UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 12 October 2006

9.30 -11.45 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor Maria Slowey (Chair), Mr Jonathan Begg,
                           Dr Françoise Blin, Ms Olivia Bree, Mr Kevin Griffin,
                           Professor Martin Henry, Professor Eugene Kennedy,
                           Ms Louise McDermott (Recording Secretary),
                           Dr Andrew McGrady, Dr Noel Murphy, Professor Heather Ruskin,
                           Dr Ronnie Saunders

Apologies: Mr Eoin Byrne, Ms Jean Hughes, Dr Anne Sinnott,
                           Mr Brendan Tolan

1.   Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of two additional submissions
under Item 8.1, two additional submissions under Item 8.2 and four additional
submissions under Item 10.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 14 September 2006

Confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes

3.1   Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.

3.2   <u>Noted</u> that, at its meeting of 11 October 2006, Academic Council had deferred a
decision on the proposal in relation to credit ratings for taught Master's
programmes. <u>Agreed</u> that, to expedite work on this issue, Mr Griffin would contact
all relevant Programme Chairs to discuss the implications of any changes to credit

ratings which might be made and that meetings to facilitate further discussions would be organised as appropriate and necessary. (Item 3.5)

3.3   Noted that the Executive Faculties had provided information as to the feasibility of taking over a range of activities currently undertaken centrally. Agreed that, since the problem identified was resource-related, the Chair would discuss the matter with the Deans and the Chair of Budget Committee. (Item 6.3)

3.4   Noted that proposals in relation to Phase II Modularisation were in the course of preparation. (Item 7.1)

3.5   Noted that, at its meeting of 11 October 2006, Academic Council had approved the proposals on compensation subject to the deletion of the footnoted alternative to regulation 1.6 and the inclusion of a reference to the need to operate compensation on a *pro rata* basis for students who do not take a full academic year (such as students who spend one semester on an INTRA placement). Noted also that Academic Council had agreed that, if possible, the new regulations should be implemented in the current academic year and that the President, as Chair of Council, intended to seek legal advice as to whether or not this would be possible. (Item 7.2)

3.6   Noted that, at its meeting of 11 October 2006, Academic Council had approved the proposal to award a Higher Diploma in Children's Nursing. (Item 8.2)

3.7   Noted that confirmation had been received that a change of supervisor would not lengthen the time necessary to complete a thesis.   (Item 12)

4.   Awarding of degrees jointly with other institutions

A number of matters related to this issue were discussed: the administrative difficulties that tend to arise, particularly when the lead university wishes to have its systems implemented in the other participating universities; responsibility for the production of transcripts as between the different participants; the extent to which degree parchments should reflect the participation of the various institutions. It was noted that the number of joint offerings with other institutions was already substantial and was likely to rise. It was agreed that Mr Griffin would convene a working group to discuss the issues and make recommendations.

5.   The external examiner system (taught programmes) in DCU

A number of matters related to this issue were discussed: the importance of having a mechanism that allowed positive comments from external examiners to be highlighted and disseminated; the desirability of having full and complete reports to hand from all examiners and the possibility that providing them with a report template might facilitate this; the need to ensure that external examiners were aware of the extent of dissemination of their reports within the University. The principle, outlined in the proposal, of maintaining quality assurance procedures in relation to reports was <u>approved</u>, and it was <u>agreed</u> that Mr Griffin and Dr Murphy would meet to examine the implications of the discussion and would then submit a revised proposal.

6.   Proposal on Graduate School

Professor Kennedy outlined a range of issues relating to this proposal, including the following: the likelihood that the outcome of the Strategic Initiative Funding allocation would impact on developments; the importance of developing a national dialogue on the key issues; the forthcoming call from IRCSET and IRCHSS for proposals for exploratory awards to investigate options and strategies for the establishment of Graduate Schools; the importance of discussing possible common structures across the University and the linked colleges with regard to such matters as taught modules and credit transfer; the need to discuss with the Registry any developments proposed in relation to the administration of research student records; the importance of infrastructural development and capital funding.

7.   Consideration of two issues relating to *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*

<u>Agreed</u> that further information would be sought about the specific circumstances relating to both issues and conveyed to the 23 November 2006 meeting of the USC.

