

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****4 December 2019****2.00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.****B103, DCU St Patrick's Campus****Present:**

F. Blin	L. Boran	M. Brown
J. Brunton	C. Commons	M. Crane
O. Farrell	B. Flood	P. Flynn
G. French	P. Gallagher	Y. Graham
C. Gurrin	D. Hand	S. Hegarty
G. Hughes	G. Jones	A. Kearns
R. Keegan (Secretary)	B. Kelly	J. Kelly
A. Logan	L. Looney	J. Lovatt
B. MacCraith (Chair)	C. Mac Murchaidh	M. McAdam
A. McAuley	K. McDonagh	R. McElvaney
E. McGlynn	C. McGonagle	G. McGuinness
P. McMorro	E. McNulty	J.-P. Mosnier
R. Murphy	D. Nic Mhathúna	P. Ó Duibhir
A. Parle-McDermott	P. Rosati	K. Sanders
M. R. Sweeney	J. Travers	J. Usher
B. White		

Apologies:

S. Belton	C. Bohan	M. Butler
D. Collings	B. Corcoran	E. Costello
M. Coulter	M. Fitzpatrick	Y. Freeney
C. Furlong	R. Gillanders	E. Guilfoyle
E. Kennedy	D. Keogh	P. Landais
C. Loscher	C. McArdle	E. McDonald

A. McKenna	M. McSharry	P. Meleady
P. Mooney	E. Morgenroth	F. Murphy
M. O'Brien	S. O'Brien	D. Robbins
P. Robbins	P. Sharkey Scott	A. Sinnott

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A. Minutes and Related Issues

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 9 October 2019

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 18 September 2019

Approved

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 5 September 2019

Approved

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 2 September 2019

Approved

B. Policy and strategy issues**7. President's report (oral report)**

- 7.1 The Chair informed Council that the options proposed in the Cassells report are currently with the European Commission for economic evaluation. It is expected that the evaluation will not be completed until Spring 2020 and therefore any implementation will not happen until 2021.
- 7.2 The Chair provided Council with an overview of the Human Capital Initiative which will bring €300 million into the system over the next five years. The objective of this special funding is to drive innovation at third level, future proof graduates for the labour market and increase provision in areas of identified skills deficits.

There are 3 pillars in the funding initiative. Pillar 3, which focuses on innovation and agility, will be the largest call worth €206 million. The call launches on 16 December with a closing date of 24 March 2020. The Chair highlighted that DCU is well positioned in regards to the emphasis on innovation and outlined what plans are being put in place to ensure DCU is as competitive as possible in the call. The Chair also highlighted that the call is not intended to support capital projects or disciplines where it is anticipated the majority of graduates will go into public sector roles. The Chair indicated he would welcome feedback from Faculties.

- 7.3 The Chair advised Council that DCU has submitted three applications for the Senior Academic Leadership Initiative (SALI). The initiative will fund 15 additional professorial positions in areas where there is a historical deficit of woman in senior leadership roles. The areas identified for the DCU submissions are Computing, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and Physics.
- 7.4 The Chair updated Council on the Strategic Plan. The year 2 analysis and the year 3 prioritisation plan have been completed and will be presented to the next meeting of Governing Authority. A year 2 report is currently being prepared and will be circulated to all DCU staff members before the end of the year. The Chair highlighted that curriculum reform will be given prioritisation in year 3, in response to the HCI call.

8. Recommendation on Examination Appeals Board Process, following two-year pilot

Professor McGlynn provided Council with a summary of the amended appeal procedures which have been piloted since December 2016. The pilot involved two new processes whereby students, in addition to appealing, can apply for a module mark recheck and/or a module assessment review. The pilot also saw a discontinuation of the ground of appeal of 'examiner error of judgement'.

Professor McGlynn informed Council that there is no evidence of increased numbers of appeals and no unexpected issues have arisen during the pilot. Professor McGlynn advised Council that the Examination Appeals Board recommends that the new process be adopted on an ongoing basis.

Council approved the recommendation put forward by the Examination Appeals Board.

9. English Language Entry Requirements for International Applicants to Postgraduate Taught Programmes

Deferred

C. Items for formal approval/noting**10. Academic Calendar 2020-2021**

Approved

11. Examination Regulations 2019-2020

Approved

12. Report from Winter 2019 Examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

Approved

13. Report from Examination Appeals Boards for taught programmes 2019

Noted

14. Updated Terms of Reference, Composition and Standing Orders of the Examination Appeals Board

Approved

15. Report on the outcome of the Graduate Research Studies Board to consider research appeals

Noted

16. Report from the Disciplinary Committee 2019

Noted

17. Report from the Research Committee 2019

Noted

18. Any other business

There were no others items for discussion under AOB.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

5 February 2020

2:00 pm in AG01

DCU, Glasnevin Campus