UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 31 May 2018

9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. in A204

Present: Mr Jonathan Begg, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Lorraine Delaney, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Garrett McGuinness, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Caroline McMullan, Professor Eugene McNulty, Dr Brien Nolan, Dr Joseph Stokes and Dr Blanaid White

Apologies: Ms. Barbara McConalogue, Dr Justin Rami and Mr Brendan Power

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1.   Adoption of the agenda

It was noted that three items had been added to the agenda as follows:
4.1.6, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 5 April 2018

The minutes of the meeting of 5 April 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes of 5 April 2018

3.1   The Chair informed USC that a meeting had taken place recently between Akari and DCU stakeholders to discuss a system update. The Akari system was being explored in the broader context of a new student information system and the probable need for an 'add-on' curriculum design element. The Chair outlined that a system demonstration would be organised shortly and an invitation to attend would issue to Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education (Item 3.1).

3.2   It was <u>noted</u> that a meeting of the Chair and Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education had taken place to discuss resit categories. The outcome of the discussion was to propose consideration of a new type of module where if the continuous assessment element is formative in nature, and all learning outcomes are assessed by the examination, then the result of that module would be calculated as the better of a combination of examination and continuous assessment or the examination only. This type of module would not offer a continuous assessment resit opportunity. The Chair asked that faculties consider whether or not they would want to introduce this type of module and consider the possibility of consequent amendments to structures in March 2019.

It was <u>noted</u> there are no resources yet in place for introducing this development and the timing of the introduction of the new student information system would also need to be taken into consideration in the introduction of this new module type (Item 6.3).

3.3   It was <u>noted</u> that a meeting to explore the incorporation of elements of the change of duties (EE2) form onto the Guru system would take place over the coming months (Item 3.3).

3.4   It was <u>noted</u> that a process document for legacy re-admission applications is currently being drafted (Item 3.4).

3.5   It was <u>noted</u> that a procedure for the amendment of marks following online publication of semester one examination marks is currently under discussion with relevant stakeholders (Item 3.6).

3.6   It was <u>noted</u> that work is ongoing on consideration of recognition of awards/credits from other institutions contributing to a DCU award (Item 3.5).

3.7   It was <u>noted</u> that the role of the Progression and Award Board in the extension of the maximum registration period will be discussed at this meeting in the context of the finalisation of Marks and Standards 2018 (Item 3.8).

3.8   It was <u>noted</u> that work on ensuring consistency of practice in faculties with respect to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and special case admissions has been completed (Item 3.2).

3.9   It was <u>noted</u> that responses to the feedback of USC on the approved derogation for the MSc in Nursing: Advanced Practice had been received and the derogation had been approved (Item 5.1.2). It was <u>noted</u> too that the related programme regulations for 2017-2018 had been submitted along with those for consideration for 2018-2019.

3.10   It was <u>noted</u> that a communication was sent to faculties with respect to when the change to external examiner duties form (EE2) is required to be submitted (Item 5.1.4).

3.11   It was <u>noted</u> that some minor changes to the programme regulations for the BSc in Genetics and Cell Biology and BSc in Biotechnology for 2017-2018 were approved by Chair's Action, 5 April 2018.

3.12   It was <u>noted</u> that a change of duties form, to appoint an existing external examiner to examine GTE modules, from the School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies was approved by Chair's Action, 21 May 2018.

B.   <u>**Faculty issues**</u>

4.   **External examiners for taught programmes**

4.1   <u>**Nominations**</u>

4.1.1   Professor Ataur Belal, University of Sheffield
DCUBS
<u>Approved</u>

4.1.2   Mr Joe O'Mara, KPMG
DCUBS
<u>Approved</u>

4.1.3   Dr Tom O'Dwyer, University of Limerick
School of Biotechnology
<u>Approved</u>

4.1.4   Dr Andrew Hass, University of Stirling,
School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music
<u>Approved</u>

4.1.5   Dr Mark Fitzgerald, Dublin Institute of Technology
School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music
<u>Approved</u>

4.1.6   Dr Theresa Reidy, University College Cork
School of Law and Government

<u>Approved</u>

4.2   <u>**Renewal of appointment/changes to duties**</u>

4.2.1   Dr Eloise Monger, University of Southampton
School of Nursing & Human Sciences
<u>Approved</u>

5.   **Other issues**

5.1   **Faculty of Engineering and Computing**

5.1.1   Legacy re-admission request: BSc in Computer Applications
<u>Approved</u>

5.2   **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

5.2.1   Legacy re-admission request: MA in Poetry Studies
<u>Approved.</u> <u>Noted</u> that additional information was required with respect to the calculation of the student precision mark (question 7).

