conclusions with interest.

7.2 It was noted that the Department of Education and Skills launched an Action Plan for Education 2017 on Tuesday 6 February 2017. The primary focus of the Action Plan for Education is on breaking the cycle of disadvantage and linking skills development to enterprise. Although there were a large number of actions contained within the plan, a small, but important, number related to third level activity.

7.3 The HEA is currently reviewing the model for higher education funding (RGAM). An expert panel has been set up to conduct the review and make recommendations on a future approach to funding allocation. All third level institutions have been invited to provide feedback by 24 February 2017. It is noted that it is intended to have the new funding model in place for the 2018 budget.

7.4 It has been announced that a policy review which will look at the design and implementation of a multi-annual funding model involving increased Employer and Exchequer contributions from 2018 is due to be published in April 2017.

- 7.5 The Government is finalising the drafting of the Higher Education Reform Bill.

DCU update

- 7.6 With respect to development of a new strategic plan it was noted that consultation sessions with all schools and units have been completed and the process of collating content for the new strategic plan has commenced. The President indicated that an announcement of an innovative online platform to enable consultation on the strategic plan will be made shortly. This platform will enable participation of all those associated with DCU to participate in the strategic planning process. Working and consultation groups are currently being set up.
- 7.7 The President was pleased to announce that DCU has been designated as a ‘University of Sanctuary’, in recognition of a range of initiatives demonstrating commitment to welcoming asylum seekers and refugees into the university community. A Steering Group, comprising of staff and students has been established.
- 7.8 It was noted that an Intel/DCU Memorandum of Understanding has recently been signed and this engagement with Intel reflects DCU’s mission to be a university of enterprise. Initiatives in this regard will be announced over the coming months.
- 7.9 It was noted that DCU was recently featured on RTE’s Nationwide. The piece was a positive portrayal of DCU’s key values.
- 7.10 It was with deep sadness and loss that the university community learned of the untimely death of Dr Peadar Ó Flatharta. Dr Ó Flatharta made a great contribution to advancing the Irish language over decades. His friendships spanned the university community and he will be greatly missed.

8. Presentation on Performance in First Year versus CAO Attainment 2012-2016, Ms Karen Johnston, Institutional Research Officer

Ms Karen Johnston presented on first year examination performance and the comparison with CAO attainment 2012-2016 and the following points were noted:

- There is a decrease in entrants who have less than 400 points
- 70% of entrants have 400-495 points
- 72% of programmes have a points requirement of 400 points or above
- Analysis suggests a positive relationship between CAO achievement and precision mark in first year
- 71% of entrants with higher maths enter with a C1 or lower

- Analysis suggests a small positive relationship between maths' attainment and precision mark

9. Presentation on First Destination Survey 2015 by Ms Yvonne McLoughlin and Ms Karen Johnston

Ms Karen Johnston and Ms Yvonne McLoughlin presented on the First Destination Survey 2015 (DCU registered students only) and the following points were noted:

- There was a focused approach to gathering the data and the response rate was 58%, up from 49% in the previous year
- Results are based on good quality feedback
- 6% of respondents are seeking employment
- 92% of respondents are in employment/further study and 54% of those employed are working in organisations with over 250 employees
- 57% of undergraduates employed earn over €25000
- 21% of respondents referenced Intra/placement as the source of employment

It was noted that national survey figures are not yet available to enable comparison of data.

The President thanked Ms Karen Johnston and Ms Yvonne McLoughlin for the presentation.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

10. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved

11. Accreditation Report: BA in Jazz and Contemporary Music Performance

Approved. It was noted that although the Accreditation Report indicated that the '*maximum annual intake into Year 1 of the programme will be 30 students*', it was clarified by the Associate Dean for Teaching of Learning, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, that although the maximum intake in 2017 will be 30 students, it was not intended that there would a cap on numbers for subsequent intakes, and decisions in this regard in the future will be based on available resources.

12. Recommendations from Progression and Awards Boards for March 2017 conferring

Approved

13. Recommendations from Spring 2017 Faculty Awards Boards for Research Degrees for March 2017 conferring

Approved

14. Any other business

There were no items.

Signed: _____
President

Date _____

Date of next meeting:

<p>12 April 2017 2:00 pm in B103 DCU St. Patrick's Campus</p>
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