

EDUCATION COMMITTEE**MINUTES**

Wednesday 30 May 2018

2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. in A204

Present: Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Ms Jennifer Bruton, Professor Michelle Butler, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair), Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly, Professor Lisa Looney, Dr Garrett McGuinness, Ms Aisling McKenna and Professor Joseph Stokes

Apologies: Professor John Doyle, Professor Greg Hughes, Dr Anne Looney, Ms Pauline Mooney, Mr Brendan Power and Professor Anne Sinnott

In attendance: Ms Karen Johnston

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

The agenda was adopted subject to the addition of one item under AOB.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 2 May 2018

The minutes of the meeting of 2 May 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 2 May 2018

3.1 It was noted that Ms K. Johnston will meet with ISS over the coming months to discuss the use of Tableau as an ISSE dashboard tool (Item 5.1).

3.2 It was noted that Mr B. Kelly will draft a report on Education Committee related Faculty Annual Programme Review items for the September 2018 meeting of Education Committee. It was noted that he had yet to discuss items included by the DCU Institute of Education in their report.

It was noted too that a summary report on University level outcomes will be submitted to Senior Management (Item 7).

Education Committee related items from APR reports discussed

3.2.1 Change of module

In the context of the DCUBS proposal to move the module ‘change of mind’ weeks from week two (no fee) and week three (with a fee) to weeks one and two, Mr. B Kelly informed Education Committee that he had requested the number of module changes during 2017-2018 and they were reported as follows:

Semester 1

25th - 29th September (no charge) - 1711

2nd - 6th October (fee applies) - 120

Semester 2

29th January - 12 February (no charge) - 222

13th - 16th February (fee applies) 81

A brief discussion took place on the movement of the ‘change of module’ weeks back to weeks one and two and the considerations involved in making that change which included *inter alia*, the suggestion of providing ‘taster’ sessions outside of semester, timetabling and student number issues, and consideration of providing a prescribed list of module options to Erasmus students.

It was noted that it would be useful to explore a further break-down of the numbers of module changes as outlined above which would assist in making a more informed decision. It was noted too that as the change of module weeks are already published in the academic calendar 2018-2019, the first opportunity to make this proposed change would be for the academic year 2019-2020.

3.2.2 Undergraduate exit routes

It was noted that there was no update as yet on consideration of undergraduate exit awards.

- 3.3 It was noted that work on the publication of an interim First Destination Survey outcomes report is ongoing (Item 3.2).
- 3.4 It was noted that the form to address collaborative provision type 11 will be drafted over the coming months (Item 3.3).

- 3.5 It was noted that the NFQ level of taught modules on professional doctoral programmes will be addressed over the coming months (Item 8).
- 3.6 It was noted 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 3.5).
- 3.7 It was noted that the revised validation documentation for the MEd (Autism Spectrum) addressing Education Committee feedback provided at the meeting of 2 May 2018 is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 11).
- 3.8 It was noted that confirmation had been received from Open Education that the updated programme titles, Higher Diploma in Software Development and Higher Diploma in Interaction Design would apply from September 2018 (Item 9).

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the Irish Universities Association (IUA)

It was noted that the next meeting of the IUA Registrars, Quality Officers and Deans of Graduate Studies will take place on 11 June 2018.

5. Irish Survey of Student Engagement

5.1 Update on ISSE at institutional level

Mr B Kelly noted the information circulated from ISSE at national level as follows:

- The national response rate of 28% represents an increase of 0.8% from last year.
- The undergraduate and postgraduate taught programme data will be published in the same format as previous years.
- In acknowledgement that the research student survey is at the pilot stage and to ensure student confidentiality and data reliability data will be returned only when the number of respondents is greater than or equal to ten.

5.2 Presentation on Irish Survey of Student Engagement 2018, Ms Karen Johnson

Ms K. Johnston presented on the top-level DCU ISSE findings for 2018. The following were noted from the presentation:

- DCU saw a 7.5% increase in the response rate overall, up to 34%.
- On a national level, the response rate for universities was at 26% which is an increase of 2% overall.
- Almost 50% of DCU first year students responded.
- DCU's indicator scores remained relatively stable with a slight increase in 'collaborative learning' and 'Faculty interaction'.
- This year there were ten additional questions on assessment and learning as part of the DCU Institutional Review. It was noteworthy that DCU students feel that when they provide feedback it is listened to.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

6. Addition of INTRA work placement option to named programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

There was an extensive discussion on the introduction of an INTRA work placement option for students on the following programmes:

- Bachelor of Arts: Joint Honours
- Bachelor of Civil Law (Law and Society) BCL
- BA in International Relations
- BA in Economics, Politics and Law
- BA in Applied Languages and Translation Studies
- BA in Contemporary Culture and Society
- BA in Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation
- BA in Jazz and Contemporary Music Performance

During the discussion on the proposal, the value of offering INTRA was affirmed. The context of a review of INTRA as outlined in the University Strategic Plan and the absence of a forum for the consideration of programmes that are, and are not suited to INTRA were also discussed.

Education Committee had concerns about the specific detail of this proposal and requested that a more detailed proposal would be submitted for the consideration of the September 2018 meeting, addressing the following items:

- The feasibility of, and rationale for offering INTRA to students on these programmes and the number of placements envisaged
- How the INTRA placements will be managed and the difficulties posed in providing paid placements (it was noted that the INTRA Office has not yet had interaction with the Faculty in this regard and additional resources and expertise will have to be put in place)
- The management of expectations of students in terms of the type of placements offered, and in particular for students where the programme is such that placement roles may not link directly to their discipline
- The fact that INTRA was not integral to the conception and development of these programmes and in its underpinning philosophy.

It was noted that the offering of optional INTRA places for students on the Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) programme will be offered to its current second years students to commence in September 2018.

7. Resubmission of validation proposal: DCU Institute of Education: MEd (Autism Spectrum)

Education Committee noted that issues which had been raised at the 2 May 2018 meeting had been addressed and approved the validation proposal for the MEd (Autism Spectrum).

8. EduCo Foundation Programmes

Mr B Kelly outlined the background to the EducCo Foundation Programmes document. He noted that DCU signed an agreement with EducCo in 2016 on entry pathways at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The postgraduate programme addresses English language deficits only and the undergraduate programme addresses both language and academic deficits.

It was clarified in discussions that Education Committee was considering the EduCo Foundation Programmes as entry mechanisms and they were approved on the basis of this understanding. It was suggested that as part of DCU's Quality Assurance process that DCU should in future give some level of scrutiny to the content of such programmes.

9. Any other business**9.1 Faculty of Engineering and Computing Springboard programme, Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics**

It was noted at 14 March 2018 meeting, Education Committee approved an award entitled Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics as a proposal for the 2018 Springboard call. However, the application to Springboard was for a Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics and it was confirmed that this is the correct title for the programme.

Signed: _____ Date _____
Chair

Date of next meeting:
Wednesday, 19 September 2018
at 2.00 in A204