

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 13 November 2019

2.00 p.m. – 3.20 p.m. in A204

Present: Dr Claire Bohan, Ms Jennifer Bruton, Professor Michelle Butler, Mr Callaghan Commons, Professor John Doyle, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Ms Aisling McKenna, Ms Pauline Mooney, Professor Anne Sinnott and Dr Joseph Stokes

Apologies: Professor Mark Brown, Dr Yseult Freeney, Professor Greg Hughes, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Dr Anne Looney and Professor Lisa Looney

In attendance: Ms Karen Johnston and Ms Rachel Keegan

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted. It was noted that item 9 was deferred.

2. Minutes of Education Committee 18 September 2019*

The minutes of 18 September 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 18 September 2019

- 3.1 It was noted that the Secretary met with staff from the Finance Office to review the new programme development incentivisation finance template. It was noted that the new model was presented to Senior Management Group in April 2019 in the context of the overall

budget model, and it was planned to use the incentivisation finance model for taught postgraduate programmes only. It was noted that the incentivisation model would be incorporated as appropriate into the financial summary submitted to Education Committee at the validation stage of new proposals for taught postgraduate programmes.

In the discussion which followed, it was noted that the existing template does not provide meaningful data in terms of the assessment of the viability of new programmes. It was noted too that the budgetary distribution model does not provide programme level detail and therefore does not enable Executive Deans to assess programmes and their ongoing viability.

The Secretary indicated that she would request an electronic copy of the postgraduate incentivisation model from Finance for circulation to Committee members (Item 3.2).

- 3.2 It was noted that a sub-group would be set up to consider issues around the offering of level eight certificates and the levels of their constituent modules (Item 3.3).
- 3.3 It was noted that the NFQ level of taught modules on professional doctorate programmes would be addressed over the coming months (Item 3.5).
- 3.4 It was noted that work is ongoing on current Teaching and Learning compact goals and their alignment to strategy (Item 3.6).
- 3.5 It was noted that the provision of more discipline-specific information for Schools on CAO points and its correlation with first year examination performance at DCU will be prepared using the Microsoft BI dashboard tool, following a pilot of the Graduate Outcomes Survey (Item 3.7).
- 3.6 It was noted in the context of ongoing MOOC development that the Executive Deans would develop a principles document to ensure that expertise is not replicated across the University (Item 3.8).
- 3.7 It was noted that initial research on the future naming and numbering convention for DCU MOOCs and modules is ongoing (Item 3.9).
- 3.8 It was noted that the agenda item *Employability Statements*, deferred at the 29 May 2019 meeting would be considered at a later meeting Education Committee (Item 3.10).

- 3.9 It was noted that the prioritisation for the Academic Secretariat team of Education Committee-related projects is ongoing (Item 3.11).
- 3.10 It was noted that the Deans were provided with an update on the DCU project under the HEA Innovation and Transformation fund (Item 4).
- 3.11 It was noted that the AA3b form (for an existing programme, which involves a restructure/new pathway and involving a proposed partner institution, or proposed partner institutions where: the partner institution teaches, assesses and awards credits for specific modules which are specific designed elements of an award made by DCU) was updated to include 'to a maximum of 30 credits' (Item 8).
- 3.12 It was noted that a retrospective approval of a diploma-level exit award from the Bachelor of Education programme arising from specific student circumstances was approved by Chair's Action, 25 June 2019 (omitted from 5 September 2019 minutes).
- 3.13 It was noted that the following exit awards were approved by Chair's Action, 9 October 2019.
- Exit Award from the MSc in Management (Strategy) entitled Graduate Diploma in Management (Strategy)
 - Exit Award from the MSc in Investment, Treasury and Banking entitled Graduate Diploma in Investment, Treasury and Banking

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA

The Chair noted the following from the IUA Registrar's Group meeting which took place on 14 October 2019:

- A selection and entry working group is being set up to address issues that have arisen with respect to Leaving Certificate appeals, the standardisation of mature entry and the points system.
- The IUA is working on a Consent Framework and will develop a set of guidelines which will be adaptable for use at a local level.

- The IUA undertook a mapping exercise, assessing skills needs across key professional areas against expected national student growth.
- The IUA has sought clarity from the Department of Education and Skills in relation to fees to be charged to UK students in the context of Brexit.