5.2.2   Legacy re-admission request: BA Gnó agus Gaeilge
<u>Approved</u>
There was extensive discussion on this application. It was agreed that the re-admission application would be considered electronically by USC pending exploration of a mechanism for reflecting this potential re-admission on the student record.

5.3   **DCU Institute of Education**

5.3.1   Legacy re-admission request: Professional Certificate/Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education
<u>Approved</u>

5.3.2   Legacy re-admission request: Professional Certificate/Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education

In considering this application, USC <u>noted</u> that there is a registration block on the candidate's record. It was <u>noted</u> too that the student's registration is within the maximum registration period. Once the student's registration has been regularised, based on the details provided to USC, he can register directly with Registry and the legacy re-admission application is not required. It was <u>noted</u> too that should the need

arise it would be within the remit of the Progression and Award Board to grant an additional academic session.

5.3.3   Legacy re-admission request: Professional Certificate/Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education

Approved. It was requested that details are provided with respect to the calculation of the precision mark for the classification of the award (question seven) and noted that the answer to question four should also be completed.

5.4   Open Education

USC had a brief discussion about the following three legacy re-admission applications (5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3) and the lapse of time from initial start of the degree to when it is anticipated the students will graduate, and how it reflects on the DCU transcripts and perceived standards.

Some concern was expressed in general about subject currency over a 20-year period, particularly in the Information Technology area. It was clarified that for Open Education precision mark calculations only specific modules (not all) are taken into account for the final award and this alleviated some concerns in this regard.

5.4.1   Legacy re-admission request: BSc in Information Technology

With respect to this re-admission application, where the candidate has to complete all modules, except for those from which he is exempt, an option was explored as to whether or not the applicant would be better re-applying for admission to the programme, in terms of the student record and the currency of the programme and transcript. However, as the mechanism for enabling this has not yet been explored (i.e. the student number remains the same, so the legacy results stay on the record), the decision was made to consider the legacy re-admission as circulated.

Approved

5.4.2   Legacy re-admission request: BSc in Information Technology
Approved

5.4.3   Legacy re-admission request: BSc in Information Technology
Approved

Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6.   Approval of Marks and Standards 2018-2019

Approved. It was noted that no change was necessary to paragraphs 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.

7.   Programme Regulations 2018-2019

The Secretary noted the following with respect to the Programme Regulations submitted for approval for 2018-2019:

- That in advance of publication of the Programme Regulations she will be in contact with faculties with respect to adherence to the Programme Regulations' template
- That publication of the Programme Regulations will be in line with the Registry schedule for roll-over of the academic year.

7.1   DCU Business School
Approved

7.2   DCU Institute of Education
Approved

7.3   Faculty of Engineering and Computing
Approved, noted that there are some outstanding programme regulations for new Springboard programmes and programmes recently approved through Education Committee and it was intended these will be submitted to the September 2018 meeting of USC.

7.4   Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Approved

7.5   Faculty of Science and Health
Approved

7.6   Open Education
Approved

8.   **Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research & Thesis 2018-2019**

Approved

9.   **Review of derogation from English Language requirements for Research students (Faculty of Engineering and Computing and Faculty of Science and Health)**

The reports from the Faculty of Engineering and Computing and Faculty of Science and Health on the operation of the language derogation process for research students were noted.

With respect to the derogation some concern was expressed on the *ad hoc* nature of supports being provided to students for the improvement of the English language score. It was agreed that the following should be inserted into the derogation:

'That the student should engage with a formal English language course designed to bring his/her standard of English up 0.5 IELTS or equivalent, using DCU Language Services or an equivalent service'.

Subject to the change above it was agreed that the derogation would continue, with a review to occur every two years.

10.   **Amendment to Examination Regulations**

Approved.

It was noted that the approval of the amendment to the Examination Regulations will be submitted as a late item to the 6 June 2018 Academic Council meeting as the consequent system amendments may take some time, and are scheduled to be in place for the promulgation of online examination results on 20 June 2018.

11.   Any other business

There were no items for consideration.

Signed: _____Date: _____
           Chair

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 6 September 2018
9.30 a.m. in A204