ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

18 June 2018

2.00 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.

AGO1, DCU Glasnevin Campus

PRESENT:

F. Blin	E. Kennedy	F. Murphy
J. Bruton	A. Looney	B. Ní Áingléis
C. Commons	L. Looney	B. Nolan
M. Crane	B. MacCraith (Chair)	Mk O'Brien
J. Doyle	C. Mac Murchaidh	R. O'Connor
N. Dunne	E. McDonald	J. Rami
G. French	E. McGlynn	R. Sadleir
C. Furlong	G. McGuiness	A. Simon
E. Guilfoyle	P. McMorrow	S. Smyth
S. Hegarty	E. McNulty	A. Stalcup
M. Helfert	P. Mooney	J. Stokes
M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)	G. Murphy	P. Tiernan
C. Holland	R. Murphy	J. Travers
B. Kelly		

APOLOGIES:

C. Bohan	G. Jones	S. McGovern
J. Bruen	A. Kearns	D. McKeon
M. Butler	A. Kellett	Deirdre Nic Mhathúna
D. Collings	J. Kelly	M. O'Brien
B. Corcoran	P. Landais	A. Parle-McDermott
M. Fitzpatrick	C. Loscher	K. Rafter
B. Flood	M. McAdam	E. Regan
R. Gillanders	B. McConalogue	M. Roantree
G. Hughes	K. McDonagh	

1.   Adoption of agenda

The agenda was <u>adopted</u>.

A: <u>Minutes and related issues</u>

2.   Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 6 June 2018

The minutes were <u>approved</u> and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4.   Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 2 May 2018 and 30 May 2018

<u>Approved</u>

5.   Minutes of the meetings of the University Standards Committee of 5 April 2018 and 31 May 2018

<u>Approved</u>

6.   Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 26 April 2018

<u>Approved</u>

B.   Policy and strategy issues

7.   President's Report (oral report)

7.1   Referring to recent media reports on the fall of Irish universities across the board in the QS World University Rankings and its attribution to under investment at third level, the President noted that Irish Universities Association has called on the Government to address the funding deficit and requested that any increase in funding would not be hypothecated for new initiatives, but rather, would increase the average investment per student.

He noted that DCU remains in the top one hundred of the Times Higher Education Young Universities under 50 ranking which he noted is a very positive achievement in light of the financial constraints imposed over the last decade.

7.2   The President noted that a meeting with the HEA on Strategy and Performance Dialogue 2018-2021 was scheduled to take place on 19 June 2018. He indicated that DCU's strategic plan, 'Talent, Discovery, and Transformation 2017-2022', is already aligned with national goals and it was anticipated that DCU's Compact would not include initiatives not already contained in DCU's strategic plan. He noted that the constituent strategic plans will be published over the coming weeks.

7.3   The President indicated that his planned visits to Schools and Units will commence in autumn 2018.

7.4   The President noted with positivity the announcement of the UNESCO Chair on Tackling Bullying in Schools and Cyberspace.

7.5   The President highlighted upcoming DCU events as follows:

- The conferring of a DCU Honorary doctorate upon Dr Amal Al Qubaisi, President and Speaker of the Federal National Council, United Arab Emirates, 21 June 2018
- The Launch of the Centre of Excellence for Diversity and Inclusion, 21 June 2018
- The visit of Madame Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

7.6   It was with great sadness the President noted the death of Professor John Coolahan former Chair of the Mater Dei Institute and St Patrick's College Drumcondra Governing Bodies, noting in particular his most significant contribution to education policy over the span of his career.

Deepest sympathy was extended, on behalf of Council, to the family of Mr Conor Morgan, a second year student in DCU Business School who died in a tragic accident abroad.

8.   Student Information Systems (SIS) update, Presentation by Professor Eithne Guilfoyle

Professor Eithne Guilfoyle provided an update to Council on the Student Information System (SIS) project. The following items were <u>noted</u> from the presentation:

- Completed in January 2018, Phase I of the project established the functional and technical requirements for the future SIS, agreed the scope and finalised SIS specification and tested the market to identify emerging trends and potential vendors.
- Phase II (January 2018-December 2018) is underway and this phase involves selection and procurement of the new system, along with detailed planning and costing of its implementation.
- Phase II (June 2018) is at the Competitive Dialogue phase, where shortlisted vendors are given an opportunity to have informal dialogue with DCU to better understand its requirements and enable DCU to better understand the systems on offer.
- The potential SIS has Student Centric Design Principles at its core.
- Over the span of Phases I and II to date, there have been consultations with over 802 staff.
- A SIS programme website has been developed and launched.
- It is anticipated that implementation on a phased basis will take from three to five years.

9.   Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2018-2019

<u>Approved</u>

C.   <u>Items for formal approval/noting</u>

10.   Examination and Progression and Awards Boards Reports, Summer 2018

<u>Approved</u>

11.   DCU Marks and Standards 2008.1

Approved

12.   Accreditation Report: MSc in Psychology (Conversion)

Approved

13.   Validation Report: MEd (Autism Spectrum)

Approved

14.   Amendments to DCU Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

This item was deferred.

15.   Revocation of Award Policy

This item was deferred.

16.   Any other business

16.1   The President reminded Council members of the invitation to nominate Council members as members of the Governing Body Honorary Degree Committee.

16.2   The President thanked colleagues for their participation in Academic Council on behalf of the university and for their commitment to the academic experience of students and to academic excellence, particularly against the backdrop of a difficult financial environment.

Signed: _____   Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

3 October 2018

2:00 pm in AG 01