

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 21 February 2019

9.30 a.m. – 10.45 am in A204

Present: Mr Jonathan Begg, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Mr Callaghan Commons, Dr Yseult Freaney, Dr Charlotte Holland, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr James Lovatt, Dr Garrett McGuinness, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Justin Rami, Dr Joseph Stokes and Dr Blanaid White

Apologies: Dr Lorraine Delaney

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 10 January 2019

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 10 January 2019

3.1 It was noted that the document *Procedure for Correction of Errors following online publication of semester one provisional results 2019* was circulated electronically to USC for noting on 13 February 2019.

The Chair informed USC that the implementation of the correction of errors procedure was currently under discussion with faculties. Some faculties had already undertaken to commence the process for the current diet of examinations, while others

were reviewing it in light of their current practice. The Chair indicated that he would progress discussions on implementation through the Chair of the Faculty Administration Peer Group and would keep USC members updated.

The Director of Registry indicated that Registry would need confirmation of the commencement of the process in order to open the system cycles to accommodate amendments to results following semester one examinations (ref: 7.1, 23 February 2017).

- 3.2** It was noted that work is ongoing on the operationalisation of the new module type and on related programme regulations (Item 7).
- 3.3** The Secretary informed the Committee that although it was possible to place a link to programme regulations on the Loop Programme page the annual update of the web links would be a manual process and it was hoped that a solution might be found to avoid continuous manual intervention. She indicated that she was following up with the TEU in this regard (Item 3.3).
- 3.4** It was noted that work on changes to Marks and Standards relating to joint awards and progression is ongoing (ref 5.3.1, 15 November 2018), (Item 3.4).
- 3.5** It was noted that an updated version of the regulations and guidelines document for legacy re-admission decisions is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 8).
- 3.6** It was noted that a legacy re-admission for an applicant to the MA in International Relations, a decision on which was deferred at the 10 January 2019 meeting of USC, was resubmitted and is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 5.2.1).
- 3.7** It was noted that the mapping of the planned DCUBS curriculum review to the University PPR process was completed (Item 3.2).
- 3.8** It was noted that changes to programme regulations for the BEng/MEng in Biomedical Engineering and the BEng/MEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering programmes, as recommended by USC, were completed (Items 5.1.1 – 5.1.4).
- 3.9** It was noted that clarifications with respect to the amended programme regulations for the BSc in Biotechnology and BSc in Genetics and Biology were provided (Item 5.3.2).

- 3.10** It was noted that follow-up with respect to the legacy re-admission of a student to the Professional Certificate/Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education was completed (Item 5.4.1).

B. Faculty issues

4. External examiners for taught programmes

4.1 Nominations

- 4.1.1 University of Leeds
MA in Political Communication

Approved

- 4.1.2 University of Limerick
Modules in DCUBS

Approved. USC considered this nomination in the context of having previously approved two external examiners from the Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. It was noted that each appointee is from a different discipline area within the Kemmy Business School and the appointments related to different Groups within DCUBS. The appointment was approved on that basis.

4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties

There were no items for consideration.

5. Other issues

5.1 Faculty of Engineering and Computing

- 5.1.1 Legacy re-admission request: MSc in Computer Aided Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Approved

5.2 DCU Business School

5.2.1 Legacy re-admission request: MSc in Management (Strategy)

Decision deferred. USC requested that the application would be resubmitted and include additional information which would assure members that the student, if re-admitted, would be in a position to successfully complete the programme.

5.3 Faculty of Science and Health

5.3.1 Periodic Programme Review external expert nomination: BSc in Athletic Therapy & Training

Approved

5.4 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

5.4.1 Legacy re-admission request: MA in International Relations

Approved

Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6. Regulations and guidelines to support legacy re-admission decisions

The following points were noted in the discussion on the revised regulations and guidelines to support legacy re-admission decision document.

- It was agreed that the document in its entirety would be ‘regulatory’.
- With respect to the definition of ‘programme of study’ in the context of legacy re-admission decisions it was noted that it would not be possible to legislate for the meaning of ‘minor’ amendments to programmes, and it was agreed that this judgement would be made by the programme board considering a student re-admission on a revised programme. It was agreed that the legacy re-admission form would be amended and request the following information from programme boards:
 - Title of original programme on which the student was registered
 - Title of the programme to which the student is seeking re-admission
 - A brief narrative on any structural changes that have taken place to the programme since the last registration of the applicant.

- It was clarified that exemptions for students whose last registration was in excess of eight years ago and who are applying for acceptance on the same programme *ab initio* would be considered in the first instance at faculty level and then referred to USC for approval.
- It was noted that the implications for Marks and Standards of the new legacy re-admission regulations would be considered when approving Marks and Standards for 2019-2020 (e.g. provision for the possibility that a candidate applying *ab initio* may be required for reasons of academic currency to complete the same module (s) again)
- It was noted that there is an ongoing issue with the scenario where a student requests to exit with a lesser award and his/her last registration is beyond eight years, the parchment presented reflects the date of conferring, however the award may not necessarily have currency.

The document was approved subject to completion of amendments proposed and noted above. It was noted that the finalised document would be circulated.

7. Any other business

An issue was raised with respect to decisions made by a Progression and Award Board related to extenuating circumstances and the treatment of passed modules. It was agreed that this issue would be more appropriately discussed in an alternative forum.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 4 April 2019 9.30 a.m. in A204
