

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 29 April 2020

2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m. via Zoom

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), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Ms Aisling McKenna, Professor Anne Looney, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Pauline Mooney, Professor Anne Sinnott and Dr Joseph Stokes

In attendance Mr Martin Grehan

Apologies: Professor Eithne Guilfoyle and Professor Greg Hughes

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

2. Minutes of Education Committee 1 April 2020

The minutes of 1 April 2020 were approved. It was noted that formal minutes would be signed once on-campus activity resumes.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 1 April 2020

- 3.1 The Director of Quality Promotion provided an update on preparation of reports related to CAO entry and subsequent DCU examination performance. She indicated that the 'cleaning' of multiple years of data, in order to provide statistics on non-standard entrants (mature, access, elite athletes, FETAC etc.), was proving a challenge. She noted that the recent priority had been on the analysis of the Graduate Outcomes Survey data and that the next priority would be CAO analysis, which would be completed over the summer period (Item 3.5/3.9).

The Director of Quality Promotion also sought the Committee's advice on the presentation of Graduate Outcomes Survey data for publication, where there was a low level of respondents. She suggested that a three-year rolling approach would be best in order to overcome the statistics of small numbers. She informed Education Committee that the Graduate Outcomes Survey dashboard had been shared with faculties and she requested feedback on the usefulness or otherwise of the reports in addressing the questions that key stakeholders may have in light of the publication of the data.

It was agreed that the e-mail on the Graduate Outcomes dashboard would be re-circulated to faculties to specifically include, the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning.

- 3.2 It was agreed to place the matter of level of modules offered within a level 8 undergraduate certificate on a longer-term action list (3.3).
- 3.3 It was noted that the development of a principles document by the Executive Deans to ensure that expertise is not replicated across the University in the context of ongoing MOOC development would be placed on a longer-term action list (Item 3.6).
- 3.4 It was noted that work on a process for addressing the feasibility of progressing Springboard students who have successfully completed a Graduate Certificate and whom it is known wish to progress directly to a relevant master's programme without their having to graduate and thereafter surrender their Graduate Certificate parchment is ongoing (3.1)
- 3.5 It was noted that work on a position paper on double and dual awards will be ongoing over the coming months (Item 3.2).
- 3.6 It was noted that *Employability Statements*, would be considered at a later meeting of Education Committee (Item 3.7).

- 3.7 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 3.8).
- 3.8 It was noted that work is ongoing on adaption of the PPR process with a view to ensuring there is a process for the quality assurance of the creation of 'new programmes' where the existing programme has changed substantially since its initial accreditation (Item 3.10).
- 3.9 It was clarified that the programme learning outcomes for the MSc in Global Management were compliant with the European Quality Framework (EQF) and the programme proposer was not clear on what was required by Education Committee with respect to this matter. It was agreed that a statement explicitly linking the EQF level with the NFQ level would be sufficient (Item 3.11).

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA

The following were noted with respect to the April 2020 meeting of the IUA Groups.

- The Chair reported that the IUA Registrar's Group is currently meeting very regularly to address Covid-19 related sectoral arrangements.
- The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that the most significant issue for the the IUA Deans of Graduate Studies Group currently is the ongoing and future funding of research students who are being delayed in conducting research work due to the Covid-19 restrictions.
- The Director of Quality Promotion noted that the Quality Officers had focused on two issues:
 - (i) A discussion on the planning of internal quality reviews in the context of the current health emergency.
There was broad agreement on the part of the Quality Officers that in order to provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and engagement with an external review team that the best approach would be to hold 'on-site' Quality Reviews once restrictions were lifted.
 - (ii) Revenue and External contributors to the University
The IUA is considering a Revenue issue related to the collection of taxation from reviewers, external examiners, accreditation board members etc. The issue has emerged over the last 12-months, whereby Revenue is looking to require those working externally

for the universities to have a PPS number and pay tax on any income earned within the state. It was noted that there are no sectoral solutions yet, but the IUA is looking at ways to address the issue as practically as possible. The concern of the Quality Officers in particular was the maintenance of the engagement of international expertise.

5. Update on DCU Strategy implementation

There was no update to report.

6. StudentSurvey.ie

The Institutional Research and Analysis Officer reported that a new analysis and impact group of institutional research officers had been set up, the aim of which would be to advance the level of analysis of student data and to focus on the impact of survey outcomes and the added value they provided to institutions. He indicated that the StudentSurvey.ie data had not yet been circulated.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

7. Reporting from Faculties on decisions made during 2019-2020 (Change of programme titles and change to mode of delivery)

It was clarified that reporting on approval of changes to titles and mode of delivery of programmes would be reported by faculties annually to Education Committee. The timeframe for the submission of that annual report had been agreed originally for the April Education Committee meeting. However, in practice this had not been possible this year and it was agreed that the timing of annual reporting would be moved to the May meeting of Education Committee.

(a) Change to programme titles approved at faculty-level.

