

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 3 April 2019

2.00 p.m. – 4.10 p.m. in A204

Present: Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Ms Jennifer Bruton, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle (Chair)¹, 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, Mr Callaghan Commons, Professor Greg Hughes and Professor Anne Sinnott

In attendance: Ms Karen Johnston

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

2. Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the meeting of Education Committee 13 March 2019

The minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2019 were approved subject to an amendment under item 5.

¹ The meeting was chaired by Mr B. Kelly during the brief absence of Professor E. Guilfoyle for item 7.

2.2 Minutes of the meeting of Education Committee Standing Committee of 20 March 2019

The minutes of the meeting of Education Committee Standing Committee of 20 March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 13 March 2019

- 3.1 It was noted that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education were reviewing modules where the pass rate has fallen since last year as presented in the January 2019 Exam Results Analysis (Item 7).
- 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 modules within them (Item 11 and 3.4).
- 3.3 It was noted that work is ongoing on the identification of dashboard tools to provide a short-term solution to the provision of online data (Item 3.1).
- 3.4 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 3.2).
- 3.5 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 3.3).
- 3.6 It was noted that the NFQ level of taught modules on professional doctorate programmes would be addressed over the coming months (Item 3.5).
- 3.7 It was noted that work is ongoing on current Teaching and Learning compact goals and their alignment to strategy (Item 3.6).
- 3.8 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 3.7).
- 3.9 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).

- 3.10 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, once resources become available (Item 3.10).
- 3.11 It was noted that work is ongoing on the development of a Professional Development Framework for Teaching and Learning (Item 3.11).
- 3.12 It was noted that corrections and additions requested by Education Committee were made to the FutureLearn approvals document and it was made available to members (Item 3.8).
- 3.13 It was noted that work on the requested addition to the figures presented on the 'at risk' presentation (item 7a) was ongoing (Item 7).
- 3.14 It was noted that amendments to entry requirements to the Springboard programme Certificate in Dementia Training were completed (Item 9).
- 3.15 It was noted that amendments to the entry requirements for the Certificate in User Experience, Certificate in Computer Programming and Certificate in Software Systems and New Venture Creation were amended following advice from the Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning (Items 11.5, 11.7 and 11.8).

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4. Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA

Dr Joseph Stokes reported on the following items that had been discussed at the meeting of the IUA Dean of Graduate Studies' Group that took place on Monday 1 April 2019:

- Drafting of Guidelines on Joint and Double Awards
- Maternity, paternity and adoptive leave for funded research students

5. Update on DCU Strategy implementation

5.1 *Faculty of Engineering and Computing Curriculum Review Update, presentation by Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing*

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing presented on the curriculum review activity in her faculty:

The following were noted from the presentation:

- The Faculty Strategic Plan is people-centred.
- At level eight, the challenges being addressed are student success and changing learning behaviours.
- At level nine, the focus is on the need for flexible delivery in the context of full employment and a more international mix of students.
- Curriculum renewal will focus on
 - Innovation at postgraduate taught level
 - Feasú ('making things better') through
 - reviewing programme currency
 - optimum design of assessment at programme level
 - applying coherence and rigour to development of employability skills
 - enhancing learner experience
 - The Ignite programme (year 1)
 - Principles
 - Staff Development.

The Chair thanked the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computing for her comprehensive presentation.

6. Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)

The Chair shared a written report from Mr Callaghan Commons, Students' Union on the ISSE for 2019, which outlined the activities around the promotion of the survey. The fieldwork took place from 11 March -31 March 2019 and the Students' Union worked in partnership with the Quality Promotion Office through social media and on a variety of events in promoting the survey.

It was noted that the response rate for 2019 was 33%, marginally down on the response rate of 34% last year. However the number of actual responses increased from 3,116 in 2018 to 3,264 in 2019.

The Director of Quality Promotion expressed her thanks for all the support provided by colleagues to facilitate such a good response.

