

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****10 April 2019****2.00 p.m. – 3.25 p.m.****B103, DCU St Patrick's Campus****PRESENT:**

SJ Belton	S. Hegarty	I. McMenamin
F. Blin	C. Holland	P. McMorrow
C. Bohan	M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)	E. Morgenroth
J. Bruen	G. Jones	J-P Mosnier
J. Bruton	A. Kearns	B. Ní Áingléis
M. Butler	W. Kelly	D. Nic Mhathúna
B Corcoran	J. Kelly	M. O'Brien
M. Crane	A. Looney	R. O'Connor
S. Cullen	L. Looney	N. O'Sullivan
E. Cunningham	J. Lovatt	J. Rami
N. Dunne	B. MacCraith (Chair)	M. Roantree
M. Farrelly	C. MacMurchaidh	D. Robbins
M. Fitzpatrick	A. McAuley	A. Stalcup
Y. Freeney	E. McDonald	J. Stokes
G. French	G. McGuinness	J. Travers
E. Guilfoyle	A. McKenna	B. White
C. Gurrin	D. McKeon	

APOLOGIES:

M. Brown	D. Hand	M. McAdam
D. Collings	G. Hughes	B. McConalogue
E. Costello	S. Kelly	B. Nolan
J. Doyle	E. Kennedy	E. Regan
L. Fitzsimons	D. Keogh	P. Sharkey Scott
B. Flood	C. Loscher	A Simon
L. Gallagher	L. MacGabhann	G. Sinclair
R. Gillanders		

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Rachel Keegan

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A. Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 6 February 2019**

Approved

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 It was noted that item 8.2 from the meeting of 6 February 2019 would be deferred until the meeting of Academic Council on 5 June 2019. It was noted that Registry is exploring the logistical and quality implications of the agreed proposal to allow graduates who receive their parchment in advance of the public conferring ceremony attend the public ceremony.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 16 January 2019 and 13 February 2019

Approved

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 10 January 2019

Approved

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 17 January 2019

Approved

B. Policy and strategy issues**7. President's report (oral report)**

- 7.1 The President informed Council that he had completed meetings with all Faculties and Units to discuss the DCU Strategic Plan 2017 - 2022 'Review and Renew' Process Year 1 Implementation Report and Prioritised Plans for Year 2. He noted that there had been very positive and open engagement at all the meetings and there was clear alignment at school and faculty level with the University strategic plan.
- 7.2 The President noted the recent publication of the HEA 'Graduate Outcomes Survey, Class of 2017' and highlighted that DCU is the leading university in the Dublin region for the employability of its graduates.
- 7.3 The President noted that DCU is a partner in the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) consortium seeking funding to participate in the pilot stage of the European University concept. It is hoped that the outcome of the funding application will be announced in July 2019.
- 7.4 The President extended a vote of thanks to all those involved in the Spring Conferring ceremonies, which took place on 21 March 2019, noting the contribution of Registry in particular. The March ceremony included the conferring of an Honorary Doctorate on poet Paula Meehan and the award of the Chancellor's medal.

The President informed Council that a conferring ceremony would take place on 30 April 2019 to confer honorary doctorates on Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Sports Commentator and Writer, and on Joe Schmidt, Head Coach, Irish Rugby Team.

8. Revisions to the Academic Calendar, presentation Professor Eithne Guilfoyle and Ms Pauline Mooney

Professor Eithne Guilfoyle and Ms Pauline Mooney gave a presentation on the Report of the Academic Calendar Working Group (ACWG). It was noted that the principal objective of the ACWG was to assess the continued fitness for purpose of the academic calendar configuration in terms of (a) enabling and realising the University's strategic Plan 2017-2022, (b) sector practices both nationally and internationally, (c) projected growth in student numbers and (d) operational excellence.

It was noted that the principal recommendations made by the ACWG had been considered and endorsed by DCU Senior Management and DCU Executive.

Ms Mooney referred to the Report of the Academic Calendar Working Group that had been circulated to Academic Council in advance, and summarised the context of the project and the work undertaken by the ACWG. She provided the perspectives of student and staff from the consultation process and an overview of some of the anticipated benefits of moving the academic calendar.

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were noted:

- It was acknowledged that although specific operational details would have to be worked through, the view was expressed that the Academic Calendar Working Group had taken a strategic approach and provided sufficient detail of all considerations for Council to make a strategic decision.
- It was noted that during consultation there was robust feedback with respect to the time allocated to correct examination scripts following semester one examinations and it was noted that there would be no diminution in the time allocated for correction although the timing of correction would be altered.
- It was noted that the time for a student between receiving a CAO offer and starting first year in DCU would be shortened however, it was noted that this period applies across the sector.
- It was noted that the State Examination Commission is currently examining the possibility of releasing Leaving Certificate results and holding appeals earlier.
- It was noted that the specific examination of the challenges of concurrent education programmes and the possible resource implications in adjusting to the change to the academic calendar was welcomed.
- It was noted that the move to the new academic calendar would be influenced by the growth in student numbers. The President indicated that a working group is being set up to determine what DCU's growth should be in the context of the demographic pressure in its region. It was also noted that, in the context of sectoral funding, DCU would have to take a strategic view on the profile of its student population.
- It was noted that the changes to the academic calendar would form the context to the changes brought about by the adoption of a new Student Information System and Curriculum Review.

Academic Council agreed the following:

DCU Academic Calendar should be revised with effect from 2021-22 to reflect:

- An earlier semester one start date (second week in September – subject to implications of High Court Leaving Certificate Appeal ruling)
- A *minimum* of one study week in each semester
- Conduct of semester one examinations prior to Christmas

- An earlier semester two start date
- Completion of semester two, including the promulgation of final results, earlier in June
- The conduct of resit examinations either as soon as possible following the promulgation of final results **or** as late as possible during the summer period

It was noted that the next steps would involve the establishment of an Implementation Group and development of an implementation plan, which would be aligned, as appropriate, with the Student Information System project and the approval of outline calendars for multiple years (2021-22 to 2024-25).

C. Items for formal approval/noting

9. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved

10. Validation Reports

10.1 MSc in Astrophysics and Relativity

Approved

10.2 Professional Diploma in Clinical Supervision

Approved

10.3 Graduate Certificate in Dermatology

Approved

11. Research Students Awards Report, Royal Irish Academy of Music

Approved

12. Report from Director of Quality Promotion 2017-2018

Noted

13. Any other business

The President informed Council that the Ms. Rachel Keegan, recently appointed to the Academic Secretariat, Academic Affairs, would be taking up the role of Secretary of Academic Council.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

5 June 2019

2:00 pm in AG01

DCU, Glasnevin Campus