

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 5 April 2018

9.30 am – 10.45 am in A204

Present: Dr Jennifer Bruen, Dr Lorraine Delaney, Dr Mark Glynn, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Professor Eugene McNulty, Dr Brien Nolan, Dr Justin Rami and Dr Blanaid White

Apologies: Mr Jonathan Begg, Ms. Barbara McConalogue, Dr Garrett McGuinness, Dr Caroline McMullan, Mr Brendan Power and Dr Joseph Stokes

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 22 February 2018

The minutes of the meeting of 22 February 2018 were approved subject to the following amendments:

- Item 6, amend ‘Dean of Teaching and Learning/Deputy Registrar’ to ‘Chair of University Standards Committee’
- Item 7, amend the context provided for the development of the policy for the Revocation of University Awards or Credits.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 11 January 2018

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

- 3.2 It was noted that work on ensuring consistency of practice in faculties with respect to Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and special case admissions is ongoing (Item 3.5).
- 3.3 It was noted that the Secretary had spoken to Dr David Molloy in relation to the inclusion of the approval of the change of duties process (EE2 form) on Guru. It was noted in discussions it was unlikely that the development would take place in the foreseeable future; however a meeting to explore alternatives would be arranged over the coming months (Item 9).
- 3.4 It was noted that a process document for legacy re-admission applications is currently being drafted (Item 3.3).
- 3.5 It was noted that work is ongoing on consideration of recognition of awards/credits from other institutions contributing to a DCU award (Item 3.5).
- 3.6 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 3.6).
- 3.7 It was noted that the provision of guidance on when a form is required for change of external duties (EE2) will be included in an e-mail to issue next week (Item 9).
- 3.8 It was noted that the role of the Progression and Award Board in the extension of the maximum registration period will be discussed at the 31 May 2018 meeting of USC in the context of the finalisation of Marks and Standards 2018 (Item 6.1).

B. Faculty issues

4. External examiners for taught programmes

4.1 Nominations

- 4.1.1 Dr Daniel O’Connell, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
MA in Chaplaincy Studies & Pastoral Work
Approved

- 4.1.2 Professor Susan Ellis, University of Strathclyde
Master of Education in Literacy Professional Practice
Approved
- 4.1.3 Dr Theresa Reidy, UCC
Modules in School of Law and Government
Approved
- 4.1.4 Dr Sharon Lambert, UCC
Certificate in Peer Support Working in Mental Health
Approved
- 4.1.5 Mr Alan Middleton, Glasgow Caledonian University
Graduate Certificate in Sexuality and Sexual Health, Graduate Certificate in Relationships and Sexuality for People with Intellectual Disability
Approved
- 4.1.6 Professor Fiona Nolan, University of Essex
MSc in Nursing/Healthcare Practice (12 streams)
Dementia related modules (NS568, NS466, NS5076, NS5075)
Approved
- 4.1.7 Mr Gerard Noonan, European Commission
Modules in School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved
- 4.1.8 Professor Anthony Caleshu, University of Plymouth
MA in Poetry Studies
Approved
- 4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties**
- 4.2.1 Professor Neil Robinson, University of Limerick
School of Law & Government
Approved

5. Other issues

5.1 Faculty of Science & Health

5.1.1 Legacy readmission request: MSc in General Nursing Practice

Approved It was noted that the approval is subject to the candidate surrendering her Graduate Diploma in General Nursing Practice parchment to Registry.

5.1.2 Derogation (M&S 7.1.2): MSc in Nursing: Advanced Practice (PNU)

The derogation was approved subject to addressing the following issue. It was noted that in seeking the derogation, the programme proposers are applying the 'standards for assessment strategy required' by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland. The application of these standards to the MSc in Nursing: Advanced Practice is in order to apply 'best practice' (in the absence of established standards at this time in Saudi Arabia) and not for registration purposes, as this programme is not seeking the recognition of the NMBI. It was requested that this would be made clear in the derogation form and a resubmitted version should be submitted for the approval of the Chair.

It was also requested that clarification would be provided as to where the programme will seek professional recognition.

5.1.3 Derogation (M&S 7.2.3.6): MSc in Nursing: Advanced Practice (PNU)

This derogation was not approved. It was the view of USC, unlike the derogation above which raises the standard expected for professional purposes, the derogation as proposed did not have the same purpose. It also did not appear to be required for professional recognition purposes. Whilst acknowledging the practical difficulties associated with nursing practice, USC requested the programme team consider ways of changing the module structure to address the practicalities and difficulties of repeat placement. Suggestions made included, creating two linked year-long modules (250 hrs each)—so remediation could occur over the full academic year—or extending the academic session in the second year. It was requested that these suggestions and other options the team might devise, would be explored.

5.1.4 Programme Regulations: MSc in Nursing: Advanced Practice PNU 2017-2018

USC considered the programme regulations as submitted and made recommendations as below, however in the absence of agreement to the derogation above (5.1.3) it is requested that the programme regulations are re-submitted for final approval.

Derogation section

- Delete the External/Professional Body information from section two.
- Change 'Compensation is not permitted between...' to 'Students must pass both theory and practice components of the clinical practicum modules'.
- Move the paragraph beginning 'Students must be deemed competent across all clinical ...' to section one
- Move the paragraph beginning 'Students must complete 250 hrs....' to section one
- With respect to the paragraph beginning 'Due to the length of the clinical practicum modules....' it was noted that this item should not be included as it has not been approved by USC.
- Move the paragraph beginning 'Achieving a 'pass' in clinical competencies assessment (s) to section one.

Compensation section

- Insert 'Marks and Standards apply' and delete 'Compensation is not permitted between theoretical modules and practice module'.

5.1.5 Update to programme entry requirements for entry September 2018 for the Undergraduate Certificate Peer Support Working in Mental Health

The update to programme entry requirements, entry September 2018, for Undergraduate Certificate Peer Support Working in Mental Health was approved.

5.2 DCU Institute of Education

5.2.1 Legacy readmission request: MSc in Education and Training Management

Approved

Other issues (not Faculty-specific)**6. Marks and Standards 2018.1**

6.1 The following amendment was agreed:

- Insertion of 'Higher Diploma' to the list of agreed titles under paragraph 1.2.1 Undergraduate Award Titles.
- It was agreed that as the process documentation to approve the extraordinary additional academic year is available to staff online, and included in the examination related training provided to Programme Chairs by Registry, it was not required within the Marks and Standards documentation.

6.2 It was agreed that the following would be addressed at the 31 May 2018 meeting of USC.

- Consideration of amendment to paragraphs 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.

6.3 Dr B Nolan requested that discussion on the resit categorisation of modules would be re-visited. He outlined that a proposal on resit categories had been considered at Academic Council in December 2016 in the context of Appeals and he requested that this proposal would be given further consideration. The proposal sought to address the issues raised, particularly for the School of Mathematical Sciences, where the continuous assessment elements of modules, which was used for formative purposes thorough out the semester could not be repeated over the summer period for resit purposes and where the examination assessed all the module learning outcomes.

It was agreed that the Chair and Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/ Education would meet to discuss the issues and would report to University Standards Committee at its 31 May 2018 meeting.

7 Any other business

There were no other items of business.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chair

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 31 May 2018

9.30 a.m. in A204