

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 5 April 2017

2.00 – 3.00 pm in A204

Present: Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Michelle Butler, Mr James Donoghue, Professor Greg Hughes, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Anne Looney, Professor Lisa Looney, Dr Garrett McGuinness, Ms Aisling McKenna, Ms Pauline Mooney, Professor Anne Sinnott

Apologies: Professor Mark Brown, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Professor John Doyle, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Ms Karen Johnston, Dr Joseph Stokes

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Chair welcomed Professor Lisa Looney to Education Committee in her capacity as Executive Dean of Engineering and Computing and Dr Anne Looney to her first meeting of Education Committee in her capacity as Executive Dean of the DCU Institute of Education.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the addition of two items as follows:

- Consideration of the English language requirements for new partnership arrangements with Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University (PNU).
- Consideration of nominee for the Accreditation Board for the proposed MA in Refugee Relocation and Integration

2. Minutes of the meeting of 15 March 2017

The minutes were approved, and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 15 March 2017

- 3.1** It was noted that the development of a protocol for the cessation of arrangements with those external examiners who do not engage in the examining process is ongoing (Item 3.1).
- 3.2** It was noted that the Accreditation Report for the Master of Education in Literacy Professional Practice and a response from the programme proposers was considered by the Education Committee Standing Committee meeting of 21 March 2017. A revised document is on the agenda of this meeting of Education Committee (Item 3.2).
- 3.3** It was noted that the Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning had held a meeting with the Head of Careers and the Institutional Research and Analysis Officer to review examples of best practice for the publication of First Destination Survey outcomes on the university website. Another meeting will take place over the coming weeks (Item 3.3).
- 3.4** It was noted that clarification had been provided on the delivery of the MSc in Organisational Change and Leadership, which had previously been jointly delivered under the 3U partnership. It was confirmed that the programme will be delivered by DCU only.

4. Minutes of the meeting of Education Committee Standing Committee 21 March 2017

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING**5. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the Irish Universities Association (IUA)**

It was noted that there were no updates to report on this item. The next meeting of the IUA Registrars will take place on 10 April 2017.

6. Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) 2016-2017

It was noted that the response rate for the Irish Survey of Student Engagement was 26% which was a decrease on last year's figure of 32%, but above the university sector average response rate of 22%. It was noted too that obtaining responses from fourth year students who are on placements at the time of the survey had proved difficult. It was noted that the DCU Institute of Education would look specifically at what it can do to encourage those students to respond in the next round of the survey fieldwork.

The Head of Quality Promotion thanked the Students' Union for its contribution in encouraging students to respond to the survey.

7. Education Committee Goals/Strategic Planning

The Chair provided a brief update on the strategic planning process indicating that two meetings of the thematic working group have taken place to date. The working group has incorporated the preliminary input from the DCU-Fuse event and has also identified key areas to be submitted for inclusion in the DCU strategic plan as follows:

- Professional development of staff
- Stakeholder engagement
- INTRA/placement
- Curriculum design
- Graduate attributes and their measurement
- Optimising the learning environment
- Access/diversity, exploration of further education routes into university, life-long learning and mature students.

It was noted that the themes will be underpinned by an operational imperative, which will look at optimisation of the student timetable, revision of the academic calendar and the introduction of a new student system.

8. CAO Analysis and Undergraduate Education Market Analysis Report 2017

The Director of Quality Promotion provided a briefing on the CAO Analysis and Undergraduate Education Market Analysis Report 2017 drawing particular attention to the following:

- The change of mind period is a time of significant success for DCU and an understanding of the pattern of activity will enable more targeted marketing
- A significant number of applicants have not yet expressed a programme preference and the majority of those are within the Dublin catchment area
- In general terms the applications to the university sector is declining but DCU is remaining stable
- Teaching degrees, both primary and secondary remain relatively strong
- With respect to the Arts and Science applications, DCU is retaining high quality applicants, but competitors are attracting far more first preferences
- DCU Engineering is bucking the national trend with an increase in applications
- In comparing DCU application figures for Science and Engineering against competitors the Common Entry numbers do not take account of applicants for DCU's denominated degrees
- DCU Computing is declining with the number of first preferences less than the number of places available.

The Director of Quality Promotion informed the Committee of an ongoing project using Venli, a market analysis tool. The project is looking specifically at what factors determine choices for application to particular universities.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

9. Proposed restructuring and change of title: MEng in Electronic Systems

The restructuring proposal was approved. The change of title from MEng in Electronic Systems to MEng in Electronic and Computer Engineering was also approved.

10. Master of Education in Literacy Professional Practice

The Dean of the DCU Institute of Education outlined the background to the proposal for the MEd in Literacy Professional Practice to Education Committee, indicating that she was satisfied that the conditions as set out in the original Accreditation Report were now addressed and proposing that the programme would be approved and submitted for the consideration of Academic Council. This was approved.

It was noted that the original Accreditation Report and the Faculty response to the conditional recommendations would be submitted for the approval of Academic Council. It was noted too that a memo providing the background to the proposal for submission to Academic Council would also be prepared.

11. Any other business

11.1 PNU and English Language (strategic view)

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing outlined that during a recent visit to PNU an issue arose with respect to DCU English language requirements and practice in PNU. In the discussions DCU was made aware that there may a difficulty for PNU in evidencing English language competency as it does not use the IELTS exam as a measure of English language competency. It was noted that DCUBS had encountered this issue previously and had sought a derogation at undergraduate level however English language competency had not proven to be problematic.

Whilst being mindful of maintaining the standard of English required by DCU (IELTS of 6.5), the Dean of Engineering and Computing indicated that in the negotiations currently taking place that the relevant faculties needed to be cognisant of the partnership agreement and be able to offer some degree of flexibility.

During the discussion which followed it was noted that the DCU English language requirement document stated:

In certain circumstances, results in examinations other than those outlined above may be accepted as proof of competence in the English language. This is the case, for example, for students who have successfully achieved Grade D or higher in examinations which are deemed by DCU to be the equivalent of GCE A-Level examinations and non-native speakers of English who have completed their education through the medium of English.

It was agreed in principle that some flexibility could be permitted and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing agreed to draft a form of words to reflect this and to circulate for agreement.

11.2 Consideration of additional nominee to the Accreditation Board for the MA in Refugee Relocation and Integration programme.

The nominee was approved.

Signed: _____ Date _____
Chair

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday, 3 May 2017

at 2.00 in A204