

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday 4 May 2016

2.00 – 2.45p.m. in A204

**Present:** Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Professor Mark Brown, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Professor Regina Connolly, Dr Brian Corcoran, Mr Billy Kelly, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Aisling McKenna, Professor Barry McMullin, Professor Fionnuala Waldron

**Apologies:** Dr Claire Bohan, Professor John Costello, Mr James Donoghue, Professor John Doyle, Dr Anne Sinnott

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Professor Regina Connolly to her first meeting in her capacity as Deputy Vice President of Research and Innovation

### **SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of 6 April 2016**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of 6 April 2016**

- 3.1** Dr Brian Corcoran reported the outcome of a review of modules, by the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education, where there is a high variance in failure rate from one year to the next. The following was noted:

- It was possible to attribute the variance in failure rates to a variety of factors, such as students encountering a subject for the first time, low attendance, the impact of the new second level curriculum in mathematics (impacting in mathematics and engineering programmes particularly), non-submission of assessments, variation in prior academic achievement due to high numbers of mature students, students not withdrawing officially, a small number of fails in a small class disproportionately impacting on percentage figures, students included in the figures who are potentially within the compensation range.
- It was noted that for future analysis it was suggested that additional statistical analysis of the data would be useful (confidence intervals, hypothesis testing that takes into account standard deviations and samples sizes) rather than simply the fail rates from year to year.

It was noted that the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar had recently responded to a Freedom of Information request for information on modules with a high failure rate, and it was significant that of the top ten modules that students fail, all have a mathematical basis to them.

In the discussion which followed it was noted that the impact of the change to the mathematics Leaving Certificate curriculum should be addressed over the coming years, possibly through provision of additional focused support to students. It was noted that it may also be necessary to consider reviewing the maths entry requirement.

- 3.2** It was noted that issues with respect to external examiners were currently under consideration (Item 3.4).
- 3.3** It was noted that action with respect to the Graduate Attributes was ongoing (Item 3.4).
- 3.4** It was noted that a second meeting to draft a set of rules in relation to publication of First Destination Survey outcomes on the university website was due to take place shortly (Item 3.5).
- 3.5** It was noted that the Master of Education Special Education Needs request for extension of accreditation period into the next academic year would be submitted for the consideration of Education Committee at its June 2016 meeting.
- 3.6** It was noted that the amendment to the Approval Form for off-site distance delivery recommended by Education Committee had been completed.

- 3.7** It was noted that each of the Faculties had nominated a member of the Working Group to audit research opportunities at undergraduate level and it was likely that a report would be completed early in the 2016 academic year.
- 3.8** It was noted that clarification had been received on the entry level requirement for the Higher Diploma in Science in Software Development. The entry requirement was confirmed as level 8.

## **SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING**

### **4. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA**

There was no update on this item.

### **5. Report on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)**

Ms Aisling McKenna reported that the ISSE institutional data had just been received, the outcomes of which would be reported at the 1 June 2016 meeting of Education Committee. She indicated that she would circulate the qualitative data to the Executive Deans and Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education as soon as possible.

## **SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES**

### **6. Re-structuring proposal for the Higher Diploma In Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, School of Nursing and Human Sciences**

The proposal to re-activate this programme was approved. As the programme was accredited in 2007, it was noted that the structures and modules descriptors would be updated to take account of the new Marks and Standards.

### **7. Re-structuring proposal for the Doctorate in Psychotherapy, School of Nursing and Human Sciences**

- The proposal to introduce an exit award from the Doctorate in Psychotherapy, entitled the MA in Psychotherapeutic Studies was approved subject to evidence being provided of the equivalent research output that would be expected of a standard taught Master's programme.

- The change in NFQ level of all taught modules from level 10 to level 9 was approved.
- The Learning Outcomes for the MA Psychotherapeutic Studies, and the Doctorate in Psychotherapy were approved.

**8. Proposed change to title of LLM in Law**

The proposal to change the title to LLM was approved.

**9. Proposed change to title of MA in Humanities**

The following titles for the MA and corresponding exit award of Graduate Diploma were approved:

MA in Children's Literature  
MA in History  
MA in Music  
MA in International Theatre Studies  
MA in Theatre Studies  
MA i Léann na Gaeilge

It was noted that clarification should be sought in relation to how the title of MA i Léann na Gaeilge, which currently reflects a mix of both English and Irish, appears on the graduation parchment. It was noted too that there should be consistency of treatment of such titles in the university.

**10. AOB**

There were no items for consideration.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

**Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday, 1 June 2016  
at 2.00 in A204