EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 1 May 2019

2.00 p.m. – 4.10 p.m. in A204

Present: Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Professor John Doyle, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Aisling McKenna, Ms Pauline Mooney and Professor Anne Sinnott

Apologies: Dr Jennifer Bruen, Ms Jennifer Bruton, Professor Michelle Butler, Professor Greg Hughes, Ms Karen Johnston, Dr Anne Looney and Dr Joseph Stokes

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1.   Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was <u>adopted</u>, subject to the addition of one item under AOB.

2.   Minutes of Education Committee 3 April 2019

The minutes of the meeting of 3 April 2019 were <u>approved</u> and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes of 3 April 2019

3.1   It was <u>noted</u> that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education had completed a review of modules where the pass rate has fallen since last year as presented in the January 2019, Exam Results Analysis (Item 3.1).

3.2   It was <u>noted</u> that a sub-group would be set up to consider issues around the offering of level eight certificates and the levels of their constituent modules (Item 3.2).

3.3   It was <u>noted</u> that work is ongoing on the identification of dashboard tools to provide a short-term solution to the provision of online data (Item 3.3).

3.4   It was <u>noted</u> that Education Committee is awaiting the development of a finance model for the incentivisation of the development of new programmes that may affect the finance validation template. It was noted that a first draft of the model was being considered by DCU Senior Management and Executive (Item 3.4).

3.5   It was <u>noted</u> that work is ongoing on the revision of the 'Approval Form for Revised Academic Offerings' to reflect approval decision changes agreed by Education Committee (Item 3.5).

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

3.7   It was <u>noted</u> that work is ongoing on current Teaching and Learning compact goals and their alignment to strategy (Item 3.7).

3.8   It was <u>noted</u> that the provision of more discipline-specific information for Schools on CAO points and its correlation with first year examination performance at DCU is currently being prepared and will be circulated when completed (Item 3.8).

3.9   It was <u>noted</u> in the context of ongoing MOOC development that the Executive Deans would develop a principles document to ensure that expertise is not replicated across the University (Item 3.9).

3.10   It was <u>noted</u> that initial research on the future naming and numbering convention for DCU MOOCs and modules would be completed by staff in the Academic Secretariat over the summer period (Item 3.10).

3.11   It was <u>noted</u> that work is ongoing on the development of a Professional Development Framework for Teaching and Learning (Item 3.11).

3.12   It was <u>noted</u> that the requested addition to the figures presented in the 'at risk' presentation was completed (Item 3.13).

3.13   It was <u>noted</u> that exit awards from the Skillnet MSc in Electronic and Computer Technology, approved by Education Committee at its meeting of 3 April 2019 (Item 8) were confirmed as follows:

- Graduate Certificate in Electronic and Computer Technology (30 ECTS credits)

- Graduate Diploma in Electronic and Computer Technology (60 ECTS credits)

3.14   It was <u>noted</u> that a nomination to the Accreditation Board for the Graduate Certificate in Dermatology was considered electronically by Education Committee and was deemed approved on 12 April 2019.

3.15   It was <u>noted</u> that a nomination to the Accreditation Board for the Professional Diploma in Clinical Supervision was considered electronically by Education Committee and was deemed approved on 18 April 2019.

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4.   Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA

The Chair reported on the following item that had been discussed by the IUA Registrar's Group as its most recent meeting on 8 April 2019:

- The IUA Registrar's Group discussed the HEA request that the universities gather student PPS numbers and provide them to the HEA.   She noted that the IUA is currently seeking legal advice in this regard.

Ms. Aisling McKenna reported on the following items, which had been discussed by the IUA Quality Officers at the meeting of 8 April 2019:

- The development of a QQI Register of Qualifications
- The opportunity to review and revise the template for the Annual Institutional Quality Assurance Report
- Consideration of the publication of self-evaluation reports in the context of Institutional Review.

5.   Update on DCU Strategy implementation

There were no updates on DCU Strategy implementation.

6.   Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)

It was <u>noted</u> that the output data from the survey of March 2109 was expected over the coming week, and it was indicated that should faculties require the data immediately that it could be provided through the Tableau tool.

7.   Annual Programme Review Reports

7.1   DCU Business School

<u>Noted</u>

7.2   DCU Institute of Education

<u>Noted</u>

7.3   Faculty of Engineering and Computing

<u>Noted</u>

7.4   Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

<u>Noted</u>

7.5   Faculty of Science and Health

<u>Noted</u>

7.6   Open Education

<u>Noted</u>. It was noted that an updated version, formally approved by the Director of the National Institute for Digital Learning would be re-submitted.

The Annual Progression Review Reports from each Faculty/Unit were reviewed in turn. Where immediate solutions could be identified and actioned at faculty level, these were articulated. The following lists issues where further action will be taken at university level, or where a solution is yet to be identified.

