

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday 4 April 2018

2.00 – 3.45 pm in A204

**Present:** Ms Jennifer Bruton, Professor Michelle Butler, Professor John Doyle, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair) Dr Anne Looney, and Ms Pauline Mooney

**Apologies:** Dr Claire Bohan, Professor Mark Brown, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Professor Greg Hughes, Professor Lisa Looney, Dr Garrett McGuinness, Ms Aisling McKenna, Mr Brendan Power, Professor Anne Sinnott and Professor Joseph Stokes

**In attendance:** Ms Karen Johnston

#### **SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

##### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

Item 5.1, 'Presentation on ISSE Dashboard' was deferred and the amended agenda was adopted.

##### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2018**

The minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.

##### **3. Matters arising from the minutes of 14 March 2018**

3.1 It was noted that legal advice on the proposed linked provider definition is awaited (Item 3.1).

- 3.2 It was noted that work on the publication of an interim First Destination Survey outcomes report is ongoing (Item 3.3).
- 3.3 It was noted that the form to address collaborative provision type 11 will be drafted over the coming months (Item 3.4).
- 3.4 It was noted that work on the programme student survey, due to be completed by students at the end of semester two, is ongoing (Item 3.5).
- 3.5 It was noted that a meeting between the Finance Office and a sub-group of Education Committee to clarify issues with respect to the validation financial template summary had taken place on Wednesday 21 March 2018. Another meeting of the sub-group was scheduled for 5 April 2018.
- 3.6 It was noted that the recommended amendment to the title of the Springboard programme 'Higher Diploma in Science in Interaction Design' is awaiting the outcome of the funding application (Item 9.8).
- 3.7 It was noted that clarification on implementation issues raised with respect to the additional pathways to the BEng/MEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and the BEng in Biomedical Engineering by Education Committee at the 14 March 2018 meeting are awaited (Item 11).
- 3.8 It was noted that clarification had been received with respect to the credit weighting for the modules on the Springboard Certificate in Plasma Technology programme and the Chair had deemed the item approved.

## **SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING**

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

Due to the unavailability of relevant colleagues, updates on the IUA Group meetings were deferred to the 2 May 2018 meeting of Education Committee.

### **5. Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)**

Ms Karen Johnston provided a briefing on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement responses rates. The response rate (taught programmes) for 2018 was 34%, an increase on

the response rate of 26% in 2017. It was noted that the postgraduate research student ISSE, introduced for the first time this year, had a response rate of 41%.

Education Committee commended the many initiatives devised by the University ISSE partnership team (involving the Quality Promotion Office and Students' Union, and supported by the Faculties) to encourage response to the survey. In particular the communication to students, displayed throughout the University, that ISSE has effected change in the University was commended.

#### 5.1 ISSE Dashboard presentation, Ms Karen Johnston

This item was deferred to the 2 May 2018 meeting of Education Committee

### 6. **Teaching and Learning Strategy**

The Chair noted that the Teaching and Learning Strategy document is currently being drafted and the document will be circulated to Education Committee once finalised.

### 7. **CAO analysis and undergraduate education market analysis, presentation by Ms K. Johnson**

Ms Karen Johnston made a presentation analysing the March 2018 CAO application data, both at a sectoral and individual university level.

Across the university sector she noted that CAO applications have decreased overall by 4.4% with DCU's share down by 3.9%. DCU's first preferences have decreased by 4.5%; however its market share has remained relatively stable in the period from 2011-2018. It was noted that CAO applications without stated programme preferences number 6084 and 58% of those are located in DCU's priority 1 and 2 areas for recruitment. These applications will have significance in the change of mind campaign and the final application figures.

It was noted that in universities where Common Entry had been discontinued in favour of direct entry onto denominated degrees there had been an increase in their share of first preferences and mentions in the CAO application process in 2018.

It was noted that a more detailed report, containing the CAO application numbers by programme would be made available to all faculties. It was noted that some individual programmes with a significant decrease in application numbers would need to be examined more closely.

The Chair thanked Ms Johnston for the comprehensive and helpful presentation.

## **SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES**

### **8. DCU Institute of Education: Doctor of Education (EdD) restructure**

Dr A Looney introduced the restructure of the Doctor of Education programme noting that following incorporation and the amalgamation of the existing EdD programme there was a need to review the doctorate programme overall. The key factors underpinning the drive to restructure were the National Framework of Doctoral Education, current competitors and international trends, particularly the DCU Institute of Education's involvement in the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate.

There was extensive discussion on the appropriate NFQ level of taught elements on the professional doctorate and also on the module learning outcomes as presented in the restructure documentation submitted for consideration. It was the view of Education Committee that the module learning outcomes as presented reflected level 9 outcomes. It was noted that for other professional doctorate programmes within the University, the taught modules were at NFQ level 9 and the last two years of research at NFQ level 10, with the award overall at level 10. However it was noted by the Dean of the DCU Institute of Education that her understanding was that every aspect of the EdD was accredited originally at NFQ level 10, including the taught elements.

Education Committee approved the restructure subject to the articulation of the module learning outcomes reflecting the level at which the modules were assessed in the outcomes. It was agreed that the revised modules would be circulated for electronic approval to Education Committee as soon as feasible.

It was noted that the exit award from the EdD should be reflected in the documentation as 'MPhil (Education)'. It was also confirmed that the exit award is at NFQ level 9.

It was agreed that a more extensive discussion on the NFQ level of the taught elements of professional doctorate programmes was required. It was noted that this discussion should include consideration of exit awards from taught doctorate programmes.

### **9. Bachelor of Arts: addition of Philosophy as subject option**

The proposed addition of Philosophy as a subject option on the Bachelor of Arts: Joint Honours programme was approved.

It was recommended that the title of the year 3 module 'Thesis/Dissertation' would be amended to reflect the fact that it is a 5-credit undergraduate module e.g. Research project.

**10. Proposed title change from the BA in Contemporary Culture and Society to BA in Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation**

The title 'BA in Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation' was approved. There was discussion on the perceived understanding of the phrase 'Cultural Innovation' and whether or not it would be understood by potential entrants. It was advised that the Faculty should keep a watching brief on numbers applying to the programme and, should the name change not prove to be effective in increasing numbers, then further consideration should be given to the title e.g. further investigation via focus groups. It was also clarified by Committee members that the new award title will apply to those who enter the programme from September 2018, and will not apply to those currently on the programme.

**11. AOB**

There were no items of business.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

**Date of next meeting:**  
Wednesday, 2 May 2018  
at 2.00 in A204