

EDUCATION COMMITTEE**MINUTES**

Wednesday 29 May 2019

2.00 p.m. – 3.45 p.m. in A204

Present: Dr Jennifer Bruen, Ms Jennifer Bruton, Professor Michelle Butler, Professor Mark Brown, Professor John Doyle, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Aisling McKenna, Ms Pauline Mooney, Professor Anne Sinnott and Dr Joseph Stokes

Apologies: Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Greg Hughes, Mr Billy Kelly and Dr Anne Looney

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda as circulated was adopted, subject to the addition of three items under AOB.

2. Minutes of Education Committee 1 May 2019

The minutes of the meeting of 1 May 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 1 May 2019

3.1 Ms. A. McKenna tabled a document updating Education Committee on the publication of Graduate Outcomes and the browser-based ISSE results tool project. She outlined that the project had expanded from its original remit to include other potential immediate business requirements that also sit outside the main information systems. It was noted that the review of a number of product offerings was underway with a view to developing a business case and submitting proposal to DCU budget Committee (Item 3.3).

3.2 It was noted 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 noted 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 (Item 3.4).
- 3.4 It was noted 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).
- 3.5 It was noted that the NFQ level of taught modules on professional doctorate programmes would be addressed over the coming months (Item 3.6).
- 3.6 It was noted that work is ongoing on current Teaching and Learning compact goals and their alignment to strategy (Item 3.7).
- 3.7 It was noted 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).
- 3.8 It was noted 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).
- 3.9 It was noted 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).
- 3.10 It was noted that the Graduate Certificate in Learning Transformations for Higher Education is on the agenda of this meeting. This proposed graduate certificate is the first stage of delivery of the strategic commitment to establish a Professional Development Framework for Teaching and Learning (Item 3.11).

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA

It was noted that the next meeting of the IUA Groups would take place on Monday 10 June 2019.

5. Update on DCU Strategy implementation

5.1 Faculty curriculum review: Presentation by the Executive Dean of DCU Business School

The Executive Dean of DCU Business School presented on the curriculum review activity in DCUBS to date.

The following were noted from the presentation:

- DCUBS has completed the first year of an anticipated three-year project on curriculum review.
- Taking the approach of learning from School experience, modelling local and global universities and applying innovation tools such as design thinking, the School has developed its design principles and has identified the attributes of future business graduates.
- The School is at the stage of integrating two key strands, identified during the process, for a transformative student experience. The key strands identified were Critical Thinking for Business and Enterprise and Innovation and these have been integrated into the first year curriculum. Working Groups have been established to develop the strands for second year and final year students.
- Development is planned on postgraduate programmes during the summer of 2019.
- The School plans to take a broader view of its programme offerings and to consider and agree its suite of programme and design specialisms.
- The focus in the immediate terms will be on staff development, designing programme level assessment, best practice in providing feedback, new assessments based on new strands and integrating INTRA across the full programme.

The Chair thanked the Dean of DCUBS for her presentation and congratulated her on the systematic and comprehensive report.

6. Irish Survey of Student Engagement

It was noted that the ISSE Steering Group met on 22 May 2019. The following was noted with respect to ISSE:

- The ISSE for postgraduate research students (ISSE PGR) will be implemented every other year. Therefore, the next survey will take place in spring 2021.
- A decision was taken that all publically funded Higher Education Institutions should be strongly encouraged to participate in ISSE PGR.

7. **Employability Statements**

This item was deferred. It was noted that the Deputy Registrar would work with the Faculty Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning to progress this item.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

8. **Faculty of Computing and Engineering: Validation proposal: MSc in Computer Science for Educators**

This item was deferred.

