

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****9 October 2019****2.00 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.****AG01, DCU Glasnevin Campus****Present:**

P. Anandarajah	B. Anderson	S. Belton
F. Blin	L. Boran	M. Brown
J. Brunton	J. Bruton	H. Byrne
C. Commons	D. Curran	N. Dunne
O. Farrell	M. Fitzpatrick	B. Flood
C. Furlong	L. Gallagher	R. Gillanders
G. Hughes	G. Jones	A. Kearns
R. Keegan (Secretary)	B. Kelly (Chair)	P. Landais
J. Lovatt	J. Malone	M. McAdam
K. McDonagh	E. McDonald	R. McElvaney
G. McGuinness	A. McKenna	J. McManis
I. McMenamin	P. McMorrow	J.-P. Mosnier
R. Murphy	D. Nic Mhathúna	P. Ó Duibhir
C. O'Carroll	J. Rami	G. Sinclair
J. Stokes	P. Van Kampen	B. White

Apologies:

M. Butler	D. Collings	B. Corcoran
E. Costello	Y. Freeney	G. French
P. Gallagher	S. Hegarty	E. Kennedy
D. Keogh	A. Looney	L. Looney
C. Loscher	B. Mac Craith	C. Mac Murchaidh
C. McArdle	P. Meleady	P. Mooney

F. Murphy	B. Nolan	A. Parle-McDermott
D. Robbins	K. Sanders	P. Sharkey Scott
A. Smeaton	M. R. Sweeney	J. Travers
J. Usher		

In Attendance:

Ms Karen Johnson and Ms Yvonne McLoughlin (Item 7)

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A. Minutes and Related Issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 17 June 2019**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 16 May 2019 and 20 June 2019

Approved

B. Policy and strategy issues**5. President's report (oral report)**

There were no updates, as the President was unavailable to attend the meeting.

6. Proposal to change the English language requirements for Faculty of Engineering and Computing ICT Skillnet Master's Programme

Dr Garrett McGuinness presented a proposal by the Faculty of Engineering and Computing to pilot a change to the DCU English language requirements, for applicants to three ICT Skillnet programmes.

The Faculty has been contracted to deliver three Master's level programmes for IT professionals working in companies in the Skillnet network. Dr McGuinness informed Council that a significant portion of employees in these companies have overseas qualifications and are non-native English speakers. The proposal put to Council is for a two-year pilot which would allow for the English language requirements to be modified to allow admission to those who:

- a) have lived in a majority native English-speaking country for at least four years and
- b) have undertaken professional employment in a role that requires a high level of written and verbal communications in English in such countries.

Council discussed the proposal and it was suggested that it would be useful for the Faculty to document more fully the protocols for evaluating applicants and how the success of the pilot will be measured and reported.

Council approved the proposal.

7. Presentation on the Graduate Outcomes Survey – high-level results from 2019 fieldwork by Ms Karen Johnson and Ms Yvonne McLoughlin

Ms Johnson and Ms McLoughlin presented the high-level results from the 2019 Graduate Outcomes Survey. Council noted the following points:

- DCU had a 46% response rate, with the majority of responses being generated from phone calls. The taught postgraduate response rate was down by 10% from last year.
- 80% of respondents reported being in employment with a further 15% pursuing further study. This was consistent with last year figures.
- 81% of undergraduate respondents reported that they needed their qualification to get their job. 64% of postgraduate taught respondents reported likewise.
- Professional services firms continue to be heavy employers of DCU graduates.

- Respondents reported barriers to employment as including a lack of work experience, a lack of job opportunities in certain sectors and high competition for jobs.
- Ms Johnson emphasised the importance of ensuring a high response rate as this data is used for the QS Employability Rankings. DCU currently ranks 19th in the world in terms of graduate employment rates.

Ms Johnson and Ms McLoughlin also informed Council of the next steps:

- In December the Graduate Outcomes data will be published on the web in dashboard format for current and prospective students. A similar dashboard is being developed for staff.
- The Careers Office will be launching a career readiness survey. Respondents will receive an action plan based on where they say they are in regards to their career planning, along with a link to the graduate outcomes dashboard.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

8. Register of Academic Council members 2019-2020

Noted

9. Register of members of the Education Committee, the University Standards Committee, the Graduate Research Studies Board, the Standing Committee of GRSB to consider appeals and the Examination Appeals Board

Noted

10. Proposed Chair of the Examination Appeals Board

Approved

11. Report on Committee Activities 2018-2019

Noted

12. Report from Autumn 2019 Examinations, Progression and Awards Boards

12.1 Examination Report: DCU

Approved

12.2 Examination Report: Ballyfermot College of Further Education

Approved

13. Report from DCU Autumn 2019 Faculty Awards Boards for Research Degrees

Approved

14. Research Students, Awards Report, Dundalk Institute of Technology

Approved

15. Report on completion of accreditation process 2018-2019

Noted

16. Performance Athletes: Regulations for Academic Flexibility

Approved

17. Any other Business

There were no items for discussion under AOB.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

4 December 2019

2:00 pm in B103

DCU, St Patrick's Campus