

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****6 December 2017****2.00 – 3.00 p.m.****B103, DCU St Patrick's Campus****PRESENT:**

F. Blin	D. Hand	P. McMorrow
C. Bohan	S. Hegarty	E. McNulty
J. Bruen	M. Helfert	G. Murphy
J. Brunton	C. Holland	D. Nic Mhathúna
J. Bruton	M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)	R. O'Connor
C. Commons	A. Kearns	B. Power
J. Connolly	W. Kelly	J. Rami
S. Cullen	J. Kelly	M. Roantree
D. Curran	J. Lovatt	R. Sadleir
O. Farrell	B. MacCraith (Chair) ¹	A. Simon
M. Fitzpatrick	C. MacMurchaidh	J. Stokes
B. Flood	A. Matthews	P. Tiernan
O. Forde	M. McAdam	J. Travers
E. Guilfoyle	D. McKeon	P. Willis

APOLOGIES:

M. Brown	G. Hughes	C. McGonagle
D. Collings	D. Keogh	A. McKenna
B. Corcoran	P. Landais	C. McMullan
E. Costello	A. Looney	P. Mooney
N. Dunne	L. Looney	B. Ní Áingléis
L. Fitzsimons	C. Loscher	B. Nolan
G. French	K. McDonagh	G. Sinclair

¹ The Vice President Academic Affairs (Registrar) chaired the meeting until item 8 on the agenda, excluding the President's Report. The President chaired the remainder of the meeting.

C. Furlong

E. McGlynn

A. Sinnott

E. Williams Doran

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Karen Johnston (item 6)

Mr Niall Behan (item 7)

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted and it was noted that a brief discussion would take place with respect to item 11, Terms of Reference, Composition and Standing Orders of the Examination Appeals Board.

A: Minutes and related issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 4 October 2017**

The minutes were approved subject to an amendment to item 5.4, insertion of word 'undergraduate' after 'new'.

3. Matters arising

3.1 It was noted that the report of the Progression and Award Board held on 6 October 2017 was approved by Chair's Action, 6 October 2017 (Item 6).

3.2 It was noted that Ms Jennifer Bruton was nominated by Academic Council to serve on Education Committee as its representative for a 3-year term, commencing November 2017 (Item 19).

3.3 It was noted that a proposal from the School of Law and Government to grant an aegrotat award had been approved by Chair's Action on 19 October 2017.

3.4 It was noted that the register of Academic Council members (2017-2018) was now finalised (Item 8).

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 20 September 2017 and 18 October 2017.

Approved

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 7 September 2017

Approved

6. Minutes of the meeting of Graduate Research Studies Board of 4 September 2017

Approved

B. Policy and strategy issues

7. President's report (oral report)

7.1 The President noted that there were no updates at this time on a range of reports expected from the HEA/DES.

7.2 With respect to the Performance Compact and strategic dialogue the President noted that based on the positive feedback received from the HEA, the indications were DCU would receive its full budget allocation.

7.3 The President indicated that the impact of the new strategic plan '*Talent, Discovery, and Transformation*' will become evident over the coming months. Work is underway on implementation of the nine Strategic Goals and ongoing updates will be communicated through the President's monthly e-zine and through a new section of the DCU website, which will be online early in 2018.

7.4 The President noted the recent publication of the Feeder School Tables 2017 and the highlighting of the substantial difference in the numbers of students from private fee-paying schools and public schools accessing third level education. In this context he noted DCU's commitment to access provision through its very successful Access programme. He noted that there are currently 1300 students on the Access programme. 221 students who had benefitted from the Access programme were conferred in November 2017 and of those 97% had achieved Second Class honours or above.

- 7.5 The President noted the recent development of a partnership programme with the University of Notre Dame and noted DCU will be welcoming their students in the 2018/19 academic year.
- 7.6 The President extended his sincere thanks to all those involved in the November 2017 graduation ceremonies and in particular he complimented Registry on the management of such a successful event. He noted that over 3,800 students had been conferred and the Helix had hosted over 13,000 guests.
- 7.7 The President reminded Council that the Christmas celebration event would take place on Thursday 14 December 2017 on the All Hallows Campus and all were welcome.

8. Presentation on First Destination Survey, Ms Karen Johnston

Ms Karen Johnston presented on top level findings of the DCU First Destination Survey, 2017.

