EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 8 January 2014

2.00-4.00 p.m. in A204

Present:	Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Claire Bohan, Professor John Costello, Dr John Doyle, Dr Sarah Ingle, Dr Lisa Looney, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Professor Barry McMullin, Mr Martin Molony, Mr Ciarán O'Connor, Dr Sheelagh Wickham
Apologies:	Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Professor Alan Harvey, Dr Anne Sinnott
In attendance:	Ms Valerie Cooke, Ms Aisling McKenna

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1.   Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the deferral of Item 6.1 to the meeting of
5 February 2014 and the inclusion of two submissions under Item 10. (Item 6.1 will
now form part of the presentation on issues relating to Annual Programme Review
and Periodic Programme review: see Item 3.3 below.)

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 4 December 2013

The minutes were confirmed subject to the rewording of the first part of the first
sentence in Item 3.8 so that it reads: 'With respect to the availability of online First
Destinations data, post analysis, to staff members …'. They were signed by the
Chair.

3.   **Matters arising from the minutes**

3.1   The revised draft protocol on the use of mobile phone data was <u>approved</u> subject to
         the further revision of the last sentence so that it reads: 'Where it is used, text
         messaging must identify DCU and the person or service in the first line of any text
         and must not contain any information of a personal nature'. Mr Kelly undertook to
         make the final version available to Dr Bohan so that she could make its existence
         known as appropriate. (Item 3.2)

3.2   It was <u>noted</u> that the presentation on e-portfolios would be made to the EC at its
         meeting of 5 February 2014. (Item 3.3)

3.3   It was <u>noted</u> that Dr Ingle and Mr Kelly were preparing a set of protocols relating to
         access to, and approval of, APR and PPR reports. This will be on the agenda of the
         5 February 2014 meeting of the EC, in tandem with the report on PPR activity
         completed in 2012/13 and planned for 2013/14 (see Item 1 above and Item 6.1
         below). Consideration is also being given to the optimum online location(s) for
         APR and PPR templates. (Item 3.5)

3.4   It was <u>noted</u> that the meetings of the working group on approval procedures were
         scheduled for January-February 2014. (Item 3.6)

3.5   It was <u>noted</u> that a short-life working group to discuss and make recommendations
         in respect of modules for which failure rates are high would shortly be established.
         (Item 3.7)

3.6   It was <u>noted</u> that Ms McKenna had made available on a scatter plot basis the data
         on the correlation between Leaving Certificate performance and subsequent
         academic performance at DCU and had sent data on students in the Faculty of
         Humanities and Social Sciences to Dr Doyle.   (Item 6.2)

3.7   It was <u>noted</u> that the combined policy on feedback and assessment had been
         approved by Academic Council at its meeting of 11 December 2013 and would be
         placed on the web pages of the Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning.
         (Item 7.2)

3.8   It was <u>noted</u> that discussions were ongoing with respect to the University's student
         record system. (Item 7.4)

3.9   It was <u>noted</u> that Professor McMullin would shortly communicate to the Senior
         Management Group the issues raised by the EC about the consequences for students
         of non-payment of fees. (Item 9)

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.   Update on activities undertaken within the IUA

4.1   Dr Looney <u>noted</u> that feedback had been submitted both by DCU and by the IUA on the HEA/QQI *Engagement document: towards the establishment of a national framework for doctoral education* and that detailed follow-up discussion had taken place between all the parties involved. The final document is expected to be launched by the end of January 2014. She <u>noted</u> too that QQI is due to carry out a review of the fitness for purpose of the current guidance on the quality indicators pertaining to doctoral education, with revised indicators expected to be made available in 2015.

4.2   Dr Ingle <u>noted</u> that two significant items under discussion between the Directors of Quality Promotion and QQI are reporting procedures and the establishment of frameworks for guiding decisions about collaboration with external partners.

5.   Report on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement

It was <u>noted</u> that the report on the outcomes of the first survey had been launched on 13 December 2013 and that, to date, there had been relatively little media comment. The fieldwork for the next iteration of the survey is due to begin on 24 February 2014.

6.   EC goals 2013/14

6.1   Report on PPR activity completed in 2012/13 and planned for 2013/14

Deferred to the meeting of 5 February 2013 (see Items 1 and 3.3 above).

6.2   Updated information on other goals

It was <u>noted</u> that progress was ongoing and that more detailed accounts of activities would be made available to the forthcoming early 2014 meetings of the EC.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME- AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

7.   Validation proposal: BA in Community Psychology

It was <u>agreed</u> not to recommend this proposal for validation. In reaching its decision, the EC took cognisance of the fact that the existing Psychology offering in All Hallows College is not accredited by the Psychological Society of Ireland. In the context of this, of the fact that the University itself has one PSI accredited programme, and of the fact that one other Psychology offering in the University is under consideration for PSI accreditation, the EC considered that it would not be appropriate, at this time, to consider approving another Psychology offering.

8.   Validation proposal: BA in Social and Human Services

It was <u>agreed</u> that the Validation Subgroup would convene to discuss this proposal in detail. A number of issues for discussion by the Subgroup with the proposers were identified:
- there is concern about the likely viability of the programme (if it is successful at validation and at accreditation), though it is acknowledged that this is primarily a matter for All Hallows College, from which the proposal originates
- it will be important to ensure that the programme learning outcomes are conceptualised and expressed in a way that is appropriate to a Level 8 programme
- changes and clarifications to the wording about entry requirements will need to be made
- the name of one of the proposed members of the Accreditation Board will need to be removed from the list to ensure that no conflict of interest arises; it will need to be ensured that any replacement nominee has a background cognate to that of the original nominee.

9.   Proposed pathway in Psychology on the Diploma/BA in Humanities

The decision on this proposed pathway was deferred to allow time for further discussion with relevant staff members in the University about the likely complementarity between it and other Psychology offerings in the University.

10.   Any other business

10.1   Proposed Memoranda of Understanding between Shantou University, China, and DCU (SALIS and the School of Communications)

The Memoranda were <u>approved</u> subject to the deletion of section 2.2, in each case, and the deletion, in each case, of the wording following 'proposed structural changes' in section 2.3.

10.2   Uversity

A discussion took place on developments with respect to Uversity, with which DCU now has a partnership. It was <u>agreed</u> that clarity about the nature of the planned engagement would be essential. Concern was expressed about the lack of information provided to the EC with respect to this initiative, in view of its central role in overseeing the University's academic strategy.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 5 February 2014, 2.00 p.m. in A204

Signed: _____   Date: _____
              Chair