

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 26 May 2016 in A204

9.30 – 10.30 am

Present: Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Deirdre Butler, Mr. James Donoghue, Dr Greg Foley, Ms. Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Professor Lisa Looney Ms. Barbara McConalogue Dr David McKeon, Ms. Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Caroline McMullan, Dr Pádraig Ó Duibhir, Dr Andrew O'Regan, Ms. Michele Pringle

Apologies: Dr Brian Corcoran, Dr Eamon Costello, Professor Kevin Rafter, Dr Joseph Stokes, Ms. Annabella Stover

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of two items under AOB as follows:

- Notification of possible derogation for the Master of Education (Special Educational Needs), CICE
- Approval of minutes of meeting of 26 May 2016

2. Minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2016

The minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** The Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning provided a brief report on category 3 modules (no resit continuous assessment). It was noted that the majority of modules identified as category 3 were delivered on Faculty of Science and Health programmes and it was reported that it was unlikely that the categorisation of those modules would change. It was noted that DCU Business School and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science do not categorise modules as category 3 (Item 6).
- 3.2** It was clarified that the *DCU Feedback to Support Student Learning Policy* document circulated at the meeting of USC of 31 March 2016 was a sub-section of a document also containing information on Assessment. It was confirmed that this document, (containing both assessment and feedback information) is the final approved version, and subject to some minor formatting, would be published on the web shortly (Item 3.2).
- 3.3** It was noted that the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy was under consideration (Item 3.3).
- 3.4** It was noted that the drafting of proposals with respect to issues related to the external examiners' process was ongoing (Item 3.4).
- 3.5** It was noted that the update with respect to Akari was awaiting further system development (Item 3.6).
- 3.6** It was noted that the students previously registered on the MSc in Plasma and Vacuum Technologies whose registration, if they return to the programme, will exceed the maximum registration period have been contacted by the Programme Chair (Item 3.1).
- 3.7** It was noted that the exploration of the possibility of awarding posthumous undergraduate Certificates/Diplomas would be discussed with the Vice-President for Academic Affairs/Registrar and explored in the new academic year 2016-2017 (Item 8.2).
- 3.8** It was noted that the legacy re-admission application for a candidate on the MSc in Guidance Counselling had been re-submitted and approved by Chair's Action on 25 May 2016 (Item 5.1.1, 31 March 2016).

- 3.9** It was noted that the External Experts for the Period Programme Review of the BA in Media Production Management in the Ballyfermot College of Further Education had been approved electronically by USC on 13 April 2016. The External Examiner for the same programme was noted.
- 3.10** It was noted that the Faculty of Science and Health proposal to facilitate decisions on the registration of students on stand-alone modules at Faculty level is on the agenda of this meeting.

B. Faculty issues

4. External examiners for taught programmes

4.1 Nominations

- 4.1.1 Dr Susannah Riordan, UCD
Open Education
Approved
- 4.1.2 Dr Jane Grogan, UCD
Open Education
Approved
- 4.1.3 Dr Nat O'Connor, Ulster University
School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Approved
- 4.1.4 Dr Robert Gleasure, UCC
BSc in Enterprise Computing
Approved
- 4.1.5 Dr Samia Kamal, Oxford Brookes University
BSc in Enterprise Computing
Approved, it was noted that the division of workload between the external examiners 4.1.4 and 4.1.5 would need to be clarified for system purposes.
- 4.1.6 Dr Tom Field, Queen's University Belfast
Certificate in Plasma & Vacuum Studies
Approved

- 4.1.7 Dr Claire O'Reilly, UCC
Modules in the School of Applied Language & Intercultural Studies
Approved
- 4.1.8 Professor Paul Maguire, Ulster University
MSc in Plasma & Vacuum Technology
Approved
- 4.1.9 Dr Brian MacNamee, UCD
MSc in Computing (Data Analytics)
Approved
- 4.1.10 Dr William O'Connor, UCD
BEng in Mechatronic Engineering
Approved
- 4.1.11 Ms Doris Corkin, Queen's University Belfast
BSc in Children's & General Nursing (Integrated),
Higher Diploma in Children's Nursing
Approved
- 4.1.12 Dr Robert Jenkins, University of South Wales
Bachelor of Nursing (Intellectual Disability)
Approved
- 4.1.13 Dr Aine Horgan, UCC
Bachelor of Nursing (Psychiatric)
Approved
- 4.1.14 Dr Gareth Cox, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick
BAJH, BEd, BRel Ed
It was noted that as the proposed external examiner had previously served for six years under the old regulations, that the appointment in this instance would be for 2 years only.
- 4.1.15 Dr David Wraith, Maynooth University
Modules in the School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved, subject to submission of up-to-date form

