

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 11 January 2018 in A204

9.30 am – 10.30 am

Present: Mr Jonathan Begg, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Lorraine Delaney, Dr Greg Foley, Dr Mark Glynn, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Ms Barbara McConalogue, Dr Garrett McGuinness, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Caroline McMullan, Professor Eugene McNulty, Dr Brien Nolan, Mr Brendan Power, Dr Justin Rami, Dr Joseph Stokes

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2017

The minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 9 November 2017

3.1 It was noted that following approval by USC of a candidate for legacy re-admission onto the Executive MBA programme with a strong recommendation that the candidate complete the programme in the academic year 2017-2018 the student subsequently indicated that her employer would not be able to accommodate her attendance in the year 2017-2018 based on the current MBA timetable. It was agreed that another application should be made on the student's behalf for entry 2018-2019 and the application would be re-considered at that time (Item 3.12).

3.2 It was noted that work on Akari is ongoing (Item 3.1).

- 3.3** It was noted that work on the draft policy of revocation of awards and credits for all programmes both taught and research, and the mechanism for final approval of the policy is ongoing (Item 3.2).
- 3.4** It was noted that a process document to address legacy re-admission applications, in particular where a Progression and Award Board originally requested a student to withdraw and later submits a legacy re-admission request on the student's behalf is currently being drafted (Item 3.3).
- 3.5** Dr J. Rami provided some clarifications requested by USC at its November 2017 meeting with respect to the admission of students, who have completed a Graduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs, to the Masters in Special Educational Needs to complete 60 DCU credits (CICE legacy students).
- It was agreed that a more specific detailed response should be submitted for the consideration of USC at its 22 February 2018 meeting. It was noted that should the matter require an earlier response, that USC will be circulated electronically with the detailed response (Item 5.1.2).
- 3.6** It was noted that work is ongoing on consideration of recognition of awards/credits from other institutions contributing to a DCU award (Item 5.1.2).
- 3.7** It was noted that a procedure for the amendment of marks following online publication of semester one examination marks is currently under discussion with relevant stakeholders (Item 3.5).
- 3.8** It was noted that derogations required for the Bachelor of Education and Professional Master of Education (Primary) on foot of the approval of revised structures to accommodate Teaching Council requirements, are on the agenda (items 5.1.1-5.1.3) of this meeting (Item 5.1.3).
- 3.9** It was noted that communication to faculties on the agreed change to the Programme Regulations template had been circulated. The representative of the Faculty Administration Peer Group (FAPG) Mr J. Begg provided feedback from the Faculty of Science and Health (FSH) on the change to the template. It was felt that the change to the Programme Regulations template, which required the listing of category 2 and category 3 modules was adding a large burden of administration for the FSH, in particular, given the volume of category 2 and category 3 modules on its structures. The change also increased the risk of discrepancies between academic structures and programme regulations, where there are changes to academic structures during the year.

- Following discussion of the issues and alternatives, one of which was to consider an online link from the programme regulations to the published academic structures, it was agreed that USC would give consideration to an alternative to listing the category 2 and 3 modules on the programme regulations however, there would need to be assurances of the integrity of the data and a single source of up-to-date information. Mr J. Begg agreed to provide feedback to colleagues in the Faculty of Science and Health with a view to their developing a proposal for the consideration of USC (Item 3.4).
- 3.10** It was noted that with respect to the approval of two external examiners nominated by the School of Communications clarification had been received regarding assigned duties and the approval process had been completed (Item 4.1.1 and item 4.1.9).
- 3.11** It was noted that clarification had been received on the term of appointment (4 years) for an external examiner in the School of Theology, Philosophy and Music and the appointment approval process had been completed (Item 4.1.3).
- 3.12** It was noted that clarification had been received with respect to the legacy re-admission of an applicant onto the Professional Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education and the approval process had been completed (Item 5.1.1).
- 3.13** It was noted that minor amendments to the programme regulations for the Joint International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies had been completed (Item 8).
- 3.14** It was noted that additional information required for the consideration of the external examiner nominated by the School of Computing had been provided and the nominee had been approved by Chair's Action (Item 4.1.10).
- 3.15** It was noted that a legacy re-admission application for a student onto the Professional Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education had been approved by Chair's Action, 4 December 2017.
- 3.16** It was noted that a legacy re-admission application for a student onto the Professional Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education had been approved by Chair's Action, 4 December 2017.