INTERIM BUSINESS ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

8.   Appointment of external examiners

   8.1   Taught programmes

   8.1.1   *Reappointments*
            Dr P Cunningham, King's College London
            MSc in Bioinformatics
            Approved.
            Dr T Coffey, University of Limerick
            MSc in Security and Forensic Computing
            Approved.
            Dr S Foley, University College Cork
            MSc in Security and Forensic Computing
            Approved.
   8.1.2   *Reappointment*
            Professor T Hurley, National University of Ireland, Galway
            BSc in Mathematical Sciences
            Approved.
   8.1.3   *Additional examining duties*
            Ms S Higham, Thames Valley University
            Higher Diploma in Children's Nursing
            Approved.
   8.1.4   Professor C Cardin, University of Reading
            Modules in the School of Chemical Sciences
            Approved.
   8.1.5   Dr H Evans, University of Plymouth
            Modules in the School of Chemical Sciences
            Approved.
   8.1.6   Dr M J Fagan, University of Hull
            BEng in Medical Mechanical Engineering
            Approved.
   8.1.7   Professor P Gunnigle, University of Limerick
            MBS in Human Resource Strategies and MBS in Human Resource
            Management, Dublin City University Business School
            Approved.
   8.1.8   Professor E Heery, Cardiff University
            Modules in Dublin City University Business School
            Approved.
   8.1.9   Dr F Bannister, Trinity College Dublin
            BSc in Computer Applications
            Approved.

8.1.10   *Reappointment*
         Dr F Devitt, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
         BEng in Mechatronic Engineering
         <u>Approved.</u>

8.2   Postgraduate research students

8.2.1   Dr G Dickson, Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast
         Student ref. USC/2006/U4/8.2.1, PhD, School of Mechanical and
         Manufacturing Engineering
         <u>Approved.</u>
8.2.2   Professor T Hartley, University of Leeds
         Student ref. USC/2006/U4/8.2.2, PhD, School of Applied Language and
         Intercultural Studies
         <u>Approved.</u>
8.2.3   Professor F Martin, University College Dublin
         Student ref. USC/2006/U4/8.2.3, PhD, School of Biotechnology
         <u>Approved.</u>
8.2.4   Professor G Currie, University of Nottingham
         Student ref. USC/2006/U4/8.2.4, PhD, Dublin City University
         Business School
         <u>Approved.</u>
8.2.5   Dr E Devereux, University of Limerick
         Student ref. USC/2006/U4/8.2.5, MA, School of Communications
         <u>Approved.</u>
8.2.6   Mr S Tiernan, Institute of Technology, Tallaght
         Student ref. USC/2006/U4/8.2.6, MEng, School of Mechanical
         and Manufacturing Engineering
         <u>Approved.</u>
8.2.7   Dr W Hasselbring, University of Oldenburg
         Student ref. USC/2006/U4/8.2.7, MSc, School of Computing
         <u>Approved.</u>

9.   Postgraduate research matters

9.1   Application for entry to the PhD track

         No items.

9.2   Applications to transfer to the PhD register

9.2.1   Student ref. USC/2006/U4/9.2.1, School of Chemical Sciences
         Approved.
9.2.2   Student ref. USC/2006/U4/9.2.2, School of Mechanical
         and Manufacturing Engineering
         Approved.
9.2.3   Student ref. USC/2006/U4/9.2.3, School of Computing
         Approved.
9.2.4   Student ref. USC/2006/U4/9.2.4, School of Communications
         Approved.
9.2.5   Student ref. USC/2006/U4/9.2.5, School of Biotechnology
         Approved.

9.3   Requests for re-registration under 'write-up' status for 2006/2007

9.3.1   Dublin City University Business School (2 candidates)
         Approved.
9.3.2   School of Education Studies (1 candidate)
         Approved.
9.3.3   School of Computing (1 candidate)
         Approved.
9.3.4   School of Electronic Engineering (1 candidate)
         Approved.
9.3.5   School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (1 candidate)
         Approved.

10.   Request for exemption from modules

10.1   BSc in Sport Science and Health (2 candidates)
         Approved.
10.2   Professional Diploma in Accounting (30 candidates)
         Approved.
10.3   BA in Accounting and Finance (4 candidates)
         Approved.
10.4   BSc in Nursing (General) (1 candidate)
         Approved.
10.5   BSc in Computer Applications (1 candidate)
         Approved.
10.6   Graduate Diploma in Education (1 candidate)
         Approved.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 23 November 2006

Signed: _____   Date: _____
                    Chair