UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 23 November 2006

9.30 -10.40 a.m. in A204

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

Apologies: Mr Jonathan Begg, Mr Eoin Byrne, Dr Ronnie Saunders,
                    Mr Brendan Tolan

1.   Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of two additional submissions
under Item 5.1, one additional submission under Item 5.2 and three new items.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 12 October 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   Noted that a proposal on credit ratings for taught Master's programmes would be
submitted to the 6 December 2006 meeting of Academic Council and that the
outstanding matter for decision related to programmes which are of less than one
calendar year's duration. (Item 3.2)

3.3   Noted that the devolution to Faculties of some activities currently undertaken centrally would be discussed by Professor Slowey, the Deputy President as Chair of Budget Committee, the Deans and the Associate Deans. (Item 3.3)

3.4   Noted that proposals in relation to Phase II Modularisation would be submitted to Executive at its meeting of 28 November 2006. (Item 3.4)

3.5   Noted that legal advice had indicated that the new compensation regulations approved by Academic Council at its meeting of 11 October 2006 should not be implemented until the 2007/08 academic year. Noted that the implementation of recommendations under Phase II Modularisation might have a bearing on the necessity of compensation in a general sense. Agreed, however, that to the extent that compensation would be required in 2007/08 and subsequent years it was the new regulations that should apply, and that it would be very important to ensure that all students and staff were enabled to become familiar with them at the appropriate time. (Item 3.5)

3.6   Noted that a working group had been convened to discuss issues relating to the delivery and award of programmes by DCU and another institution, or other institutions. Noted that the discussion would benefit from work currently being finalised by Mr Gordon McConnell which would result in templates for memoranda of understanding and similar documents becoming available. (Item 3.6)

3.7   Noted that a revised proposal on the external examiner system would be submitted to the 1 February 2007 meeting of the University Standards Committee (Item 3.7)

3.8   Noted that postdoctoral students were sometimes engaged as internal examiners for research students and that this practice had a number of advantages. Agreed, however, that it was important in all cases to put appropriate systems into place to ensure that no disadvantage accrued to any party involved. (Item 3.8)

4.   **Proposal on external examiners**

         See Item 3.7 above.

INTERIM BUSINESS ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

5.   Appointment of external examiners

   5.1   Taught programmes

   5.1.1   Dr S Clarke, Trinity College Dublin
              Graduate Diploma/MSc in Information Technology
              Approved.
   5.1.2   Dr B Donnellan, National University of Ireland, Galway
              European MSc in Business Informatics
              Approved.
   5.1.3   Dr B Pernici, Politecnico di Milano
              European MSc in Business Informatics
              Approved.
   5.1.4   Dr K Kavanagh, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
              BSc in Biotechnology
              Approved.
   5.1.5   Dr D Ó Maidín, University of Limerick
              Modules in Fiontar
              Approved.
   5.1.6   *Reappointments*
              Professor J Slevin, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
              Professor J Kelly, Trinity College Dublin
              Modules in the School of Chemical Sciences
              Approved.
              Dr D Dowding, University of York
              Modules in the School of Nursing
              Approved.
   5.1.7   *Reappointments*
              Professor A Moran, University College Dublin
              Professor D A Jones, University of Birmingham
              Modules in the School of Health and Human Performance
              Approved.
   5.1.8   *Reappointments*
              Dr G Cox, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
              Dr B Hoose, Heythrop College, University of London
              Dr T Mooney, University College Dublin
              Modules in Mater Dei Institute of Education
              Approved.
   5.1.9   *Reappointment*
              Dr N O'Regan, University of Edinburgh
              Music on the MA in Humanities, St Patrick's College
              Approved.

5.1.10   Dr D Nitzsche, Cass Business School, City University, London
          BSc in Quantitative Finance
          Approved.
5.1.11   Dr A Tubb, University of the West of England
          Modules in the School of Chemical Sciences
          Approved.
5.1.12   Professor H Abdalla, De Montfort University
          BEng in Manufacturing Engineering with Business Studies
          Approved.
5.1.13   Dr G Donnelly-Cox, Trinity College Dublin
          MA in Management: Community and Voluntary Services,
          All Hallows College
          Approved.
5.1.14   Professor P J Drudy, Trinity College Dublin
          MA in Social Justice and Public Policy, All Hallows College
          Approved.
5.1.15   Professor E O'Shea, National University of Ireland, Galway
          MA in Social Justice and Public Policy, All Hallows College
          Approved.
5.1.16   Professor R Gillespie, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
          Modules in History in St Patrick's College
          Approved.
5.1.17   Professor L Løvlie, University of Oslo
          Modules in Human Development in St Patrick's College
          Approved.
5.1.18   Professor G McGuire, University College Dublin
          MSc in Security and Forensic Computing
          Approved.
5.1.19   Professor S Higson, Cranfield University
          Graduate Diploma/MSc in Biomedical Diagnostics
          Approved.

