

**UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

Thursday 2 September 2021

9.30 a.m. – 10.10 a.m. via Zoom

**Present:** Dr Brad Anderson, Dr Maura Coulter, Dr Lorraine Delaney, Dr Ysult Freaney, Dr Mark Glynn, Ms Kate Goodman, Ms Liza Guiron, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Anna Logan (present 9.30 – 9.45), Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Niamh O’Sullivan and Prof Joseph Stokes

**Apologies:** Dr Jennifer McManis and Dr Ruth McManus

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed new members to University Standards Committee as follows:

- Ms Liza Guiron, Faculty Administration Peer Group representative
- Ms Kate Goodman, SU, Vice President for Academic Life
- Mr Peter McGorman, Director of ISS

The Chair acknowledged the valued contribution of Dr Ken McDonagh and Ms Michele Pringle who were stepping down from membership of USC.

**SECTION A: MINUTES RELATED ISSUES**

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of 20 May 2021**

It was noted that the minutes of 20 May 2021 were electronically approved, 8 June 2021.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of 20 May 2021**

- 3.1 The Chair reminded University Standards Committee of the submission made at the USC meeting of 20 May 2021 for the derogation from Marks and Standards for the BEng/MEng in Mechatronic Engineering programme. It requested an increase in the number of credits required to exit with a BEng award for those who had originally chosen the MEng pathway. This was not approved. However, it was noted subsequently that derogations were already in place for similar programmes in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing. Having

- consulted with the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Chair agreed that the derogation could be approved on the basis of this precedent (Item 5.1.2).
- 3.2 It was noted that the review of the Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy in the context of the anticipated NAIN guidelines would take place over the coming months. It was noted that the launch would take place on 7 September 2021 (Item 3.3).
- 3.3 It was noted that the approved Aegrotat Award from the Master of Business Administration programme was referred to the Academic Council meeting of 2 June 2021 (Item 5.2.1).
- 3.4 It was noted that the approved Marks and Standards 2021.1 document was referred to the Academic Council meeting of 2 June 2021 (Item 6).
- 3.5 It was noted that the module external examiner nomination considered at the meeting of 20 May 2021, which was found not to be in line with the regulations, was reconsidered upon request to the Chair of USC, and was subsequently approved on the basis of the particular circumstances presented (Item 4.1.18).
- 3.6 It was noted that a change of duties for an external examiner in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing was approved by Chair's Action, 28 June 2021.
- 3.7 It was noted that a legacy re-admission application onto the BA in Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation was approved by Chair's Action, 13 July 2021.

## **SECTION B: FACULTY ISSUES**

### **B. Faculty issues**

#### **4. External examiners for taught programmes**

##### **4.1 Nominations**

- 4.1.1 Oxford Brookes University  
Modules in School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved
- 4.1.2 Middlesex University  
Modules in School of Law and Government  
Approved
- 4.1.3 Waterford Institute of Technology  
BSc in Sport Science and Health  
Approved
- 4.1.4 Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts  
BSc in Enterprise Computing

Decision deferred. It was noted that an amendment was required to the nomination, to include publications. Once the nomination information was completed it was agreed that it would be considered for approval by the Chair.

4.1.5 University College Dublin  
MSc in Nursing: Advanced Practice  
Approved

4.1.6 Aston University  
BSc in Psychology  
Approved

4.1.7 University of Wolverhampton  
BSc in Psychology and Disruptive Technologies and BSc in Psychology and Mathematics  
Approved

4.1.8 University of Strathclyde  
Modules in School of Law and Government  
The Chair outlined that he had contacted the nominating School in advance of consideration by USC to advise them that the nomination, as presented, could not be approved. He indicated that there was an omission from the nomination and, as a result, the nomination was not in line with the regulations for the appointment of an external examiner. The School subsequently indicated that it would withdraw the nomination and submit a new nominee.

4.1.9 University of Jyväskylä  
BSc in Physical Education with Biology, BSc in Physical Education with Mathematics  
Approved

## **4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties**

4.2.1 University College Dublin  
Professional Diploma in Teaching Physics  
Approved

4.2.2 Eindhoven University of Technology  
MEng in Electronic and Computer Engineering  
Approved

## **5. Other issues: Faculty**

### **5.1 Faculty of Engineering and Computing**

#### **5.1.1 Legacy re-admission request: MEng in Electronic and Computer Engineering Approved**

USC requested that it would be clarified that the 7.5 credit taught module has not been prescribed by the School and the student may choose an appropriate option.

USC noted also that a maximum completion time of one year is indicated under Q12, however allowances should be made in the event the student had to defer/postpone etc. within the parameters of Marks and Standards, i.e. be allowed a repeat year.

### **5.2 DCU Business School and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

#### **5.2.1 Memo on Legacy Readmission for students from the BA in Applied Languages and Translation (ALTS) Studies and Bachelor of Business Studies International (INTB) programmes seeking to complete the international placement component of their degree**

It was proposed that students on the two programmes *BA in Applied Languages and Translation (ALTS) Studies and Bachelor of Business Studies International (INTB)*, who are unable to travel abroad in 2021-22 would be allowed to graduate having completed 180 credits at DCU. These students would be eligible to apply for a legacy readmission to re-enter the programme within the next three years in order to complete their year abroad. Readmission for this purpose would be conditional on students having an adequate level of language skills to engage in study at the partner institution. Students may alternatively choose to defer the Academic Year 2021-22 and return to complete the year abroad.

It was noted that there were operational issues regarding registration in advance of application for travel abroad and meeting language requirements, which would be addressed with Registry and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, respectively.

The proposal was approved and it was clarified that these specific legacy re-admissions would be for the consideration of DCU Business School in these particular circumstances and within the parameters outlined.

### **5.3 DCU Institute of Education**

#### **5.3.1 *Module Exemption request: Re-admission ab initio to the Professional Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education***

A decision on the module exemption request was deferred. It was agreed that the Faculty would be invited to resubmit the application providing a rationale as to why the student should be granted the specific exemptions. This revised application would then be considered by Chair's Action.

## 5.4 Open Education

### 5.4.1 Legacy re-admission request: BA in Humanities Approved

It was advised by USC that there is no need to approve exemptions for the student. The modules as completed should stand as is, and will be included in the calculation of the student's overall degree, when completed.

### 5.4.2 Module Exemption request: Re-admission *ab initio* to the BA in Humanities Approved

## C: Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

## 6. Amendments to Examination Regulations 2021-2022

The following amendment to the Examination Regulations was approved:

The Examination Timetable will be displayed via the DCU website. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they are aware of the date, time and location of their examinations. The Examination Timetable will be displayed *not less than two weeks prior to the beginning of the relevant examinations.*"

The change was made due to the amendment to the academic calendar in 2020-2021 and the ten-week first semester in 2021.

## 7. Any other business

There were no items of business.

**Date of next meeting:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of next meeting:**

Thursday, 18 November 2021 9.30 a.m. Via Zoom
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