

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 3 April 2013

2.00-2.45 p.m. in A204

- Present:** Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair)¹, Professor John Costello, Dr Sarah Ingle, Mr Billy Kelly, Dr Lisa Looney, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Professor Barry McMullin, Dr Ciarán Mac Murchaidh, Dr Anne Sinnott, Dr Sheelagh Wickham
- Apologies:** Dr Claire Bohan, Mr Aaron Clogher, Dr John Doyle, Professor Alan Harvey, Ms Aisling McKenna, Mr Martin Molony
- In attendance:** Ms Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 6 March 2013

The minutes were confirmed subject to the rewording of Item 3.10 so that it reads:

It was noted that the reworded policy on joint research supervision and awards had been approved by Executive. (Item 3.11)

They were signed by the Chair.

¹ Dr Anne Sinnott chaired the meeting for Items 1-3.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** It was noted that Ms McKenna had made available to the Deans information about prior Leaving Certificate performance of students, per individual programme, in the past 3-5 years, as well as information about the January 2013 examination performance of all students, per Faculty. (Items 3.1 and 3.3)
- 3.2** It was noted that the statistics relating to Annual Programme Review now all pertain to the same academic year, as far as possible. (Item 3.4)
- 3.3** It was noted that future first-year student experience surveys would involve further analysis of the effects of social engagement with the University and of paid work outside the University, unless it emerges that the INSS (which this year replaces the first-year student experience survey) adequately covers these areas. (See also Item 5 below.) (Item 3.4)
- 3.4** With respect to the involvement of external institutions in programmes offered by the University, it was noted that the proposed short-life working group had been set up and had met once, with a second meeting planned for 18 April 2013. (Item 3.5)
- 3.5** It was noted, with respect to recommendations about non-major awards, that final proposals would be submitted for the consideration of the EC as soon as possible. (Item 3.6)
- 3.6** It was noted that the outcome of the discussion about ethical review of undergraduate research proposals had been conveyed to the Chair of the REC, for information. (Item 3.7)
- 3.7** It was noted that amendments had been made to the withdrawal form (*R27 – Notification of Withdrawal from a Course*) with a view to eliciting more nuanced information than has been available up to now about students' reasons for withdrawing from the University. (Item 3.8)
- 3.8** It was noted that Business Intelligence was likely to be used for making available the proposed online repository of reports from the Institutional Research and Analysis Office. (Item 3.9)
- 3.9** It was noted that the accreditation report in respect of the proposed 3U Partnership MEng in Healthcare Technologies would be submitted for the approval of Academic Council at its meeting of 10 April 2013 and that approval processes were also under way in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. (Item 3.11)

- 3.10** It was noted that further discussion would take place within the University about the possibility of getting a new student management information system. (Item 3.13)
- 3.11** It was noted that the HEA quality framework on PhD education would be circulated to the EC when it became available. (Item 4)
- 3.12** It was noted that the Chair was in the process of drawing up criteria with respect to the rationalisation of programmes and intended to discuss these with Ms McKenna and Mr Eamonn Cuggy, the Finance Officer. (Item 6.2)
- 3.13** It was noted that the draft Teaching and Learning strategic plan was nearing completion. (Item 7)
- 3.14** With respect to the details about ‘at-risk’ students, it was noted that an amendment to the figures relating to the Schools of Chemical Sciences and Physical Sciences had been made. A suggestion that had been made, relating to separate reporting of programmes involving common entry, was discussed. It was agreed that a small number of queries that arose from the discussion would be clarified following the meeting. (Item 8)
- 3.15** It was noted that work was ongoing on the development of a protocol with respect to mobile telephone contact with students. (Item 9)
- 3.16** It was noted that discussions would take place with relevant members of Senior Management about the possibility of articulating the student management information system and the alumni database. (Item 9)
- 3.17** It was noted that the EC would, at its meeting of 1 May 2013, give consideration to data protection issues relating to the collection of HEA First Destinations information. (Item 9)

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4. Update on activities undertaken within the IUA

No specific activities were noted as needing to be the subject of an update at this time. It is expected that there will be outcomes from the meetings of the various IUA subgroups on Monday 15 April 2013.

5. Update on the Irish National Student Survey

It was noted that the response rate to date from DCU compares very favourably with the rate across the sector, though the figures are low overall. A range of publicity initiatives is to be undertaken in the University in the week beginning Monday 8 April 2013 with a view to raising the response rate as much as possible prior to the close of the survey. (See also Item 3.3 above.)

6. EC goals 2013

Progress in respect of goals was noted.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME- AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES**7. Proposal re change to full-time status: BSc in Education and Training**

It was agreed that the School of Education Studies would be requested to combine the two BSc degrees in Education and Training (which appeal to quite different groups of applicants) into one full-time programme and that this programme should include sufficient variety of modes of attendance and types of learning (e.g. traditional, blended) to cater for the needs of the spectrum of applicants/students which are currently catered for by the two programmes.

8. Proposed pathway in Data Analysis on the MSc in Computing

This proposed pathway was noted as being a crucially important development likely to meet a significant need, and it was also noted that its existence exemplifies the agility with which the University can respond to emerging trends. By this very token, it was agreed that the approval process should be as robust as possible. To this end, the programme proposers are requested to rewrite the learning outcomes so that they are consonant with Level 9, to explain in detail the assertion that no additional resources will be required by virtue of the availability of the pathway and to identify an external expert who is appropriately distanced from the University (as, for example, an external examiner would be). It was agreed that the revised documentation, once approved at Faculty level and available to the EC, would be reviewed on an electronic basis and within a short timeframe.

9. Proposed Graduate Certificate in Management: Dublin City University Business School (Springboard)

Approved.

10. Proposed Certificate in Information Technology: Oscail (Springboard)

Approved.

11. Proposed Certificate in Management of IT/IS: Oscail (Springboard)

Approved.

12. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting:

<p>Wednesday 1 May 2013, 2.00 p.m. in A204</p>

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____