EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 13 February 2019

2.00 p.m. – 4.20 p.m. in A204

Present:	Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Ms Jennifer Bruton, Mr Callaghan Commons, Professor John Doyle, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly, Dr Anne Looney, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Aisling McKenna, Ms Pauline Mooney and Dr Joseph Stokes
Apologies:	Professor Michelle Butler, Professor Greg Hughes and Professor Anne Sinnott
In attendance:	Ms Karen Johnston and Dr Blanaid White (Item 11)

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1.   Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was <u>adopted</u>.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2019

The minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2019 were <u>approved</u> and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes of 16 January 2019

3.1   It was <u>noted</u> that the Secretary had consulted with the Chair and it had been <u>agreed</u> that Education Committee, rather than noting specific proposals as meetings arise, would maintain oversight on the retitling and change of delivery mode of programmes (items 1 and 2 on the 'Approval form for Revised Academic Offerings'). It was proposed and

agreed that reporting of Faculty approvals of these items would take place a number of times a year to ensure that operational considerations could be taken into account.

It was <u>noted</u> that the 'Approval Form for Revised Academic Offerings' would be amended to reflect this decision, however it was anticipated that there may be additional changes as a result of proposed FutureLearn approvals and both sets of changes would be addressed in the revision of the form (item 9).

3.2   It was <u>noted</u> that a presentation relating to the development of a Professional Development Framework for Teaching and Learning was on the agenda of this meeting (Item 3.1).

3.3   It was <u>noted</u> that Ms. A. McKenna was planning to hold an exploratory meeting with the Director of ISS and the Head of Strategic Intelligence and Operational Excellence Unit with respect to the publication of the First Destination Returns/Graduate Outcomes Survey data and the introduction of visualisation tools and its integration with the web server (Items 3.2 and 3.3).

3.4   It was <u>noted</u> that clarification on issues with respect to the validation financial template is awaiting the outcome of a Finance Office-led consultancy report on new business development and related financial implications (Item 3.4).

3.5   It was <u>noted</u> that consideration of exit awards at undergraduate level will take place over the coming months (Item 3.5).

3.6   It was <u>noted</u> that the NFQ level of taught modules on professional doctoral programmes will be addressed over the coming months (Item 3.6).

3.7   It was <u>noted</u> that work is ongoing on a proposal on the Teaching and Learning Strategy Key Performance Indicators (Item 7).

3.8   It was <u>noted</u> that the confirmation of the start date of the Graduate Diploma in Guidance Counselling was confirmed as the academic year 2019-2020.

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4.   **Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA**

The Chair provided an update on the fee implications of Brexit for UK students and Irish universities. She indicated that advice is being sought by IUA members on whether or not

EU fees will apply to students from the UK for a more extended period of time than first anticipated, due to the rule that those who have lived in the EU for the last three out of five years are entitled to have EU fees applied.

Professor L. Looney noted that it is expected that a framework of good practice for research degree programmes would be ready for publication shortly and that a new national statement on research integrity is expected to be published in March 2019.

Dr J. Stokes noted that the IUA International Officers are exploring a funded bridging programme with Indonesia.
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5.   **Update on DCU Strategy implementation**

There were no updates under this item.

6.   **Irish Survey of Student Engagement**

Mr B Kelly noted that the ISSE governance structure is undergoing a change with the introduction of a smaller plenary group, with less HE representatives than previously, and an operations group which will be responsible for day-to-day management.

Ms A. McKenna indicated that as part of the campaign to publicise the survey and to encourage student engagement, a set of slides is available for distribution to Faculties for this purpose.

7.   **Overview of Formal Withdrawal from Study at DCU**

The annual updated report of figures on formal withdrawals from study at DCU was noted. It was noted that there were no significant changes in the figures from last year and that some additional data on first year undergraduate transfers would be added to the report.

