

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****11 April 2018****2.00 – 2.50 p.m.****B103, DCU St Patrick's Campus****PRESENT:**

F. Blin
C. Bohan
J. Bruen
M. Butler
S. Cullen
J. Doyle
N. Dunne
O. Farrell
M Fitzpatrick
G. French
R. Gillanders
E. Guilfoyle
D. Hand
S. Hegarty
M. Helfert
C. Holland

G. Jones
A Kearns
W. Kelly
J. Kelly
E. Kennedy
Q Liu
L. Looney
J. Lovatt
B. MacCraith (Chair)*
C. MacMurchaidh
M. McAdam
K. McDonagh
E. McDonald
E. McGlynn
C. McGonagle

A. McKenna
D. McKeon
E. McNulty
P. Mooney
R. Murphy
F. Murphy
D. Nic Mhathúna
B. Nolan
R. O'Connor
J. Rami
E. Regan
M. Roantree
A Simon
J Travers
P. Willis

APOLOGIES:

M. Brown
J. Bruton
J. Bruton
P. Cahill
E. Conway
B. Corcoran
E. Costello
M. Crane
M. Cummins

B. Flood
O. Forde
C. Furlong
G. Hughes
S. Kelly
A Looney
C. Loscher
L. MacGabhann
B. McConalogue

G. Murphy
B. Ní Áingléis
M. O'Brien
E. O'Riordan
A Parle-McDermott
C. Pressler
M. Quinn
R. Sadleir
G. Sinclair

D. Curran
P. Davis
L Fitzsimons

G. McGuinness
P. McMorrow
B. Mulry

A Stalcup
A Stevenson
B. White

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 7 February 2018

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 17 January 2018 and 14 February 2018.

Approved

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 11 January 2018

Approved

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 18 January 2018

Approved

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

7.1 The President highlighted recent activities which reflected the ongoing roll-out of the strategic plan, *Talent, Discovery and Transformation* noting in particular the following recent initiatives:

- DCU announced the first phase of a new sustainability drive which will see the University become 'plastic-free' by 2020. This initiative reflects the goal of 'placing sustainability at the core of the university'
- With respect to 'widening participation', the University was recently recognised as the world's first Autism-Friendly University by AsIAM, the autism advocacy charity.
- A two-day festival (11 and 12 April 2018) entitled *Anam*, was the first initiative in the creation of a North Dublin Cultural Quarter as part of the actions under strategic goal seven 'to promote the cultural experience of students and staff'.

The President noted that the Teaching and Learning, Research Innovation, Engagement, International and Student Experience Constituent Strategies were scheduled for completion by the end of April/early May 2018.

7.2 At sectoral level DCU is advancing the process to deliver an agreed performance compact of goals which will reflect the six identified national objectives in relation to Higher Education under the National Performance Framework.

7.3 The President announced his intention to visit Schools, Units and Centres over the April/May 2018 period to discuss current issues, the rollout of the strategic plan and to give staff an opportunity to provide feedback.

8. Widening Participation, Presentation

Professor E. Guilfoyle, Mr B. Kelly and Dr C. Bohan presented on the various initiatives with respect to widening participation in Higher Education at a national and university level.

The following points were noted from the presentation:

- DCU's commitment to widening participation (defined as tackling the differences in participation in higher education opportunities across different social groups) is a demonstration of its culture and values of equality and educational opportunity. It was

noted that this commitment is demonstrated through the University's investment of €2 million in Access support services raised through its fund raising activities.

- DCU was an early pioneer in implementing the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) Scheme.
- The HEAR and DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) schemes are university rather than government-led schemes.
- In addition to HEAR and DARE, DCU also runs DCU Accelerator which targets ten disadvantaged local schools.
- Total HEAR applications have grown from 1,950 in 2010 to 4, 221 in 2016.
- Total DARE applications have grown from 948 in 2010 to 3,076 in 2016.
- DCU is achieving its targets for Access (socio-economic), Disability and FETAC entrants, however the mature student target is at 50% of its target.
- Widening participation supports in DCU include schemes such as the UniTY programme for transition years, UFirst: 'College aware/College ready' and disability outreach.
- At a national level, funding has been made available under 3 Paths (Equity of Access to Initial Teacher Education, 1916 Bursaries and College Connect) and DCU has been successful in achieving funding in each PATH in conjunction with its MEND Cluster partners Maynooth University, Athlone IT and Dundalk IT.
- It was noted, in the context of widening participation, that DCU needs to focus are life-long learning/mature students and more flexible delivery. The concept of 'flexible delivery' will be considered in the context of the introduction of a new student information system.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

9. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved

10. Validation Reports

10.1 MSc in Psychology (Conversion)

Approved

10.2 Bachelor of Education leading to the following awards:

- Bachelor of Education in Gaeilge and French
- Bachelor of Education in Gaeilge and German
- Bachelor of Education in Gaeilge and Spanish

Approved

11. Accreditation Reports

11.1 MSc in International Accounting and Business

Approved

11.2 MA in Creative Writing

Approved

11.3 MA in European Law and Policy

Approved

12. Report from Director of Quality Promotion 2016-2017

Noted

13. Report on INTRA Activities 2016-2017

Noted

14. Any other business

There were no items of business.

Signed: _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting:

6 June 2018
2:00 pm in AG01
DCU, Glasnevin
Campus