The following were noted:

7.1 Faculty of Science and Health

- (i) **From** MSc in Psychology and Well-being **to** MSc in Psychology and Wellbeing. This change will to apply to entrants from September 2020

7.2 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

- (i) **From** BA Gaeilge agus Iriseoireacht **to** BA Gaeilge, Iriseoireacht agus na Meáin Dhigiteacha. This change applies to new entrants from September 2019 (retrospective noting--approved by Faculty Teaching Committee, 3 April 2019)

- (ii) **From** MA in Theology **to** MA in Theology and World Religions

Exit Route 1: From Graduate Certificate in Theology **to** Graduate Certificate in Theology and World Religions

Exit Route 2: From Graduate Diploma in Theology **to** Graduate Diploma in Theology and World Religions

The change will apply to new, incoming students on the programme from 2020/21. Students who are already enrolled will continue under the 'MA in Theology' title (and will avail of its related exit awards)

- (iii) **From** BCL (Law and Society) **to** (1) BCL (Clinical) for students who complete the 4-year programme, which includes a year-long INTRA placement in Year 3 (*coded BCLN*).
(2) From BCL (Law and Society) **to** BCL (International) for students who complete the 4-year programme, which includes a year abroad in Year 3 (*coded BCLYA*).

The currently approved award title, BCL (Law and Society) will continue to be awarded to students who complete the 3-year programme without completing a year-long INTRA or year abroad (*coded BCL*).

This change will apply to students who are registered in Year 1 from 2020/21.

There was one item of feedback with respect to item (iii) above. Education Committee queried the possible interpretation, particularly by prospective students, of the word 'Clinical' in the context of the BCL programme, given its medical connotations. It queried whether the term would effectively signal 'INTRA', as intended. The Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences

confirmed that this was the language used in the sector. It was also used by competitors and it had the potential to provide marketing advantages. He also acknowledged that it could have the potential to lead to confusion for school-leavers in choosing programmes and he undertook to raise the issue with the programme team.

- (iv) **From BA in Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation to BA Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation (International):** for students who successfully complete a 4-year programme, which includes the year-long Year Abroad in Year 3 (*coded BSSCI1*)

The currently approved award title BA in Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation will continue to be awarded to students who complete the 3-year programme without completing a year abroad (*coded BSSCI*) or who complete the 4-year programme, which includes a year-long INTRA placement.

This change will apply to students who register for the year abroad in 2020/21 (i.e. BSSCI1 3)

- (b) Change to mode of delivery of programmes

There was none reported.

8. Faculty of Engineering and Computing: restructure of programmes:

8.1 Change to Majors on the MSc in Computing (MCM)

The introduction of a new major called Secure Software Engineering in the MSc in Computing was approved. This restructure updates and re-designs content across existing three majors (Software Engineering, Security and Forensic Computing and Cloud Computing) which will be discontinued.

The confirmed exit awards were noted as: Graduate Diploma in Computing and Graduate Certificate in Computing.

There were two changes recommended to the module CA652, Artificial Intelligence, Info and Info Seeking as follows:

- (a) To amend the language used to describe module learning outcomes so they reflect what would be expected at NFQ level

(b) It was noted that the workload detailed is currently 187 hrs of independent learning as it is being provided on the FutureLearn platform, however it was felt that this does not reflect the online content that is prepared and delivered and may misrepresent the engagement by the content providers. It was noted that it would be important that the delivery of online content would be represented in a category of 'workload' with respect to all FutureLearn modules.

8.2 Addition of Majors on MEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (MMME)

Two new majors to be added to the MEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering were approved. They were as follows:

- Simulation-driven Design
- Advanced Manufacturing

The two alternative exit awards were noted as follows and are the same as per the current structure:

- Graduate Certificate in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
- Graduate Diploma in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering

It was noted that new structures have been included for existing majors.

8.3 Addition of Majors on the BEng/MEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (CAMi)

Two new majors to be added to the BEng/MEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering were approved. They were as follow:

- Simulation-driven Design
- Sustainable Systems and Energy

It was noted by Education Committee that the proposals made by the Faculty of Engineering and Computing were very comprehensive and clear.

9. Faculty of Science and Health, entry proposals**9.1 Proposal to create discipline-specific CAO entry routes into the School of Chemical Sciences and School of Biotechnology**

The proposal to create discipline-specific general entry routes into the Schools of Biotechnology and Chemical Sciences, replacing Common Entry into Science (CES) with 'Biological Sciences General Entry' and 'Chemical Sciences General Entry' was approved

It was noted that the new entry routes would apply to entrants from September 2021.

9.2 Proposal to create a direct CAO entry route onto the BSc in Financial Mathematics

The proposal to create a direct entry route onto the BSc in Financial Mathematics was discussed and it was recommended that the proposers should reconsider the possible impact on student numbers and points on entry in creating a new entry route and maintaining the existing route of Common entry onto Actuarial and Financial Mathematics. It was felt that the argument that adding the entry route would increase visibility didn't necessarily hold as 'Financial Mathematics' is in the 'Common Entry' title. It was requested that a revised proposal would be submitted to Education Committee for consideration at its next meeting of, 27 May 2020.

10. Any other business

There were no items of business.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

<p>Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 at 2.00 via Zoom Meeting</p>
