

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 4 April 2019

9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. in A204

Present: Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Lorraine Delaney, Dr Yseult Freeney, Dr Charlotte Holland, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Garrett McGuinness, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Justin Rami, Dr Joseph Stokes and Dr Blanaid White

Apologies: Mr Jonathan Begg, Mr Callaghan Commons and Dr James Lovatt

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 21 February 2019

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 21 February 2019

3.1 It was noted that work is ongoing on the operationalisation of the new module type and on related programme regulations (Item 3.2).

3.2 It was noted that work is ongoing on ensuring that the linking to programme regulations on the Loop page can be done as efficiently as possible on an annual basis. It was noted that the programme page available on Loop can be used for providing important links to students and the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning were asked to give possible links/content some consideration, if the page is not already in use for this purpose (Item 3.3).

- 3.3** It was noted that an update on Marks and Standards is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 3.4/6).
- 3.4** It was noted that an updated version of the regulations document for legacy re-admission decisions is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 6).
- 3.5** It was noted that a legacy re-admission for a candidate on to the MSc in Management (Strategy) which was deferred at the 21 February 2019 meeting is on the agenda (item 5.3.1) of this meeting (Item 5.2.1).
- 3.6** It was noted that the procedure to correct provisional examination result errors following promulgation of semester one results has been adopted by DCU Business School, DCU Institute of Education and the Faculty of Science and Health on a pilot basis. It was noted that the procedure would be reviewed over the coming months (Item 3.1).
- 3.7** It was noted that a change to an appointment date for an external examiner in DCUBS approved by USC at its 21 February 2019 (item 4.1.2) was approved by Chair's Action, 5 March 2019.

Because of the change to the appointment dates as noted above, it was requested that USC consider approval of a four and a half year term for this particular external examiner because of the particular circumstances of the appointment. This was agreed (Item 4.1.2)

B. Faculty issues

4. External examiners for taught programmes

4.1 Nominations

4.1.1 Maynooth University
Modules in DCUBS
Approved

4.1.2 University of Ulster
3UMHCT MEng in Healthcare Technologies
Approved

- 4.1.3 University of Liverpool
Modules in DCUBS
Approved
- 4.1.4 University of Limerick
BSc in Science Education
Approved
- 4.1.5 University of Limerick
Modules in SALIS
Approved
- 4.1.6 University of Cambridge
Modules in School of Theology, Philosophy and Music
Approved, noted that the volume of modules to be examined appears high and the Secretary undertook to check the average to be examined.
- 4.1.7 Stranmillis University College, Belfast
Bachelor of Education (CICE)
Approved, noted the appointment is for one year only to facilitate the examination of legacy students.
- 4.1.8 UCD
BSc in Applied Physics, BSc in Physics with Astronomy, BSc in Physics with Biomedical Sciences
Approved
- 4.1.9 Maynooth University
Modules in School of History and Geography
Approved, noted that the volume of modules to be examined appears high and the Secretary undertook to check the average to be examined.
- 4.1.10 Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick
Modules in SALIS
Approved
- 4.1.11 University of East Anglia
MA in Creative Writing
Approved

4.1.12 Institute of Technology Waterford
Modules in Open Education
Approved

It was noted that a technical issue had arisen with respect to the titles of those nominated to sign-off on the nomination of external examiners on Guru and the Secretary undertook to investigate.

4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties

4.2.1 TCD
BSc in Biotechnology
Approved

4.2.2 NUI Galway
Modules in Mathematical Sciences
Approved

5. Other issues

5.1 DCU Institute of Education

5.1.1 Legacy re-admission request: MSc in Education & Training Management
(eLearning)

Approved

5.1.2 Legacy re-admission request: Professional Certificate/Diploma in Special & Inclusive
Education

Approved, noted to ensure consistency of student treatment it was requested that the final precision mark would be calculated using all the modules taken for the award.

5.1.3 Legacy re-admission request: MSc in Education & Training Management
(eLearning)

Approved, noted that the student should be given twelve months to complete the programme, rather than nine months as indicated on the submitted form.

- 5.1.4 Programme Regulations for BA in Education Studies 2018-2019 exit route from Bachelor of Education (Church of Ireland, legacy CICE)

Approved

- 5.1.5 Derogation request: Professional Masters in Education Primary (PMEP)

Following detailed consideration of the derogation request, it was agreed that a sub-committee of University Standards Committee would meet with members of the programme team and Registry to explore alternative methods of addressing the issues raised by students failing ED8056.

5.2 Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

- 5.2.1 Legacy re-admission request: Bachelor of Civil Law (Law & Society)

Approved, noted that the student does not need to provide any further medical documentation with respect to years completed in DCU (Q2)

It was queried if the two years (Q11) given for completion of the programme includes the opportunity to repeat years should it be necessary, i.e. the two years specified could be four years, should there be a requirement to to repeat/defer etc.

5.3 DCU Business School

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

Approved, noted that there were a few minor inaccuracies on the form submitted and it was requested that these would be corrected.

Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6. Marks and Standards

It was noted that there were a number of amendments to be made to Marks and Standards that had arisen during the year. It was noted that a meeting would be convened with the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning and Registry to review the proposed amendments in advance of consideration by USC.

7. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), policy update

The Chair provided the context to the update of the RPL policy noting that the policy was last updated in 2011. He indicated the intention was that the document would be a high-level, enabling document rather than a procedural one.

In the discussion that followed it was clarified that the policy encompasses existing entry routes, i.e. mature student entry, special case admission, transfers, exemptions and advanced entry. It was noted it would be useful if the RPL policy document referenced those entry routes. The Chair indicated that he would amend the document to include the various entry routes, which fall generally under the auspices of the RPL policy and would submit the finalised document for the consideration of USC at its next meeting on 23 May 2019.

8. Regulations to support legacy re-admission decisions

The regulations to support legacy re-admission decisions were approved subject to the following:

- Amendment to paragraph 3.2 to ensure that the Programme Board establishes the currency of the learning and the learning outcomes as being relevant to the current year, for those seeking re-admission to exit with an award on the basis of credits already achieved.

Feedback on the operation of the regulations was provided by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and it was suggested that a document to address the operational aspects of the regulations should be developed.

It was noted that the regulations document would be submitted for the approval of Academic Council at the meeting of 5 June 2019 and would apply from September 2019.

9. Any other business

There were no items of business.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 23 May 2019

9.30 a.m. in A204