5.2   Postgraduate research students

5.2.1   Dr W Kraaij, TNO, Delft, The Netherlands
          Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.1, PhD, School of Computing
          Approved.
5.2.2   Dr C Walter, Comodo Research Laboratory, Bradford
          Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.2, PhD, School of Computing
          Approved.
5.2.3   Professor I Bennion, Aston University, Birmingham
          Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.3, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
          Approved.

5.2.4   Dr Z Liu, University of Manchester
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.4, MEng, School of Mechanical and
         Manufacturing Engineering
         Approved.
5.2.5   Professor P Worsfold, University of Plymouth
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.5, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
         Approved.
5.2.6   Dr C Ronning, University of Göttingen
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.6, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
         Approved.
5.2.7   Professor G Granville, National College of Art and Design
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.7, PhD, School of Education Studies
         Approved.
5.2.8   Dr T Ó Dúshláine, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.8, MA, Roinn na Gaeilge,
         St Patrick's College
         Approved.
5.2.9   Dr M Lennon, Dublin Institute of Technology
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.9, PhD, Music Department,
         St Patrick's College
         Approved.
5.2.10   Professor U Hansmann, Michigan Technological University
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.10, PhD, School of Computing
         Approved.
5.2.11   Dr M Rogers, University of Surrey
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.11, PhD, School of Applied Language
         and Intercultural Studies
         Approved.
5.2.12   Dr M Kennedy, Royal Irish Academy
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.12, PhD, History Department,
         St Patrick's College
         Approved.
5.2.13   Professor R Pandey, University of Southern Mississippi
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.13, PhD, School of Computing
         Approved.
5.2.14   Dr J Sheridan, University College Dublin
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.14, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
         Approved.
5.2.15   Professor U Küchler, Humboldt University, Berlin
         Student ref. USC/2006/U5/5.2.15, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
         Approved.

6.   Postgraduate research matters

6.1   Application for entry to the PhD track

None.

6.2   Applications to transfer to the PhD register

6.2.1   Student ref. USC/2006/U5/6.2.1, School of Physical Sciences
         Approved.
6.2.2   Student ref. USC/2006/U5/6.2.2, School of Computing
         Approved.
6.2.3   Student ref. USC/2006/U5/6.2.3, School of Computing
         Approved.
6.2.4   Student ref. USC/2006/U5/6.2.4, School of Mechanical and
         Mechanical Engineering
         Approved.

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

6.3.1   School of Biotechnology (1 candidate)
         Approved.
6.3.2   School of Chemical Sciences (2 candidates)
         Approved.
6.3.3   School of Computing (1 candidate)
         Approved.
6.3.4   School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (2 candidates)
         Approved.

7.   Request for exemption from modules

7.1   Professional Diploma in Accounting (1 candidate)
         Approved.

8.   Proposed stand-alone modules (School of Biotechnology)

Approved.

9.   Requests to change the titles of two programmes:

9.1   MA in Political Communication

The proposal to change this title to 'MA in Political and Public Communication' with effect from 2007/08 was <u>approved</u>.

9.2   Graduate Diploma/MSc in Instrumental Analysis

The proposal to change this title to 'Graduate Diploma/MSc in Advanced Chemical and Pharmaceutical Analysis' with effect from 2007/08 was <u>approved</u>.

10.   Approach to be taken to a range of issues involving research students

<u>Noted</u> that the ITS system would soon incorporate increased capability with regard to research students and that this would facilitate tracking of modules and other activities that they might undertake. <u>Noted</u> that single modules to be taken by research students could be managed in the same way as stand-alone modules are at present (i.e. go through a standard approval process). <u>Noted</u> that a national approach to issues such as accreditation of such modules for research students, and transfer of research students from one institution to another, was under discussion and that it would be important to have systems in place to meet changing needs. <u>Noted</u> that a DCU working group had been convened to discuss the issues and that it would include Professor Kennedy, the Associate Deans for Research, and some other members.

11.   Proposal to change the marks bands for degree classification

This proposal, from the Faculty of Science and Health, was <u>noted</u> with considerable interest. The following was <u>agreed</u>: the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning would facilitate discussion of the issue across Faculties and with the linked colleges; a proposal on the issue would be made to the 1 February 2007 meeting of the University Standards Committee; Professor Slowey would be requested to raise the matter at a national level through the Irish Universities Association; Ms Maura McGinn, Institutional Analysis Officer, would be requested, for background information purposes, to provide information on the numbers of awards made within each of the current bands. <u>Noted</u> that it would also be

important to take account of the views of stakeholders such as the Department of Education and Science (with reference to teacher education).

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1 February 2007

Signed: _____   Date: _____
                    Chair