4.1.16 Professor Götz Pfeiffer, NUI Galway
Common Entry to Financial & Actuarial Mathematics
Approved, subject to submission of up-to-date form

4.1.17 Professor Audrey Paterson, Heriot-Watt University
Modules in DCUBS
Approved

4.2 Changes to duties

4.2.1 Professor Philip Dine, NUI Galway
Modules in the School of Applied Language & Intercultural Studies
Approved

4.2.2 Dr Margaret Landers, UCC
School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Approved

4.2.3 Professor David Rae
BSc in Horticulture
Approved. It was noted that the appointment was approved for one year only, to facilitate the completion of the final cohort of students through the programme.

5. Other issues

5.1 Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

5.1.1 Legacy readmission request: MA in International Relations
Approved

5.1.2 Legacy readmission request: MSc i nGnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais
Approved

5.1.3 Derogation request: BA in Humanities

The derogation from Marks and Standards (3.1.1, Module size) requesting the inclusion of 2.5 credit modules for Gaelige and English modules on the BA in Humanities programme for year 3 students for the academic year 2016-2017 was considered. This request is to facilitate the final year of students who commenced on the St Patrick's College BA in Humanities programme. It was noted that the year 3 structure has been revised and all subjects will include modules with a minimum of 5 credits from the academic year 2017-2018. The derogation was approved.

5.2 Faculty of Science & Health

5.2.1 Derogation request: Higher Diploma in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing

The request for a derogation from Marks and Standards (6.2.2) for the Higher Diploma in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing was approved subject to a change of wording from 'Compensation is not permitted between theory and practice components of practice modules' to 'Students must pass both theory and practice components of practice modules'.

5.2.2 Faculty Policy on the approval of proposed registration onto Faculty Stand-alone modules

The addendum to the Faculty of Science and Health policy on the approval of stand-alone modules was noted. There was some discussion on the operationalisation of the process and it was requested that the Faculty policy also includes communication in writing to the student that the additional module being taken might lead to potential examination timetable clashes.

5.3 Open Education

5.3.1 Legacy readmission request: MSc in Management of Operations

Approved

C. Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6. Marks and Standards

It was noted that there were no changes to Marks and Standards and the document would roll-over for the academic year 2016-2017.

7. Approval of Programme Regulations

The submitted Programme Regulations for the following Faculties were approved, subject to some minor editing, details of which would be communicated by the Secretary of USC to relevant Faculty administrators.

- DCUBS
- Faculty of Engineering and Computing
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Science and Health

With respect to Open Education and the Institute of Education, some further clarification was required and it was noted that approval would be sought by electronic means as soon as possible.

8. Incorporation Update

There were no updates on Incorporation.

9. Proposed changes to *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*

The changes proposed to the *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* were approved, subject to the following additions/amendments:

- The statement as follows ‘.. a decision to make a research award may be annulled if plagiarism...’ was changed to a decision to make a research award may be rescinded if plagiarism...’
- Inclusion of a statement indicating that the transfer exam needs to be a separate process to the PGR2 process.

10. Any other business

10.1 *Consideration of proposal for a derogation from Marks and Standards for the Master of Education (Special Educational Needs, (CICE)*

It was noted that, subject to a decision by Education Committee at its meeting of 1 June 2016, it was anticipated that a derogation with respect to the Master of Education (Special Educational Needs) may need to be considered by University Standards Committee over the summer months. The Secretary indicated she would be in touch in this regard.

10.2 *Approval of minutes of meeting of 26 May 2016*

It was noted that the USC minutes of 26 May 2016 would be circulated to be approved electronically in advance of Academic Council which will take place on 20 June 2016.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 8 September 2016 9.30 a.m. in A204

Signed

Date