EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 12 February 2020

2.00 p.m. – 2.40 p.m. in A204

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

Apologies: Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Professor Greg Hughes, Ms Karen Johnston and Mr Billy Kelly

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1.   Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was <u>adopted</u>.

2.   Minutes of Education Committee 15 January 2020

The minutes of 15 January 2020 were <u>approved</u> and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes of 15 January 2020

3.1   The Academic Secretary <u>noted</u> that some initial work had been completed on a green paper on double and dual awards, however due to the current staffing situation, the presentation of the paper to Education Committee would be delayed.

She informed the Committee that the International Office had indicated in a recent communication that there was an emerging trend, as MOUs are being renewed, to include collaborative award arrangements. She had advised that any such inclusions should be generic, and any specific collaboration would be subject to specific and detailed agreement. It was noted more generally that following the UK exit from the EU, the number of collaboration enquiries being received at Faculty level has begun to increase.

It was noted that the green paper would be progressed as soon as possible so that a strategic decision could be taken on double and dual awards, however this delay should not preclude consideration of engagement with possible partners (Item 3.11).

3.2   It was noted that the level of modules offered within a level 8 undergraduate certificate would be considered at a later date (Item 3.2).

3.3   It was noted that the issues with the incentivisation model would be referred to Senior Management by the Chair (3.3).

3.4   It was noted that the NFQ level of taught modules on professional doctorate programmes would be addressed over the coming months (Item 3.4).

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 would be prepared using the Microsoft BI dashboard tool, following a pilot of the Graduate Outcomes Survey (Item 3.6).

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 3.6).

3.7   It was noted that *Employability Statements*, would be considered at a later meeting of Education Committee (Item 3.8).

3.8   It was noted that work is ongoing in preparing a list of FutureLearn option modules available as a resource for faculties (Item 3.9).

3.9   It was noted that teaching effectiveness, one of the key priorities of the Teaching and Learning Strategy will be discussed by the Director of Quality Promotion and the Chair (Item 3.10).

3.10   It was <u>noted</u> that work on the amended statistical reports requested by Education Committee related to CAO performance and first year examination performance, and data on non-standard entrants is ongoing (Item 7).

3.11   It was <u>noted</u> that work is ongoing on adaption of the PPR process with a view to ensuring there is a process for the creation of and quality assurance of 'new programmes' where the existing programme has changed substantially since its initial accreditation (Item 10).

3.12   It was <u>noted</u> that the submission of NFQ compliant programme learning outcomes for the programme MSc in Global Management is awaited (Item 10.1).

3.13   It was <u>noted</u> that the validation proposal for the BSc in Psychology and Mathematics, a decision on which was deferred at the 15 January 2020 meeting of Education Committee is on the agenda (Item 7) of this meeting (Item 8).

3.14   It was <u>noted</u> that the DCU Microcredential document was amended as requested and was referred for the consideration of University Standards Committee (Item 11).

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4.   Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA

The Director of Quality Promotion <u>noted</u> the following with respect to a recent IUA Quality Officer's meeting:

The IUA is currently preparing a sectoral collaborative proposal for the Human Capital Initiative funding which is focused on the following areas:

a) Microcredentials
- Developing a common understanding of, and framework for microcredentials
- The development of a common online portal on which universities could make microcredential offerings available
- Researching the needs of industry with respect to microcredentials
- Establishing a common fund for the development of microcredentials.

It was <u>noted</u> that DCU, in addition to being involved in the proposed collaborative project as above, would also be submitting a separate submission.

b) Recognition of Prior Learning
In association with Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) the development of a common framework for recognition of prior learning.

It was <u>noted</u> too that the European University Association, of which the IUA is a member, is planning to develop a self-evaluation tool for universities to assess digital learning.

5.   Update on DCU Strategy implementation

There were no updates on DCU Strategy implementation.

6.   StudentSurvey.ie

It was <u>noted</u> that the response rate to StudentSurvey.ie was ahead of target during its second week of fieldwork.   It was noted that specific targeted activities, the availability of merchandise and prizes were contributing to the current engagement by students.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

7.   Faculty of Science and Health: Validation proposal: BSc in Psychology and Mathematics

It was <u>noted </u>that the programme proposers had indicated in their proposal resubmission their intention to focus on the BSc in Psychology and Mathematics in the immediate term, and to pursue the 'Psychology and' model at a later stage.

Education Committee <u>approved</u> the BSc in Psychology and Mathematics for further development towards accreditation, subject to the following recommendations:

- It was <u>noted</u> the programme proposers had engaged in consultation with the School of Computing, as recommended by Education Committee at its 15 January 2020 meeting, in order to ensure that there was clear distinction drawn between the BSc in Psychology and Mathematics and the existing BSc in Data Science. In the feedback provided with respect to the first draft of the programme it had been highlighted that the narrative in the original proposal had not provided a distinction between both programmes, however it had been addressed in the revised proposal. It was recommended that the clarity of the distinctive

nature of the BSc in Psychology and Mathematics would be maintained throughout the accreditation process and in subsequent prospectus/recruitment information.

- It was requested that further justification of the appropriateness of experience of the nominated members of the Accreditation Board to review the Mathematics element of the programme would be provided.

There was a brief discussion on the development of a 'double major' model and it was noted that in discussions with industry partners in the context of potential HCI projects, there was value placed on the potential attributes of graduates with two-subject major degrees. It was noted that DCU would need to consider how the curriculum is structured, and its delivery methods in order to deliver on flexibility. Consideration would also have to be given to how the coherence of any future double major degree programme would be addressed. It was suggested too that DCU should also review how it frames its graduate attributes with respect to transversal skills.

8.   Any other business

8.1   The requirement to return a parchment to DCU when progressing to major award

The Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences highlighted an issue which had come to his attention with respect to the requirement for students who have completed a Springboard certificate programme, and who are conferred with the award, being required to hand back their award in order to progress to a DCU Master's programme. It was noted that this requirement was as a result of compliance with the stipulation in Marks and Standards that 'a student may not present the same ECTS credits as qualification for more than one DCU Award'.

It was agreed that the matter required more detailed discussion and would be placed on the Education Committee agenda for its next meeting. The matter would be considered from a strategic point of view in the first instance and would then be referred to University Standards Committee in the context of consideration of possible amendments to Marks and Standards. It was noted that this discussion would also be relevant to the development of microcredentials and related awards and in the context of the changing nature of how students access life-long learning.

8.2   Award of funding by Board Bia to DCU Business School

Dr Yseult Freeney informed Education Committee that DCU Business School had recently been awarded multi-annual funding from Bord Bia for a new Food Innovation pathway on the MSc in Management. It was planned that the proposal would be submitted for the consideration of Education Committee at a future meeting.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Date of next meeting:
Wednesday, 11 March 2020
at 2.00 in A204