8.   **Proposed approval processes relating to DCU FutureLearn offerings**

The proposed approval processes for DCU FutureLearn offerings was welcomed by Education Committee for its flexible, stepped approach. The proposed approval processes were approved subject to the following minor amendments to the document:

- Under the heading 'DCUFL MOOC Composition', to add that the MOOCs should be approved at faculty level. It was felt particularly in the early stages of MOOC development that faculties should have oversight.
- It was requested that further elaboration and guidance is provided in the document on MOOCs and microcredentials.
- Under the heading 'DCU FL PG Award Composition', in the first line, add 'DCU' i.e. Proposed DCU FL Award.

In the discussion which followed on the oversight of the development of MOOCs/ modules, it was noted that the budgetary model drives faculties to develop and deliver their own modules and therefore there is a greater chance of duplication of content. It was suggested that a 'principles' document should be developed which would have application beyond FutureLearn, to ensure that modules and expertise are not replicated across the University. It was suggested that the Deans discuss and agree these principles.

The issue of planning a nomenclature convention in the context of FutureLearn was discussed. It was noted that when resources become available in Academic Affairs, that some initial desk research and consultation with FutureLearn could be completed in this regard. It was noted too that the issue of University module titles in general requires more detailed consideration.

9.   Presentation on Professional Development Framework for Teaching and Learning, Mr Billy Kelly

Mr B. Kelly presented on a proposed approach to embed a formal DCU Teaching and Learning qualification into a broader professional development framework. He provided details on the national context in which this development is taking place and sought feedback from Education Committee on the approach being taken in the development of the framework.

 He outlined that the framework would encompass informal learning, non-formal learning (self-motivated development, attendance at TEU organised activities) and formal learning (DCU accredited modules). The proposed DCU accredited award (Graduate Certificate in Learning Innovation) (2 x 15 credit modules) would incorporate both an experiential and a structured module-based approach, with each module being assessed through a learning portfolio.

In the discussion which ensued the following was <u>noted</u>:

- There is a challenge in assessing learning and its impact on the quality of teaching with a portfolio-based approach.
- It was confirmed that the proposed approach takes account of academic promotion criteria.
- It was suggested that consideration could be given to 'badging' DCU activities as part of informal learning.
- The proposed approach will not preclude being in a position to offer a formal qualification for the external HE market.
- The 2 x 15 credit graduate certificate approach is intended to enable a flexible, discipline-focused approach.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

10. **Faculty of Engineering & Computing: New cross-faculty major (Semiconductor and Plasma Technology) on the Masters of Engineering in Electronic & Computer Engineering (MECE)**

    <u>Approved</u>

11. **Validation proposal, Faculty of Science and Health: MSc in Astrophysics & Relativity**

    The Education Committee commended the proposed MSc in Astrophysics and Relativity which it noted was a well-written and thorough proposal. The Committee granted the proposed programme approval for further development towards accreditation, subject to the following recommendations/ considerations being addressed:

- It was recommended that the programme team revisit the academic pay projections as contained in the financial impact figures. It was <u>noted</u> by Education Committee that the projected amount may not be sufficient to cover the anticipated costs.
- Education Committee was of the view that there may be a market for this programme on a part-time basis in the future. Whilst appreciating that the programme proposers intend to run the programme on a full-time basis in the first instance, it was felt that the expected numbers for a full-time programme were quite ambitious. It was recommended, in order to future proof the programme, that the accreditation

- documentation would include offering the programme on a full-time, part-time and online basis.
- The programme proposers were requested to ensure that the language of the description of the full-time structure does not imply that there is a progression requirement between semester one and semester two of the programme (page 13 of the proposal).
- Given the unfamiliar nature of the content to a wide audience, the programme proposers were asked to consider, if possible, providing students with the opportunity to take a Science Communication module.
- Programme proposers were requested to note the gender make-up of the programme team and to bear a gender mix in mind when recruiting to the proposed new academic posts.
- It was confirmed that the intention was for the programme to commence in September 2020.

12.   Open Education: Springboard proposals:

Education Committee raised concerns about the Open Education Springboard proposals from a number of points of view. The Committee requested that consultation would take place with the relevant Faculties with respect to the proposals i.e. (DCU Business School for proposals 1-5) and (Faculty of Engineering and Computing for 6-10) in advance of submission to Springboard. General concerns were also expressed with respect to the proliferation of non-degree programmes.

