

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****5 June 2019****2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.****AG01, DCU Glasnevin Campus****PRESENT:**

F. Blin	C. Bohan	M. Brown
J. Bruen	J. Bruton	M. Butler
C. Commons	S. Cullen	E. Cunningham
N. Dunne	B. Flood	Y. Freeney
R. Gillanders	E. Guilfoyle	D. Hand
C. Holland	A. Kearns	R. Keegan (Secretary)
B. Kelly	E. Kennedy	P. Landais
A. Looney	L. Looney	B. MacCraith (Chair)*
E. McDonald	J. McManis	I. McMenamin
P. McMorrow	P. Mooney	G.-M. Muntean
B. Nolan	R. O'Connor	N. O'Sullivan
A. Parle-McDermott	D. Robbins	P. Sharkey Scott
J. Stokes	J. Travers	

APOLOGIES:

P. Anandarajah	S. Belton	J. Brunton
D. Collings	B. Corcoran	M. Crane
M. Fitzpatrick	G. French	L. Gallagher
G. Hughes	G. Jones	J. Kelly
D. Keogh	J. Lovatt	C. Mac Murchaidh
M. McAdam	D. McKeon	E. McNulty
E. Morgenroth	B. Ní Áingléis	D. Nic Mhathúna
J. Rami	E. Regan	M. Roantree
A. Simon	A. Sinnott	A. Stalcup

*The meeting was chaired by Professor Eithne Guilfoyle until 14:45 and thereafter the meeting was chaired by the President.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A. Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 10 April 2019**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 Ms Philomena McMorrow provided a verbal update in regards to items 8.2 and 8.4 of the meeting of Academic Council on 6 February 2019. An associated memo was also circulated with the papers (item 3a).

In response to item 8.2, Ms McMorrow advised the Council that Registry will implement under a pilot scheme a process which would allow students who receive their parchments in advance of the public conferring ceremony, to attend the public ceremony. This will be introduced in June 2019 following the publication of results. The logistical and practical issues in regards to the roll-out of this process are being considered by Registry. Ms McMorrow advised Council that there are some limitations due to the timing of the November meeting of Academic Council and as such, some students will not be able to avail of the process.

In response to item 8.4, Ms McMorrow advised Council that Registry recommend not implementing the introduction of abridged titles for research awards at the public conferring ceremonies as this is likely to have only minimal impact on the length of the ceremony. Registry recommend keeping this under review.

The approved proposal to discontinue calling the names of those who are *in absentia* will be introduced in November 2019.

- 3.2 The Secretary informed Council of a correction to item 9 of the meeting of Academic Council on 10 April 2019. This item referred to the approval by Education Committee of a Springboard programme titled 'Certificate in Dementia'. The correct title of the programme, approved by Education Committee on 13 March 2019 is 'Certificate in Dementia Training'. Academic Council noted the correction.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 13 March 2019 and 3 April 2019

Approved

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 21 February 2019 and 4 April 2019

Approved

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 28 February 2019 and 18 April 2019

Approved

B. Policy and strategy issues

7. President's report (oral report)

7.1 The President informed Council that Senior Management is continuing to track the progress of the Strategic Plan and a six-month review has recently been completed. The President drew attention, in particular, to FutureLearn and the very significant implications of DCU's partnership with the platform. The President informed Council that the launch of the DCU FutureLearn Global Partnership will take place next week. The President also highlighted that activities in relation to curriculum renewal are ongoing across the Faculties.

7.2 The President informed Council that Professor Liam Barry has been admitted to the Royal Irish Academy and extended his congratulations to Professor Barry.

8. Regulations to support legacy re-admission decisions

Mr Billy Kelly provided Council with some context and an overview of the proposed *Regulations to Support Legacy Re-Admission Decisions* document. Mr Kelly advised Council that, while there are a small number of re-admission applications each year, differing practices across the Faculties currently exist. It is hoped that the proposed document will systematise the process and provide more clarity for Faculties.

Mr Kelly highlighted that Legacy Re-Admission applications will only be considered within an eight-year period of last registration.

Mr Kelly clarified that in current practice a programme board has discretion on whether an application is forwarded to USC for consideration, and this process will still apply. It was suggested that the document might emphasise that the decision of the programme board is final.

It was suggested that the document might include a reference to fees and scholarships.

It was suggested that 3.2 in the document be amended to clarify that it refers to admission into *another* programme in instances where the previous programme is no longer offered.

Academic Council approved the *Regulations to Support Legacy Re-Admission Decisions* document subject to amendments as discussed by Council.

9. Presentation on the 2018 Pilot of the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (Postgraduate Research) by Dr Joseph Stokes

Dr Joseph Stokes presented the results of the 2018 Pilot of the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (Postgraduate Research). Dr Stokes provided a summary of the development of the survey under the direction of the ISSE-PGR working group before highlighting some headline results for DCU in relation to national figures. Dr Stokes emphasised that these are pilot results and therefore should be acted on cautiously until the 2019 results have been analysed. The following points were noted:

- The survey was designed largely on the UK PRES (postgraduate research experience survey) which allows for international comparisons.
- The response rate for the pilot was 41.1%.
- The 2019 data has just been received but has yet to be analysed. The response rate for 2019 is 29% which was expected given the short time between the 2018 pilot and the 2019 survey roll-out.
- DCU PGRs showed higher confidence that they will complete within the expected timescale compared with the national figure (82.1% vs 73.7% respectively).
- International students evaluated their overall research experience lower than their Irish peers (69.9% vs 81.5% respectively).
- More DCU PGRs agreed/strongly agreed that their supervisor provided the appropriate level of support for their research compared to the national figure (88.2% vs 83% respectively).

- Less DCU PGRs agreed/strongly agreed with the statement ‘I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students’ compared to the national figure (54.8% vs 62.1% respectively).
- Less DCU PGRs agreed that they had received appropriate induction/orientation to their programme compared to the national figure (53.1% vs 59.2% respectively). Dr Stokes informed Council that the Graduate Studies Office were addressing this through the introduction of a second orientation session in semester 2 to facilitate late PGR arriviers.
- 46.5% of DCU PGRs agreed that they had been given appropriate support and guidance for their tutoring/demonstrating. This is in line with the national figures and the Graduate Studies Office are consulting with Teaching & Learning on additional supports for PGRs in this area.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

10. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved

11. Accreditation Report: Graduate Certificate in Dermatology

Approved

12. Report on Intra Activities 2017-2018

Approved

13. Any other business

The President relayed thanks to Council and best wishes for the continuing success of DCU, from Ms. Barbara McConalogue who recently retired from the university.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

<p>17 June 2019</p> <p>2:00 pm in AG01</p> <p>DCU, Glasnevin Campus</p>