- **Academic Calendar**: Following the decision of Academic Council to make the proposed changes to the Academic Calendar, it is planned to set up an implementation working group.
- **Resourcing issues (staffing and equipment)**. It was <u>noted</u> that this issue would be brought to the attention of DCU Senior Management.
- Consideration of exit awards at undergraduate level. It was <u>noted</u> that a working group would be set up to examine this issue (see matters arising, item 3.2).
- **Resourcing of INTRA**. It was <u>noted</u> that the University is committed to reviewing INTRA in the context of the strategic plan.
- **Investment** in updating public spaces within buildings
- **Strategic marketing of taught postgraduate programmes**. It was acknowledged that engagement by the Communications and Marketing Office with the marketing of taught postgraduate programmes had increased, however it was requested that the centralised marketing of taught postgraduate programmes would be made a strategic priority and the necessary funds to support it made available.
- **Teaching Council and HSE placement**s: It was <u>noted</u> that although the items raised in the regard were not necessarily university level issues, it was suggested, if appropriate, that the Vice-President Academic Affairs (Registrar) would liaise at Registrar's level to establish common ground or to add weight to discussions.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

8.   **DCU Business School: MSc in Finance, Financial Management stream**

The proposed MSc in Finance, new Financial Management stream was <u>approved</u>. It was noted that the external examiner opinion provided was more about the general concept of the programme rather than its specific content. It was requested, given the extensive nature of the re-design of the programme, that the external examiner provide detailed feedback on the content of the new stream.

9.   **DCU Institute of Education: Bachelor of Education: Exit route: Diploma in Education Studies**

The proposed new exit route from the Bachelor of Education programme, Diploma in Education Studies, was <u>approved</u> as an exit award at NFQ level seven.

The discussion on the proposal took place in the context of the need to establish a framework for undergraduate exit awards and the concerns expressed previously with respect to the constituent module level versus award level. It was agreed that the level of an award should relate to the award outcomes rather than the level of the modules. It was noted that there is precedent for a level seven exit in Open Education, Diploma in Information Technology (120 credits), which is an exit from the BSc in Information Technology.

It was requested that a minor error on page three of the proposal, where the qualification is referred to as Higher Diploma rather than Diploma, would be corrected.

10.   **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: Reporting of Exit Awards approved by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences since April 2012 and request for approval of exit award titles**

Education Committee <u>approved</u> the following on a one-off basis.

Programme Title	Exit Award	Approval Process
MSc in Gnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais (MGTE)	Teastas Iarchéime i nGnó agus i dTeicneolaíocht an Eolais (TGTE) (Graduate Diploma [DGTE] already Accredited)	Exit award of Graduate Certificate approved at faculty level for activation from 2012/13.
MA in International Relations (MIR)	Graduate Diploma in International Relations (GDIR) Graduate Certificate in International Relations (GCIR)	Exit awards approved at faculty level for activation from 2013/14.
MA in Social Media Studies (MSMS)	Graduate Diploma in Social Media Studies (GDSMS) <u>Note</u>: last intake in 2014/15 Programme title changed from 2015/16.	Exit award approved at faculty level for activation from 2013/14.

The table above lists Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences' exit awards from existing, approved level nine programmes, which were approved at faculty level since 2012, but which were not reported to Education Committee. These exit awards were not approved as part of an accreditation or re-accreditation process or through the submission of a Revised Academic Offering form, but were approved by Programme Boards, Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee and Faculty Management Board. The approvals were granted at

faculty level based on a proposal for exit routes for Master's qualifications submitted to Education Committee in April 2012 (EC2012/A5/10b).

Programme Title	Exit Award	Approval Process
BA in Theology and Religious Studies (BATRS)	Diploma in Theology and Religious Studies (DPTRS) Certificate in Theology and Religious Studies (CTRS)	*Original title: BA in Theology and Lifelong Education (BATLE)* Revised title of BA award approved electronically by Education Committee on 22nd February 2018 for implementation in 2018/19, and noted at Education Committee on 14th March 2018.
MA in International Development, Environment and Conflict (MDEC)	Graduate Diploma in International Development, Environment and Conflict (GDDEC) Graduate Certificate in International Development, Environment and Conflict (GCDEC)	*Original title: MA in Development (MDEV)* Revised title of MA award approved by Education Committee on 17th February 2016.
MA in Social Media Communications (MSMC)	Graduate Diploma in Social Media Communications (GDSMC)	*Original title: MA in Social Media Studies (MSMS)* Revised title of MA award approved by Education Committee on 6th May 2015 for implementation in 2015/16.

The table above lists Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences' programmes, which were the subject of revised academic offering proposals to change their award titles in recent years, proposals that were approved by Education Committee on the dates, listed. A review of the documentation revealed that the revised academic offering forms submitted by the faculty did not specifically mention the exit awards, although it was assumed – incorrectly – that approval of the main award title extended to their exit awards.

With respect to future exit awards it was <u>noted</u> for any programmes that are to be accredited or significantly restructured they should be specifically named in the validation and accreditation documentation and/or submitted form, and the exit structures should accompany the documentation. This is to ensure that there is oversight on the coherence of the proposed exit award. It was noted that validation and accreditation documentation and or related forms will be more specific in this regard.

It was <u>noted</u> that should any new exit routes on existing programmes be required (not included in the listing provided above), approval should be sought from Education Committee.

11.   Any other business

11.1   DCUBS INTRA

Professor A. Sinnott raised the issue of differing INTRA start dates and the problem this was causing for some employers. Since these employers are of strategic value to the University, the issue was of relevance to Education Committee. Following discussion EC commended the flexible approach adopted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and suggested that this approach would solve the issue.

Signed _____   Date_____

Date of next meeting:
Wednesday, 29 May 2019
at 2.00 in A204