

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES****7 February 2018****2.00 – 3.10 p.m.****AG01, DCU Glasnevin Campus****PRESENT:**

F. Blin
C. Bohan
J. Bruen
J. Brunton
M. Butler
P.J. Byrne
B. Corcoran
J. Doyle
O. Farrell
M. Fitzpatrick
L. Fitzsimons
B. Flood
G. French
R. Gillanders
E. Guilfoyle
D. Hand
S. Hegarty
G. Hughes

M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)
A. Kearns
W. Kelly
E. Kennedy
Q. Liu
A. Looney
L. Looney
C. Loscher
B. MacCraith (Chair)
C. MacMurchaidh
L. MacGabhann
B. McConalogue
K. McDonagh
E. McGlynn
C. McGonagle
G. McGuinness
A. McKenna

D. McKeon
P. McMorrow
E. McNulty
P. Mooney
G. Muntean
G. Murphy
R. Murphy
F. Murphy
B. Ní Áingléis
D. Nic Mhathúna
R. O'Connor
A. Parle-McDermott
Brendan Power
A. Simon
G. Sinclair
J. Stokes
J. Travers

APOLOGIES:

M. Brown
J. Bruton
D. Collings
C. Commons
E. Conway
E. Costello
M. Crane
S. Cullen
M. Cummins

N. Dunne
O. Forde
C. Furlong
S. Kelly
P. Landais
J. Lovatt
M. McAdam
C. McMullan
D. Molloy

B. Nolan
E. O'Riordan
M. Quinn
J. Rami
E. Regan
M. Roantree
R. Sadleir
A. Sinnott
A. Stevenson

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Celine Heffernan (Item 8)

The President opened the meeting and invited Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Vice President Academic Affairs/Registrar to pay tribute to Louise McDermott, Assistant Registrar, who passed away on 19 January 2018 and had served as Secretary to Academic Council for many years. She had been due to resume her former role as Secretary of Academic Council at this meeting.

Professor Guilfoyle expressed shock and sadness at Louise's untimely passing noting that she had served as Assistant Registrar since 2000 and had been involved in the accreditation of every new programme developed and approved over this period. Louise had served on the University's academic committees and had played a very important role representing DCU in linked college activities. She had also played an invaluable role during the Incorporation project.

She was widely recognised throughout the University for her professionalism, her great attention to detail, her dedication and loyalty to DCU and for her warmth and generosity of spirit. She will be greatly missed by colleagues and close friends within the University.

The President expressed deep sadness also at the loss of Brian Ruane and Aisling McDermott both of whom had died suddenly over the last few months and noted that memorials will be held in honour of all recently deceased colleagues over the coming weeks. He endorsed the tribute paid by Professor Guilfoyle to Louise McDermott and commended her in particular for the work she had done in building strong relationships in the former linked colleges and for her dedication to the graduation ceremony and the various other ceremonies with which she was involved.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 6 December 2017

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 15 November 2017 and 13 December 2017

Approved, subject to an amendment to Education Committee minutes of 13 December 2017

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 9 November 2017

Approved

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 19 October 2017 and 30 November 2017

Approved

B. Policy and strategy issues

7. President's report (oral report)

7.1 Referencing the recent monthly e-Zine the President noted some Higher Education sectoral updates. He briefed Academic Council on recently published policy documents that will have significance in terms of funding, and the setting of priorities for the University.

7.1.1 Higher Education System Framework 2018-2020.

The President outlined the following key system objectives of the framework as follows:

- Providing a strong talent pipeline
- Creating rich opportunities for national and international engagement
- Excellent research, development and innovation
- Widening Participation
- Improvement in the quality of the learning environment
- Improvement in governance, leadership and operational excellence.

The President noted that the HEA will utilise the key system objectives as a framework when negotiating performance agreements at institutional level. He noted that DCU has already identified similar priorities in the development and articulation of the strategic plan and is well-placed to address these priorities.

7.1.2 Review of the Allocation Model for Funding Higher Education Institutions

Published in January 2018, the President outlined that there are 33 recommendations from the review due to be implemented over the next three years. He noted in particular the change to discipline-based weightings in the distribution of funding and that the previous funding split between the universities and the institutes of technology no longer applies. However, he noted that the key changes proposed align to those priorities already identified by DCU in its strategic planning process. He noted too that the general issue of underfunding has not been addressed through the new allocation model.

7.2 The President noted the significance of the launch of two Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) by DCU in January 2018 as follows: *Irish 101* and *Higher Performance Computing in the Cloud* and indicated that digital learning will represent a major opportunity for the University.

7.3 The President noted the first anniversary of DCU's designation as a University of Sanctuary. The first anniversary was celebrated with the launch of the Annual Report detailing all the achievements in the first year of designation. He noted that the initiative was a good example of co-operative activity between staff and students and commended the commitment of the Students' Union in leading many of the initiatives.

8. Update on the fieldwork for the Irish Student Survey of Engagement (ISSE), Ms Celine Heffernan

Ms Celine Heffernan presented on the preparation for the field-work for the survey. The following were noted from the presentation:

- The survey will be conducted from 12 March – 30 March 2018
- In order to address the response rate drop from last year, the Quality Promotion Office has improved its engagement with the Students' Union Executive and is initiating a promotional date during the week of 19 March 2018.
- The aim is to have a Faculty Focused Partnership approach and Faculties are asked to encourage students to complete the survey.
- Faculties were also requested to support the survey by providing opportunities for students to complete the survey.

It was noted in the discussions that informational slides will be made available to assist Faculties in promoting the survey. It was noted too that for the first time this year, research students will be invited to participate in the survey.

9. Update on the 2018 Institutional Review process, Ms Aisling McKenna

Ms Aisling McKenna provided the background on the upcoming DCU Institutional Review (CINNTE 2018) including the legislative framework and objectives of the review. The following were noted from the presentation:

- The submission of the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report will be on 23 July 2018
- The Full Peer Review Visit will take place from 22 October – 26 October 2018
- The DCU Institutional Steering Group, comprising representatives from all Faculties and units is now active.
- Academic Council will be kept informed of the progress of the process
- The Quality Promotion Office would like feedback from colleagues with evidence of how student feedback has been used for the enhancement of teaching and learning.

The President noted the importance of the process in providing DCU with an external validation of its processes and asked colleagues to engage with the request to provide practical examples of quality assurance activity in DCU.

C. Items for formal approval/noting**10. Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council**

Approved

11. Validation Report: MA in Creative Writing

Approved

12. Validation Report: MSc in Diagnostics and Precision Medicine

Approved

13. Validation Report: MSc in Psychology and Well-being

Approved

14. Accreditation Report: MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media & Society

Approved

15. Recommendations from Progression and Awards Boards for March 2018 conferring

Approved

16. Recommendations from Spring 2018 Faculty Awards Boards for Research Degrees for March 2018 conferring

Approved

17. Report from the Research Committee 2016-2017

Noted

18. Any other business

There were no items of business.

Signed: _____

Date _____

Date of next meeting:

**11 April 2018
2:00 pm in B103
DCU, St. Patrick's Campus**