The following summarises the findings from the analysis of the results from graduates of 2016:

- 92% of those who completed an undergraduate programme are in employment or further study
- 93% of taught Master's graduates are in employment or further study
- 95% of postgraduate research graduates are in employment or further study
- The employment rate of students from the former linked colleges, Mater Dei Institute and St Patrick's College is at 84%
- The Banking and Finance sector remains the top sector for employment for DCU graduates
- 92% of employed graduates are employed in Ireland, compared to 57% in 2011
- There is a continuing decline in graduates completing further study in DCU (57% (144) in 2013 – 37% (86) in 2016).

It was noted that a new version of the First Destination Survey entitled '*Graduate Outcome Survey*' is currently being developed. This more detailed survey was piloted by the Institutes of Technology in 2016 and it is anticipated that it will be rolled out to all universities and institutes of technology for 2017.

9. Presentation on Irish Survey of Student Engagement, Presentation Mr Billy Kelly, Mr Niall Behan and Mr Brendan Power

Mr B. Kelly, Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning, Mr N. Behan, President of the Students' Union and Mr B. Power, Vice-President Students' Union, Academic Affairs presented on the theme of student engagement.

Mr B. Kelly provided background on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement outlining that the purpose of the survey is to provide feedback to inform quality reviews, to improve the quality of the student learning experience and facilitate continuous improvement. He noted that this is a national survey which should provide impact at local level. At national level the survey also provides comparative institutional data.

He noted too that a pilot survey aimed at postgraduate research students will be conducted in March 2018.

Mr N. Behan and Mr B. Power presented on a partnership project (involving USI, HEA, QQI and twenty-three institutions) entitled N-StEP. The purpose of the project was outlined as follows:

- To develop student capabilities to engage in quality enhancement at all levels higher education
- To support institutions in developing processes which facilitate meaningful student engagement
- To strengthen the value placed on student engagement and develop tools to build effective practice
- To lay the foundations to develop work beyond the pilot phase and increase capacity to progress.

The following points were noted from the presentation:

- One of the first pilot student training sessions in DCU was on the role of the class representative which proved very successful (283 participants)
- One of the DCU-wide challenges which students have identified is assessment feedback in terms of timeliness, quality and type (summative and formative)
- The intention is to put structures in place to raise awareness of partnership models and for ISSE data to impact on programme development
- From the N-StEP project it is proposed to establish a staff/student liaison committee comprised of 50% staff and 50% students
- In Semester 2 an informal committee will be established on a pilot basis, to ensure the closing of the feedback loop for students.

In the discussion which followed the following was noted:

- That it would be useful for the ISSE data to be integrated into programmatic review.

The President expressed his appreciation to Mr N. Behan and Mr B. Power on having engaged so constructively with Council. It was suggested that the Students' Union would prepare a proposal for senior management to ensure that a model of engagement would be progressed and built upon.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

10. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council

Approved

11. Terms of Reference, Composition and Standing Orders of the Examination Appeals Board

Ms. Pauline Willis, Chair of the Examination Appeals Board noted that the changes to the Terms of Reference, Composition and Standing Orders of the Examination Appeals Board had come about as a consequence of the amendment to the grounds for appeal and the introduction of a module recheck and assessment review procedure, agreed by Academic Council in December 2016.

The Terms of Reference, Composition and Standing Orders of the Examination Appeals Board were approved subject to an amendment to paragraph 2.5.2—to add 'significant' before 'participation'.

12. Validation report: MA in European Law and Policy

Approved

13. Report on completion of accreditation process 2016-2017

Approved

14. Proposed Academic Calendar 2018-2019

Approved

15. Report from Winter 2017 Examinations/Progression and Awards Boards

Approved

16. Report from Appeals Boards for taught programmes 2017

Noted

17. Report from the Disciplinary Committee 2017

Noted

18. Any other business*18.1 Change to secretariat of Academic Council*

It was noted that due to workload re-allocation in Academic Affairs Ms Louise McDermott will be taking on the secretariat of Academic Council from February 2018. The President thanked Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon for her contribution to the work of Academic Council.

18.2 Financial Times ranking of European Business Schools

The President noted DCU Business School was ranked in the top 95 of Business Schools in the recent Financial Times ranking of European Business Schools. The School was also singled out as having the most gender-balanced faculty.

18.3 Expression of thanks

The President extended his warm thanks to colleagues for the most important work done on Academic Council throughout the year and noted the importance of Council's leadership to the core business of the University.

Signed: _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting:

<p>7 February 2018</p> <p>2:00 pm in AGO1</p> <p>DCU, Glasnevin Campus</p>
