

ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES

**1 December 2021
2.00 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.**

Zoom Meeting

Present:

W. Ahmed	B. Anderson	S. Blott
C. Bohan	L. Boran	M. Brown (NIDL)
M. Brown (IoE)	J. Brunton	J. Bruton
M. Butler	PJ Byrne	P. Cahill
B. Corcoran	E. Costello	M. Coulter
S. Cullen	D. Fahy	O. Farrell
M. Farrelly	J. Foster	Y. Freaney
G. French	C. Furlong	P. Gallagher
R. Gillanders	S. Giordani	K. Goodman
P. Guasoni	C. Gurrin	D. Hand
S. Hegarty	G. Hughes	A. Intizar
J. Kearney	R. Keegan (Secretary)	W. Kelly
E. Kennedy	D. Keogh (Chair)	D. Kinahan
P. Landais	A. Logan	T. Lokot
L. Looney	C. Mac an Bhaird	A. Maillot
C. McArdle	A. McAuley	E. McGlynn
A. McKenna	J. McMackin	J. McManis
R. McManus	P. McMorrow	A. McNamara
M. McSharry	P. Mooney	A. Morrissey
J.-P. Mosnier	G.-M. Muntean	B. Murphy
F. Murphy	N. Murphy	B. Nolan
M. O'Brien	S. O'Brien (FHSS)	C. O'Gorman
K. O'Sullivan	N. O'Sullivan	J. Stokes
T. Szecsi	J. Travers	G. Uí Laighléis
L. Van der Werff	P. Van Kampen	M. Ward
B. White		

In attendance:

V. Cooke		
----------	--	--

Apologies:

S. Belton	A. Castillo Villaneuva	D. Collings
C. Holland	A. Looney	J. McDonough
P. McGorman	C. Ní Mhurchú	P. Robbins
P. Sharkey Scott	A. Sinnott	M. R. Sweeney
J. Usher		

The Chair welcomed Dr Agnès Maillot to Academic Council as the newly appointed Head of the School of Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A. Minutes and Related Issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 6 October 2021**

The minutes of the meeting of 6 October 2021 were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 15 September 2021 and 13 October 2021, and Minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Learning Innovation Project Steering Group of 31 May 2021 and 17 June 2021

The minutes were approved.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar drew attention to the first set of minutes from the subcommittee of Education Committee, the Strategic Learning Innovation Project Steering Group. She reminded members that the subcommittee has oversight of the HCI Pillar 3 funded projects, including DCU Futures.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar drew members' attention that in September, Education Committee considered a white paper on DCU's approach to joint, double and multiple awards. Definitions were subsequently adopted by Education Committee and will form the basis of a wider policy on collaborative provision.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar informed members that the Director of Microcredential Strategy and Innovation gave a presentation to Education Committee at its October meeting. She noted that it is timely that we adopt definitions and characteristics of micro-credentials for DCU that will form the foundations for how we build our offerings. She

encouraged members to attend the micro-credential information sessions being delivered this week.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 2 September 2021

The minutes were approved.

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 30 August 2021

The minutes were approved.

B. Policy and Strategy Issues

7. President's report

7.1 The President recorded his gratitude to colleagues for their dedication over this semester, particularly in the context of the increasing uncertainty surrounding the ongoing pandemic. He noted the student body has expressed their gratitude to be back on campus this semester.

7.2 The President recorded his condolences and sympathies to the family and friends of Ms Siobhán Murray, a second-year DCU Business School student, who passed away in November.

7.3 The President informed members that Minister Harris has this week announced the approval of ten SALI (Senior Academic Leadership Initiative) positions, in what was a highly competitive call. He advised members that DCU submitted two extremely high-quality applications. He recorded his congratulations to Professor Barbara Flood and Professor Liam Gallagher in securing the funding for a Full Professor in Sustainable Finance.

7.4 The President congratulated the sixty-plus staff members who were recently awarded Advance HE teaching fellowships, demonstrating colleagues' commitment to teaching and learning in higher education. He expressed his gratitude to colleagues in the Teaching Enhancement Unit for coordinating the programme.

