

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****19 June 2017****2.00 – 2.45 p.m.****AGO1, DCU Glasnevin Campus****PRESENT:**

C. Bohan	A. Kearns	G. Muntean
P. Brereton	W. Kelly	F. Murphy
M. Brown	D. Keogh	D. Nic Mhathúna
J. Brunton	Q. Liu	K. Nolan
J. Bruton	A. Looney	B. Nolan
E. Conway	L. Looney	M. O'Brien
E. Costello	J. Lovatt	R. O'Connor
S. Cullen	B. MacCraith (Chair)	J. Rami
J. Doyle	C. MacMurchaidh	R. Sadleir
M. Fitzpatrick	S. McArdle	J. Stokes
M. Glynn	E. McGlynn	M R. Sweeney
E. Guilfoyle	C. McGonagle	P Tiernan
D. Hand	G. McGuinness	J. Travers
S. Hegarty	A. McKenna	B. Walsh
G. Hughes	E. McNulty	P. Willis
M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)	P. Mooney	P. Young

APOLOGIES:

C. Brennan	C. Holland	E. O'Riordan
J. Bruen	J. Kelly	M. Quinn
M. Butler	P. Landais	E. Regan
B. Corcoran	A. Matthews	M Roantree
P. Davis	P. McMorrow	A. Simon
N. Dunne	B. Ní Áingléis	A. Sinnott
B. Flood		

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted, subject to the addition of one item under AOB.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 7 June 2017**

Approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 3 May 2017 and 31 May 2017

The minutes were approved.

The Chairperson of the Education Committee, Professor E. Guilfoyle drew the attention of Council to the very welcome and interesting development of the Bachelor of Education pathway in Irish Sign Language, approved by Education Committee on 31 May 2017.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 25 May 2017

The minutes were approved.

B. Policy and strategy issues**6. President's report (oral report)**

- 6.1** It was noted that DCU is awaiting the outcome of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Skills' consideration of the findings of the Cassells Report '*Investing in National Ambition – A Strategy for Funding Higher Education*'.

- 6.2** With respect to the review of the model for higher education funding, DCU has had sight of an interim report from the expert panel set up to conduct the review, the outcomes of which will form the backdrop to the continuing DCU Strategic planning process.
- 6.3** The work of the Brexit Working Group, led by the Deputy President, Professor Daire Keogh is ongoing. It was noted that the Working Group has identified areas of priority and will put out a call seeking expressions of interest from academic staff based in the UK. A commitment has also been made to establish the DCU Brexit Research and Policy Institute which will be led by Professor Federico Fabrinni (School of Law and Government).
- 6.4** The review of 3U activities has been completed. A decision has been made to focus particularly on those activities that have worked well to date (e.g. 3U Diabetes Consortium).
- 6.5** The President reported that the next stage of the strategic planning process will be the presentation of the plan to Governing Authority on Thursday 22 June 2017. Subject to approval, it is anticipated that the launch of the plan will take place in September 2017.
- 6.6** The President noted the recent successful launch of the ‘Reflective Portfolio’ on 24 June 2017 and thanked all those involved, in particular Dr Mark Glynn and Professor Mark Brown. This learning portfolio will be a significant enhancement to the DCU student learning experience. Over 5000 students have already become involved and the initiative will be rolled out to all students in the coming academic year.

7. Convergence and Coherence—Future Strategy and Two Key Enabling Initiatives, presentation by Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Vice President Academic Affairs/Registrar

Professor Guilfoyle presented on the strategic planning process and two key enabling initiatives which will underpin the DCU strategy: the student information system and the academic calendar.

The following were noted from the presentation made:

Student System

- A new student system should first and foremost be driven by the University’s strategic objectives.

- The development of the specification for a new system will provide DCU with an opportunity to reimagine processes and systems—to enhance what it is we do and to anticipate future needs. However, it will also be a large and challenging project.
- The project will have two distinct phases: Phase I (9-12 months) will involve the development of a system specification and will involve extensive consultation. Phase II (3 – 5 years) will involve the purchase of the system and the phased implementation of the new system.

Review of Academic Calendar

- The structure of the Academic Calendar has remained largely unchanged since the University's inception but there have been repeated calls for its review over the years.
- In light of the strategic planning process it should now be asked in the context of new strategic priorities if the calendar is fit for purpose e.g. does it limit our internationalisation strategy, does it enable us to accommodate the most recent and future anticipated increase in student numbers e.g. timeframe for graduation?
- A working group, chaired by the Academic Secretary, Ms Pauline Mooney and comprised of academic and administrative colleagues will be set-up to review the Academic Calendar and to consult widely over the coming six-nine months.

The following points were noted from the discussion which ensued:

- The introduction of a new student system is both welcome and overdue and it is hoped that it will reduce the existing demands on academic and administrative staff.
- It was suggested that there is consideration of the development of an 'in-house' system and noted in response that there will be consideration of blended solutions to the systems issues.
- It would be important to have a parallel strategy, during the phase of implementation of the new system, to support the existing system.

The President noted the importance of both projects outlined above and encouraged members of staff to engage with both projects.

8. Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2017-2018

The Dean of Graduate Studies outlined the proposed changes to the Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2017-2018, approved by GRSS and as circulated in the accompanying memo to Academic Council. The regulations were approved.

It was noted that there is increasing demand from research students to reside abroad on a permanent basis while conducting their research and a set of principles in this regard is currently being drafted.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

9. Examination and Progression and Awards Boards Reports, summer 2017

Approved

10. Recognition of Prior Learning: Policy for Research Programmes

Approved

11. Item from recent sub-committee of Academic Council

Approved

12. Validation Report: MSc in International Accounting

Approved

13. Accreditation Report: MSc in Advanced Nursing Practice

Approved

14. Any other business

The Deputy Registry/Dean of Teaching and Learning outlined that following discussion by Academic Council in December 2016 on the review of the Appeals process, Registry undertook to investigate if it were possible for students to be registered for resit continuous assessments, as it was a reason cited by students when making an appeal. It was noted that due to its complexity, it is not possible to register students for continuous assessment resits, however it was suggested, as a short-term solution, that a date by which students should be notified of their resit requirements would be placed on the Academic Calendar—suggested as not later than ten days after examination results are promulgated online.

This was agreed.

It was noted too that Academic Council had agreed previously that resit continuous assessment requirements would be placed on Loop.

Signed: _____
President

Date _____

Date of next meeting:

<p>4 October 2017 2:00 pm in AG01 DCU Glasnevin Campus</p>