B. Faculty issues**4. External examiners for taught programmes****4.1 Nominations**

- 4.1.1 Dr Anthony Wrigley, Keele University
MA in Ethics & MA in Ethics (Corporate Responsibility)
Approved
- 4.1.2 Ms Susan Walker, Liverpool John Moore's University
BSc in Physical Education with Biology and BSc in Physical Education with
Mathematics
Approved
- 4.1.3 Dr Ruth Fletcher, Queen Mary University of London
Modules in the School of Law & Government
Approved
- 4.1.4 Professor Janice M Barrett, Lasell College, Newton, USA
MSc in Education & Training Management (Leadership)
Not approved. It was the view of USC that the experience of the nominated external
examiner did not reconcile with the programme she is nominated to examine. In
addition it would be preferred if the nominated external examiner could be located in
a closer geographical proximity to DCU.
- 4.1.5 Professor David Smith, Charles Sturt University, Australia
MSc in Education & Training Management (e-Learning)
Not approved. The School was invited to provide a strong justification for the
appointment of an external examiner from Australia, rather than from a closer
geographical location (UK, Europe) and to address how the external examiner will
engage with the programme at such a distance. It was suggested that the costs of
yearly travel and expenses would also need to be anticipated. The nomination will be
re-considered at the 22 February 2018 meeting of USC.

4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties

- 4.2.1 Professor Melanie Giles, University of Ulster
BSc in Psychology
Approved

- 4.2.2 Dr Margaret Graham, University of Limerick
Modules in the School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Approved

5. Other issues

The Chair noted that the derogations submitted by the DCU Institute of Education (5.1.1-5.1.3) as follows, are required as a consequence of the amended structures approved by USC at its 9 November 2018 meeting. The amended structures aimed to satisfy Teaching Council requirements whilst ensuring the integrity of the student record.

5.1 DCU Institute of Education

- 5.1.1 Derogation Request: Bachelor of Education (BEd) (*2.5 credit modules*)
Approved
- 5.1.2 Derogation Request: Professional Master of Education (Primary) (PMEP) (*2.5 credit modules*)
Approved
- 5.1.3 Derogation Request: Bachelor of Education (*Level 8 maximum award credits*)
Approved

It was noted that there was some concern about the impact of 2.5 credit modules on the volume of assessment for students. It was requested that the programme chairs would be mindful that the number and type of assessments would be commensurate with the credits per module.

5.2 Faculty of Science & Health

- 5.2.1 Change to entry requirements: MSc in Financial Mathematics

The following wording was proposed for the entry requirements to the MSc in Financial Mathematics programme:

The normal entry requirement is a Bachelor degree in Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Engineering, Economics, or a related discipline with a strong quantitative component. Candidates must supply official transcripts of all previous academic studies, showing their performance in each exam.

Following discussion USC proposed the following:

The normal entry requirement is a 2.1 grade or equivalent in a Bachelor degree in Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Engineering, Economics, or a related discipline with a strong quantitative component. Candidates must supply official transcripts of all previous academic studies, showing their performance in each subject.

5.3 DCU Business School

5.3.1 Legacy re-admission request: MSc in Management (Business)

Approved

Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6. Marks and Standards

Members of USC were asked to review Marks and Standards with a view to proposing changes for the academic year 2018-2019. It was noted that the Secretary would send a reminder in this regard over the coming weeks.

7. Report on granting of exceptional repeat academic session 2016-2017

It was noted that an exceptional repeat academic session was approved for one student in 2016-2017.

8. Any other business

There were no items.

Date of next meeting:

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

Thursday, 22 February 2018

9.30 a.m. in A204