Ms Aisling McKenna noted the following with respect to the Quality Officers' meeting:

- The Quality Officers are currently working with QQI on amending the Annual Institutional Quality Assurance Report template.

Dr Joseph Stokes reported the following with respect to the meeting of the Deans of Graduate Studies:

- The updated IUA MOU was signed.
- Guidelines for collaborative provision for research programmes were drafted and referred to the Registrar's Group for approval. The next step would be to refer the document to the QQI for consideration.
- A policy has been drafted on the management of maternity, parental, paternity and adoption leave by research funding bodies.

5. Update on DCU Strategy implementation

The Chair noted that the review of last year's strategy programme and plans for next year would be published by the end of the year. He indicated that two items, highlighted in the CINNTE Institutional review, are yet to be addressed and were as follows:

- Assurance of teaching effectiveness
- Employability statements and INTRA

He informed Education Committee that DCU has drawn down the funding awarded by the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning fund and it was planned to address 'creativity' and the 'enhancement of digital pedagogy'.

5.1 *Presentation on Faculty Curriculum Review: Professor Michelle Burke, Executive Dean, Faculty of Science and Health*

The Executive Dean, Faculty of Science and Health presented on curriculum review in her faculty.

The following were noted from the presentation:

- To fully support the achievement of DCU's nine strategic goals the faculty has identified three priority areas as follows:
 - Maximising its research potential
 - Enhancing and extending postgraduate education offerings
 - Internationalisation and global engagement
- In terms of the curriculum review, having aligned DCU and the faculty goals the following process stages were identified:
 - Stage 1: Mapping current curriculum review activities in the faculty
 - Stage 2: Defining principles for curriculum review and development in FSH
 - Stage 3: Evaluating and planning future curriculum development
 - Stage 4: Preparing and implementing curriculum development plans
 - Stage 5: Revising APR/PPR process in line with process to date

It was noted that the faculty is currently at stage three of the process and that stage four would take place over the academic year 2019-2020, with three pilot projects being undertaken.

In the discussion which followed it was noted that programme learning outcomes are not emphasised sufficiently in how DCU's programmes are externally presented and the outcomes are much broader than just engagement with specific discipline knowledge.

6. Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)

It was noted that the ISSE branding has changed and the survey is now entitled 'StudentSurvey.ie.'

It was noted that the planned dates for the survey 2019-2020 are as follows:
3rd-23rd February, 2020.

7. Faculty Periodic Programme Review: Activity undertaken in 2018-2019 and planned for 2019-2020

The completed periodic programme reviews for 2018-2019 and the planned reviews for 2019-2020, submitted by each faculty were noted.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

8. Noting of Collaborative Provision Arrangement/Stand-alone modules, 2018-2019

It was noted that no approvals of collaborative provision arrangements or stand-alone modules took place at faculty level in 2018-2019.

9. Graduate Diploma in Education Studies (Primary) as an exit route from the Professional Master of Education (Primary)

It was noted that this item was deferred.

10. Proposal to establish a double degree award for IPBS (International Partnership of Business Schools) graduates on its existing MSc in International Management programme

Prof A Sinnott introduced this item noting that DCUBS was seeking approval in principle from Education Committee on the outline proposal, with a view to providing additional detail required for formal approval by Education Committee at its next meeting.

It was clarified that the programme would comprise 90 credits, with students taking 30 credits at the partner institution, 30 credits at DCU and 30 credits delivered jointly (co-supervised jointly assessed research project).

The proposal was agreed in principle on the basis of the long established relationship with the International Partnership of Business Schools and its standing. It was agreed that one of the existing collaborative provision approval forms would be adapted for the formal submission of a more detailed proposal.

It was noted, as outlined in the Collaborative Provision Approval Protocol, the intention was originally that a position paper would be prepared which would consider the parameters of taught double and dual awards. Ms P. Mooney indicated that a green paper would be prepared over the coming months which would set out to define the awards and to examine potential issues, in advance of Education Committee agreeing a policy. It was noted that there is a considerable drive at European level to engage in double awards and it would be important to be assured of equivalence of standards in partner institutions.

11. Any other business

There were no items of business.

Signed _____

Date _____

<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 11 December 2019 at 2.00 in A204</p>
