

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****5 December 2018****2.00 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.****B103, DCU St. Patrick's Campus****PRESENT:**

J. Bruen	A. Kearns	J-P Mosnier
J. Brunton	B. Kelly	N. Moyna
C. Commons	S. Kelly	G Muntean
E. Costello	L. Looney	R. Murphy
J. Doyle	J. Lovatt	Bernadette Ní Áingleis
B. Flood	B. MacCraith (Chair)	Deirdre Nic Mhathúna
Y. Freeney	A McAuley	B. Nolan
C. Furlong	E. McDonald	M. O'Brien
C. Gurrin	A McKenna	N. O'Sullivan
D. Hand	D. McKeon	J. Rami
A Healy	P. McMorro	D. Robbins
S. Hegarty	E. McNulty	B. White
C. Holland	P. Mooney	P. Willis
M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)		

APOLOGIES:

P. Anandarajah	M. Fitzpatrick	M. McAdam
L. Barry	L. Fitzsimons	B. McConalogue
F. Blin	G. French	G. McGuinness
C. Bohan	L. Gallagher	I. McMenamin
M. Brown	R. Gillanders	E. Morgenroth
M. Butler	E. Guilfoyle	F. Murphy
P.J. Byrne	G. Hughes	R. O'Connor
G. Conole	G. Jones	A. Parle-McDermott
B. Corcoran	A. Kellett	E. Regan
M. Crane	J. Kelly	M. Roantree

S. Cullen	E. Kennedy	P. Sharkey Scott
E. Cunningham	P. Landais	A. Sinnott
D. Curran	C. Loscher	A. Stalcup
N. Dunne	C. MacMurchaidh	J. Travers
M. Farrelly	L. MacGabhann	

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A. Minutes and related issues

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 3 October 2018

Approved

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 It was noted that the updated list of Academic Council members was finalised and posted on the Academic Affairs website (Item 9).
- 3.2 It was noted that the DCU autumn 2018 Faculty Awards Board for Research Degree report was circulated electronically on Friday 5 October 2018 and deemed approved on Tuesday 9 October 2018 (Item 12).
- 3.3 Following the nomination process for membership of the Search Committee for DCU Presidential Candidates it was noted that Professor Barbara Flood and Professor Ciaran Mac Murchaidh were appointed to represent Academic Council (Item 20.2).
- 3.4 It was noted that consideration of the Report of the Academic Calendar Working Group is ongoing and the recommendations of the Group will be submitted for the consideration of Academic Council at a future meeting (Item 20.1).

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee of 19 September 2018 and 17 October 2018

Approved

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 6 September 2018

Approved

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 3 September 2018

Approved

B. Policy and strategy issues

7. President's report (oral report)

- 7.1 The President noted that he had met with the recently appointed Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Joe McHugh and the Minister for State, Ms Mary Mitchell O'Connor. The meeting was held in the context of DCU formally taking on the Presidency of the IUA for 2019.
- 7.2 The President noted that the Higher Education Authority Act is currently being updated and will address primarily the differentiation between the HEA's regulatory / oversight role and the strategy and policy responsibilities of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the higher education sector.
- 7.3 The President informed Council that DCU is awaiting details from the Department of Education and Skills regarding the gender-specific professions reported in the recently announced *Accelerating Gender Equality in Irish Higher Education Institutions 2018-2020*.
- 7.4 The President noted that the discussions between DCU and the HEA on the HEA Performance Compact plan have been completed and he anticipated that the agreement will be signed in January 2019, with retrospection to September 2018.
- 7.5 The President noted that the DCU Strategic Plan 2017-2022 Year 1 Implementation Report and Prioritised Plans for Year 2 will be circulated university-wide shortly. He informed Council that he and members of the senior management team would commence meetings with Faculties and Units over the coming weeks. The focus of meetings will be a dialogue on strategy implementation to date and the priority areas of activity for 2018-2019.

- 7.6 The President extended his thanks to all those involved in the Institutional Quality Review in October 2018 and commended the work of Quality Promotion Office in the organisation of the review. He noted the very positive commendations made by the External Review Panel in their exit presentation.
- 7.7 The President extended his thanks to all those involved in the November 2018 graduation and commended Registry in particular for its organisation of the ceremonies. He noted that 3871 students had graduated over ten ceremonies, including 69 doctoral students.
- 7.8 The President informed Council that the Academic Scholarship Awards ceremony would take place on Wednesday 5 December 2018 in the Helix. He indicated that approximately 130 students who achieved 550 CAO points or above in the Leaving Certificate, representing 21 counties and 39 degree programmes would be presented with the Academic Scholarship Award.

8. Graduate Outcomes Survey 2018 Presentation, Ms Karen Johnston and Ms Yvonne McLoughlin

The following were noted from the presentation on the Graduate Outcomes Survey 2018.

- Due to the new and longer format of the survey the valid response rate decreased from 57% last year to 45% this year. This was due to the high number of survey questions that were required to be answered before the survey was considered valid.
- 4342 email invitations to complete the survey were sent out with only 14% of those surveyed completing as a response to the e-mail. The remaining survey responses were as a result of direct text and phone communication with the graduates by the Careers Office.
- The level of granularity of the questions and the language used for some of the questions made the survey more problematic than in previous years e.g. ‘accredited placement’.
- It was noted that open-ended questions for institutional use were included in the survey and the responses received will be analysed and may be useful in the completion of curriculum reviews.
- It was noted of those who are available for work 97% of DCU graduates are in full-time employment or further study.
- It was noted that comparative data will be made available by the HEA early next year.
- It is intended to publish the data in some form on the website, to share the data with faculties and programme chairs in a useable format and to analyse the answers to the more open questions thematically.

The President thanked Ms K Johnston and Ms Y McLoughlin for the very useful data presented.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

9. Academic Calendar 2019-2020

Approved

10. Examination Regulations 2018-2019

Approved

11. Validation report: MA in Data Protection and Privacy Law

Approved

12. Accreditation report: MEd in Autism

It was noted that the following addition will be made to the final Accreditation Report for the MEd in Autism: *Students who are accepted onto the MEd in Autism having already been conferred with the Graduate Diploma in Inclusive Education, Learning Support and Special Education (GDILS) will relinquish their parchment on entry to the programme and will have exemptions of 30 credits.*

13. Report from Winter 2018 Examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

Approved

14. Report from the Examination Appeals Boards for taught programmes 2018

Noted

The Chair of the Examinations Appeals Board, Ms P. Willis noted the recommendation from the Board to request the University to review its grading practices on assessment in

terms of the range of marks utilised. She noted that the minutes of Education Committee indicate that a working group is being set up by the Vice-President Academic Affairs/Registrar to review assessment practices.

Ms Willis also indicated that the introduction of the module assessment review and the module recheck processes has had a positive impact on the number of appeals to be considered, since its introduction.

15. Report from Standing Committee of Graduate Research Board to consider appeals

Noted

16. Report from the Disciplinary Committee 2018

Noted

17. Any other business

The President expressed his appreciation to Council for its commitment in advancing the University over the course of the first semester. He drew Council's attention to the invitation sent to all staff to attend the Christmas reception in the U Building on 18 December 2018.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday, 6 February 2019

2:00 pm in AG01

DCU, Glasnevin Campus