7. ISSE Postgraduate research pilot, Presentation by Dean of Graduate Studies

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented on the outcome of the ISSE postgraduate research student pilot. The following were noted from the presentation:

- The pilot survey (2018) had a response rate of 41%, however as the same cohort was resurveyed from 11 March – 31 March 2019, the response rate, as anticipated had decreased (29%).
- As 2019 is the second year of data gathering there will be an opportunity to compare data and consider responses to the feedback provided.
- A communication was circulated to research students with respect to the pilot survey.
- The PGR survey was reviewed and updated for 2019 and contained an additional ‘personal outlook’ section.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

8. Faculty of Engineering and Computing: MSc in Electronic and Computer Technology (Major in Internet of Things) (Skillnet funded)

It was noted that the programme proposed is a subset of the MEng in Electronic and Computer Engineering and will be entitled MSc in Electronic and Computer Technology (Major in Internet of Things).

The following observations/queries were discussed with respect to the programme:

- It was noted that because there are optional modules within the core offerings, students should be provided with advice when choosing their modules.
- It was confirmed that there would be exit awards (Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma) from this programme. It was noted that the 15-credit EE5PRO, Project module would count towards the exit award as some of the modules on the structure are at level eight and would not count towards the award.

- It was noted that the existing qualifier programme would be adapted for the proposed MSc programme and EE5RDI, RD&I Training and Project Planning would be added to the programme structure.
- The programme team was requested to amend the inconsistency with respect to the Continuous Assessment/Examination split for the EE562, Network Stack Implementation module. It was confirmed that the correct split was 25/75 respectively.
- With respect to the structure provided it was noted that EE514 should be titled Data Analytics and Machine Learning rather than Data Analysis and Machine Learning.

Approved

There was a general discussion on the structure and content of the Qualifier programme and it was recommended that it would be considered by the Faculty at a later stage.

9. Faculty of Engineering and Computing: Revisions to two Springboard programmes

9.1 Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics

The following observations/queries were made with respect to both programmes considered--Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics and Graduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence:

- Because the 7.5-credit ICT and Career Success module is a core module, in reducing the number of credits generally the core computing content has been negatively affected, i.e. 22.5 credits as compared with 30 credits for students from the previous year. It was noted that the credits are being reduced due to student workload issues as those taking the programme are now predominately in employment.
- It was requested that the entry requirements as outlined in the documentation would specify the number of years' experience that equates to 'significant experience'. It was agreed that the requirement would be stipulated as three years.

The change to credits from 37.5 to 30 credits was approved.

9.2 Graduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence

The change to credits from 37.5 to 30 credits was approved.

Please see queries and observations under item 9.1.

10. Faculty of Engineering and Computing: MSc in Computing—new specialised pathway in Artificial Intelligence (Skillnet funded)

The following observations/queries were discussed with respect to the proposed pathway:

- It was confirmed that five cohorts would be supported by Skillnet.
- It was confirmed that NUI Galway would accredit their modules, which will be delivered to students on this programme, and DCU would recognise those credits.
- It was clarified that in terms of appeals, where modules are being appealed and their home is NUIG then the NUIG appeal process should apply. The same would apply to any student grievance that relates to NUIG modules.
- It was clarified that DCU appeals and grievance procedures apply to DCU registered students for the programme overall and to DCU modules.
- It was confirmed that the practicum would only involve DCU supervisors for DCU registered students, with the possibility of the involvement of business-level supervisors.

Approved

It was requested to enable flexibility that the approval extend to offering the programme in different temporal cycles other than those specified in the proposal document. This was agreed.

11. Faculty of Engineering and Computing: MSc in Computing (Blockchain-Distributed Ledger Technologies) (Skillnet funded)

Approved

12. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: Amendment to title of Springboard proposal

The following title changes were approved:

Springboard programmes from 2019-2020 (originally approved at the meeting of 13 February 2019)

From Graduate Certificate in Translation Technologies **to** Graduate Certificate in Translation Technology

From Graduate Certificate in EU Law and Policy **to** Graduate Certificate in European Law and Policy

13. Any other business

There were no items of business.

Signed _____ Date _____

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday, 1 May 2019

at 2.00 in A204