

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

8 June 2016

2.00 – 2.50 pm in AG01

PRESENT:

C. Bohan
C. Brennan
P. Brereton
J. Bruen
J. Carroll
J. Costello
Y Crotty
J. Donoghue
P. Flynn
G. Foley
S. Fox
J. Gallen
E. Guilfoyle

M. Helfert
M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)
B. Kelly
D. Kenny
A. Lodge
B. MacCraith (Chair)
C. MacMurchaidh
A. Matthews
K. McDonagh
E. McGlynn
A. McGrady
A. McKenna

P. McMorrow
B. McMullin
G. Murphy
K. Nolan
B. Nolan
J. Nolan
R. O'Connor
A. O'Regan
A. Simon
A. Stevenson
M. R. Sweeney
B. White

APOLOGIES:

M. Brennan
M. Brown
J. Brunton
M. Byrne
B. Corcoran
E. Costello
P. Davis

J. Doyle
H. Esmonde
B. Flood
C. Gurrin
P. Landais
L. Looney
P. O'Duibhir

M. O'Brien
E. O'Riordan
M. Roantree
R. Sadleir
S. Stan
A Stover

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 13 April 2016**

The minutes of 13 April 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 16 March 2016 and 6 April 2016

The minutes were approved.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 31 March 2016

The minutes were approved.

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 3 March 2016 and 14 April 2016

The minutes were approved.

7. President's report

- 7.1 The President informed Council that the IUA will be in dialogue shortly with the newly appointed Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, TD and had also recently hosted a visit from the Minister of State for Training and Skills, John Halligan TD.

It was noted that DCU has provided feedback as part of the consultation process with Education stakeholders, initiated by Minister of Education and Skills to develop a new three-year strategy for Education.

The programme for Government has made it clear that the Cassells Report on Higher Education Funding will be brought to an Oireachtas sub-committee shortly. Although it is now clearly accepted at government levels that third level funding needs be addressed, the means of addressing it remain to be agreed.

As part of the HEA performance-based funding model, it is noted that DCU is in the process of reporting on its performance against the seven high-level objectives and performance indicators agreed in the Mission-based Performance Compact.

- 7.2 With respect to Incorporation, all expenditure to date has been fully supported by State funding and there is an expectation that this will continue to the completion of the project.

DCU is currently working on three separate bilateral legal agreements with the three incorporating institutions, St. Patrick's College, Mater Dei Institute of Education and the Church of Ireland College of Education. Discussions are at an advanced and detailed stage.

All Incorporation Work streams are working towards, and are on target to meet, the September 2016 deadline.

In the context of the large increase in student numbers and the need to address capacity there is a strong emphasis on building development and investment, space planning and timetabling for the next academic year.

It is also noted that the Examinations process across multiple campuses has gone well to date.

8. Presentation by Ms Aisling McKenna on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) 2016

Ms Aisling McKenna presented a high level overview on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement 2016 noting the change to the number of questions from previous years, down from 122 to 66. The indicators measured have also been reduced and changed somewhat. The following were noted:

- The overall response rate was 32%, up from 26% in the previous year. It was acknowledged that the support and assistance of the Student's Union, the Teaching Enhancement Unit and ISS was a key factor in getting such a good response. In all 2840 responses have been received, which will enable more detailed data analysis.
- The response rate for all institutions was 22% and from universities was 19%.
- It is noted when looking at the indicators individually, that DCU results are broadly similar to the sector as a whole and to the other universities.
- The more interesting and varied comparisons are found when the individual indicators are compared across disciplines and Faculties.

In the discussion which followed it was noted that

- The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education is planning to host the ISSE national data set which will enable Faculties to compare themselves against similar disciplines in other institutions.

The Chair thanked Ms Aisling McKenna for her most interesting presentation.

C: Items for formal approval/noting

9. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved

10. Validation Reports

10.1 Certificate, Peer Support Working in Mental Health

Approved

10.2 Graduate Certificate in Sexuality and Sexual Health Education

Approved

10.3 Graduate Certificate in Relationships and Sexuality Education for Young People with Intellectual Disability

Approved

11. Any Other Business

There were no items.

Signed: _____
President

Date_____

Date of next meeting:

<p>Monday, 20 June 2016 2.00 p.m. in AG01</p>