9. **Validation proposal: Graduate Certificate in Learning Transformations for Higher Education**

The Education Committee granted approval to the proposed programme subject to the following recommendations being addressed:

- The issue of an academic home for the programme should be resolved in advance of the accreditation of the programme. The options, from individual Faculty ownership with disciplines contributing to a centralised Programme Board, to a distributed model (university-wide Academy) of structure, were discussed. It was suggested that an interim arrangement could be considered with a view to review and adoption of the most suitable model at a later date.
- A more detailed structure of the timing of the modules should be provided, particularly in the context of staff members' timetables, workload etc.
- It was noted that part of the entry requirement is two years' experience working in higher education. It was suggested that the programme could be part of academic staff induction, to ensure good practice begins at the earliest possible opportunity, and/or if staff have less than two years' experience when they take up a post, they take an induction module in advance of commencing the proposed programme.
- It was suggested that the title would be amended to, for example, Graduate Certificate in Transformational Learning in Higher Education. It was noted that the existing title could be interpreted that the Learning Transformations are for the Higher Education sector.
- To make clear in the documentation how individual disciplines will be incorporated into the programme.

- To make clear in the documentation how the programme promotes DCU's institutional goals and teaching philosophy i.e. will the programme address the needs of a Faculty or School in terms of what it is trying to achieve e.g. online and blended learning?
- The importance of rigorous assessment was emphasised irrespective of the way that the student has engaged with the programme (experiential or structured formal modules).

10. Open Education: Memo to correct title of Springboard programme

The title of the programme, approved by Education Committee at its 13 March 2019 meeting was Graduate Certificate in Management of Sustainable Development however the correct title should be Graduate Certificate in Management for Sustainable Development.

Approved

11. DCU Business School: Addition of option and amendment to title of BSc in Aviation Management with optional Pilot Studies programme

Approved, the addition of an option to the existing BSc in Aviation Management with optional Pilot studies and a change in title of the programme as follows: BSc in Aviation Management with optional Pilot or Air Traffic Controller Studies

12. Faculty of Science and Health: Amendment to title of Postgraduate Certificate in Sexuality and Sexual Health Education programme

Noted. The new title from 2020-2021 will be as follows: Graduate Certificate in Sexuality Education and Sexual Wellbeing.

13. Faculty of Science and Health: Revised programme structure: BSc in Environmental Science and Technology

The revised programme structure was approved.

14. DCU Institute of Education and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: Diploma in Education Studies and Languages (level 7), Exit route from BEd in Gaelge and French/German/Spanish

A decision on this proposal was deferred. It was requested that the DCU Institute of Education and Faculty of Humanities and Social Science furnish Education Committee with the detail of the modules, which will make up the 60 ECTS credits of the exit award. It was agreed that once the information is provided Education Committee would consider the proposal electronically.

15. DCU Institute of Education and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: BA in Education Studies and Languages (level 8), Exit route from BEd in Gaelge and French/German/Spanish

Approved

16. Faculty of Science and Health : Change of DCU Physics CAO entry

The proposal to replace the three CAO entries for the BSc in Applied Physics, BSc in Physics with Astronomy and BSc in Physics with Astronomy with one CAO entry point: Physics General Entry, with non-binding choices of Applied Physics, Physics with Biomedical Science and Physics with Astronomy was approved.

17. Any other business

17.1 Legacy student issues

Ms P Mooney requested Education Committee's imprimatur to arrange the transfer of two legacy students who were registered on a programme previously accredited by another higher education institution but because they have failed some module(s) their continued registration on the original programme would be outside of the timing of the original agreement. She proposed that the two students would be allowed to register and complete the programme in DCU, where the programme is now accredited. This was agreed.

17.2 Projects, Academic Secretariat, Academic Affairs

It was noted by Ms P Mooney that there are a number of Education Committee related projects that the Academic Affairs team will be in a position to support, given the recent increase in resourcing. She noted that there were 14/15 individual projects identified and once their prioritisation has been agreed with the Vice-President Academic Affairs she would circulate the project list to Education Committee.

17.3 Change to minutes of 13 March 2019

The Secretary noted a minor change to the minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2019, Item 3.14. It was noted that a particular cohort were exiting in 2018-2019 but it should have been recorded as 2018.

Signed _____ Date _____

Date of next meeting:
Wednesday, 18 September 2019
at 2.00 in A204