7.5 The President informed members of significant Erasmus plus successes in the current funding round, with Professor Federico Fabbrini being awarded funding to establish a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Professor Christian Kaunert being awarded funding for a Jean Monnet project on Teacher Education and Ms Christine O'Kelly being awarded a grant for a COPE project.

7.6 The President advised members that the new Woodlock Hall Library was opened to students this week. He noted the significance of the facility and its rich collection of books across the humanities. The restoration of the library was completed in partnership with the Irish Jesuits.

7.7 The President noted the success of the recent DCU Open Day and informed members that feedback from potential students and their parents was most positive. He reminded members that the DCU Postgraduate Open Day is running today, and he expressed his gratitude to all involved in the planning for these important events.

8. Strategic academic initiatives

8.1 ECIU University update

The Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar presented to Academic Council on the ECIU University initiative. She advised members that she represents DCU on the ECIU Board, providing updates to the President and other members of senior management of the University in key aspects of the project.

She summarised the history of the establishment of the ECIU noting that the initial partnership, which was built upon a shared focus on innovation and industry engagement, started in 1997. She noted that ECIU is the largest of the current 41 Erasmus plus funded 'European University' alliances.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar provided an overview of the three-year ECIU university pilot project, part-funded by the EU Commission under their European Universities Initiative which commenced in November 2019. The pilot includes nine work packages focused on a range of academic matters including challenge-based research and innovation, challenge-based education, open and flexible learning and legal, regulatory and quality matters. She noted the significant alignment between ECIU objectives and DCUs strategic priority to be a globally engaged, innovative and sustainable university and our focus on curriculum renewal and micro-credentials.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar noted that subject to success in the next funding call, the project will move quickly from a pilot into a new phase of development. She drew attention to the *ECIU University Vision 2030* and advised members that this publication gives a good overview of what the consortium is working towards. She noted that work is currently underway in exploring what would be needed in order to deliver on the 2030 vision.

The Vice President for Research and Innovation informed members that Erasmus funding alone will not deliver on the strategy and it is vital that this is matched by national funding.

The President noted the significant potential to work with the ECIU partnership across a wide range of opportunities and activities and encouraged members to consider the consortium when looking for new partnerships.

C. Items for Formal Approval/Noting

9. Validation reports:

9.1 MA i Léann na Gaeilge

Approved

9.2 MSc in Health and Social Inclusion

Approved

9.3 MSc in Child and Family Health and Wellbeing

Approved

10. Accreditation Report: European Master in Law, Data and Artificial Intelligence

Approved

11. Accreditation Report: BEd in Technology, Engineering and Graphics

Approved

12. Proposed aegrotat award: BSc in Enterprise Computing

Approved

13. Reports from sub-committees of Academic Council

Noted

14. Report from Winter 2021 Examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

The Report from Winter 2021 Progression and Awards Boards was approved. Academic Council conferred awards on those candidates who demonstrated the required standard and were duly approved for award by relevant Progression and Awards Boards.

15. Report from Examination Appeals Boards for taught programmes 2021

Noted. The Chair noted the significant work of the Examinations Appeals board in particularly challenging times. He recorded his thanks to the Chair, Professor Enda McGlynn, and all members of the Board.

16. Report from the Disciplinary Committee 2021

Noted

17. Report from the Research Committee 2021

Noted

18. Conferring of Ballyfermot College of Further Education awards

The Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar informed members that this is an exceptional request in the context of the pandemic. She noted that Ballyfermot College of Further Education regrettably had to cancel planned graduation ceremonies due to be held on 25 November. As a result, Academic Council is being asked to confer the approved awards for graduands of the BA in Media Production Management.

Academic Council conferred awards on those candidates who demonstrated the required standard and were duly approved for award by the relevant Progression and Awards Board.

19. Any other business

The President reminded members of plans for an outdoor, socially distanced staff event before the Christmas break. Further details will be communicated to staff shortly.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

2 February 2022

14:00

via Zoom