It was requested by Education Committee that where a major award is being proposed that the information in Section 4 of the form should be provided.

It was noted that there were references in some proposals to attendance by students however, as these programmes are envisioned as being conducted fully online, the references to attendance should be omitted from the documentation.

12.1   *Graduate Certificate in Management of Operations*

Approved, subject to consultation with DCU Business School in advance of submission to Springboard

It was recommended to include in the proposal that a student can progress to the Master's programme from the Graduate Certificate.

12.2   Graduate Certificate in Management of Clean Technologies

Not approved

It was noted that the modules which make up the proposed Graduate Certificate are at NFQ level 9. However reference is made in the submitted documentation to it being a level 8 programme and the entry requirements are articulated as NFQ Level 5 or Level 6. Reference is also made to students being able to progress to Diploma and Master's level.

It was requested that consultation would take place with DCU Business School in advance of Springboard submission and that the proposal would be revised and resubmitted for the next meeting of Education Committee.

12.3   Graduate Certificate in Management of Sustainable Development

Not approved

It was noted that the modules which make up the proposed Graduate Certificate are at NFQ level 9. However reference is made in the submitted documentation to it being a level 8 programme and the entry requirements are articulated as NFQ Level 5 or Level 6. Reference is also made to students being able to progress to Diploma and Master's level.

It was requested that consultation would take place with DCU Business School in advance of Springboard submission and that the proposal would be revised and resubmitted for the next meeting of Education Committee.

12.4   Graduate Certificate in Management of Information Systems Strategy

Not approved

It was noted that the modules which make up the proposed Graduate Certificate are at NFQ level 9. However reference is made in the submitted documentation to it being a level 8 programme and the entry requirements are articulated as NFQ Level 5 or Level 6. Reference is also made to students being able to progress to Diploma and Master's level.

It was requested that consultation would take place with DCU Business School in advance of Springboard submission and that the proposal would be revised and resubmitted for the next meeting of Education Committee.

12.5   Graduate Certificate in Management of Internet Enterprise Systems

<u>Approved</u>, subject to consultation with DCU Business School in advance of submission to Springboard. It was requested that the proposal would be amended to include the fact that a student can progress to the Master's from the Certificate and that the paperwork would be re-submitted for the record.

12.6   Higher Diploma in Computing and Communications Technology

<u>Not approved</u>

It was requested that consultation would take place with the Faculty of Engineering and Computing in advance of the Springboard deadline and the finalised proposal would be re-submitted for the consideration of Education Committee.

12.7   Certificate in User Experience

<u>Not approved.</u>

It was requested that consultation would take place with the Faculty of Engineering and Computing in advance of the Springboard deadline and the finalised proposal would be re-submitted for the consideration of Education Committee.

12.8   Higher Diploma in Business Information Management

<u>Not approved</u>

It was requested that consultation would take place with the Faculty of Engineering and Computing in advance of the Springboard deadline and the finalised proposal would be re-submitted for the consideration of Education Committee.

12.9   Certificate in Software Systems & New Venture Creation

<u>Not approved</u>

It was requested that consultation would take place with the Faculty of Engineering and Computing in advance of the Springboard deadline and the finalised proposal would be re-submitted for the consideration of Education Committee.

12.10 Certificate in Computer Programming

Not approved

It was requested that consultation would take place with the Faculty of Engineering and Computing in advance of the Springboard deadline and the finalised proposal would be re-submitted for the consideration of Education Committee.

13.   Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences: Springboard proposals:

13.1   Graduate Certificate in Emerging Media

Approved

13.2   Graduate Certificate in Translation Technologies

Approved

13.3   Graduate Certificate in Data Protection and Privacy Law

Approved

13.4   Graduate Certificate in EU Law and Policy

Approved

13.5   Graduate Certificate in Public Policy

Approved

14   Any other business

There were no items of business.

Signed _____   Date_____

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday, 13 March 2019

at 2.00 in A204