

**UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Thursday 20 May 2021

9.30 a.m. – 10.50 a.m. via Zoom

Present: Dr Brad Anderson, Dr Maura Coulter, Dr Lorraine Delaney, Prof Yseult Freney, Dr Mark Glynn, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Anna Logan, Dr Kenneth McDonagh, Dr Jennifer McManis, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Niamh O’Sullivan, Ms Michele Pringle, Prof Joseph Stokes and Mr Lucien Waugh Daly

Apologies: Mr John McDonough

SECTION A: MINUTES RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 1 April 2021

The minutes of 1 April 2021 were approved. It was noted that formal minutes would be signed at a later date.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 1 April 2021

- 3.1 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, with an expectation that it would be completed by November 2021 (Item 3.3).
- 3.2 It was noted that the framework for consideration of students taking category 2 modules is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 3.2).
- 3.3 It was noted that the additional information requested by USC for an external examiner in DCU Business School had been received and the item was completed (Item 3.1).
- 3.4 It was noted that the approved amendment to Examination timetabling principles were submitted for the Academic Council meeting of 2 June 2021 (Item 6).

- 3.5 It was noted that amendments to the BSc in Nursing programme regulations 2020-2021 had been approved by Chair's Action, 29 April 2021.

SECTION B: FACULTY ISSUES

B. Faculty issues

4. External examiners for taught programmes

4.1 Nominations

4.1.1 *Withdrawn*

4.1.2 University of Strathclyde
MSc in Human Resource Management
Approved

4.1.3 Loughborough University
MSc in Elite Sport Performance
Approved

4.1.4 University of Bath
MA in International Security and Conflict
Approved

4.1.5 University College Dublin
Modules in the School of Theology, Philosophy, and Music
Approved

4.1.6 University of Birmingham
Graduate Diploma in Inclusive, Learning Support and Special Education
Approved

4.1.7 NUI Galway
Modules in Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaeilge
Approved

4.1.8 Technological University Dublin
Modules in Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaelige
Approved

- 4.1.9 University of Tartu Viljandi Academy
BA in Jazz and Contemporary Music Performance, Estonia
Approved
- 4.1.10 Università di Cagliari
Graduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence, MSc in Computing
Approved
- 4.1.11 Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge
BSc in Management of Information Technology
Approved
- 4.1.12 *Withdrawn*
- 4.1.13 Aston University
Modules in DCUBS
Approved
- 4.1.14 Waterford Institute of Technology
Modules in DCUBS
Approved
- 4.1.15 Swansea University
MA in Translation Studies, MSc in Translation Technology
Approved
- 4.1.16 University of Gloucestershire
Modules in Theology, Philosophy, and Music
Approved
- 4.1.17 University of Limerick
Modules in SALIS
Approved
- 4.1.18 University of the West of England
Modules in DCU Business School
The nominee was not approved as the nomination was not in line with the regulations.
- 4.1.19 University College Cork
BSc in Nursing (General)
Approved
- 4.1.20 University College Dublin
Modules in DCU Business School
Approved

- 4.1.21 Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
Modules in Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaeilge
Approved
- 4.1.22 Waterford Institute of Technology
Open Education
Approved
- 4.1.23 Pontifical University, St. Patrick's College Maynooth
MA in Chaplaincy Studies and Pastoral Work
Approved
- 4.1.24 Maynooth University
BEng in Mechatronic Engineering
Approved
- 4.1.25 University of Nottingham
BA in Theology and Religious Studies
Approved
- 4.1.26 Loughborough University
BA in Communication Studies
Not Approved

4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties

- 4.2.1 Leeds Beckett University
Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils on the Autism Spectrum
Approved
- 4.2.2 UCD
Module in Open Education
Approved

5. Other issues: Faculty

5.1 Faculty of Engineering and Computing

- 5.1.1 Legacy readmission: MSc in Computing
Approved

5.1.2 Derogation from Marks and Standards: BEng/MEng in Mechatronic Engineering

In the discussion on this derogation application, the Chair indicated that the derogation was not related to the requirements of a professional body, rather the issue of fifteen additional credits (255 rather than 240) was the outcome of the design of the BEng/MEng programme and as a result it did not meet the conditions of a derogation. It was recommended that the project would be included in the credits for the award and advised that not all credits had to be included for the classification of the award.

It was noted that there were other programmes within the Faculty that used the 255 credit structure and it was agreed that the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing would have a further discussion with the Chair in this regard.

5.2 DCU Business School

5.2.1 Proposed Aegrotat Award: Master of Business Administration

Approved for referral to Academic Council

5.2.2 Legacy readmission request: MSc Work and Organisational Psychology/Behaviour

Approved

5.2.3 Approval of Exemptions for re-admission application: BA in Accounting and Finance

Approved

It was noted that this application was an unusual case as this student should technically be registered *ab initio* as the date of his last registration was in excess of eight years. However, University Standards Committee agreed, in this particular circumstance only, that the student could register for third year directly, and that they should be exempted from the 3rd year modules already completed.

C: Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6. Marks and Standards 2021.1

The following changes to Marks and Standards were highlighted.

- Addition of 'Professional Diploma in' to award titles list (the award was part of Table 1, but not named in the award title list (Section 1.2.1)
- Change to classification of level 7, 8 and level 9, Certificate and Diploma awards (Section 8.3 and Section 8.5) (approved by USC, 25 February 2021) and addition of footnote that this change will not apply retrospectively
- Minor amendments, formatting and numbering of the document

Marks and Standards version 2021.1 was approved for referral for approval to Academic Council.

7. Programme Regulations 2021-2022

7.1 DCU Business School

It was noted that the issue of the 2.5 credit module for the first year undergraduate programmes had been resolved through structure changes and that there were no further substantial changes to the regulations.

The regulations circulated in advance of University Standards Committee were approved.

7.2 DCU Institute of Education

It was noted that changes to the programme regulations were minor.

The regulations circulated in advance of University Standards Committee were approved.

7.3 Faculty of Engineering and Computing

It was noted that the changes to the programme regulations included new programmes, adjustment to marks calculation, covid-related amendments and reflected some structure changes to the programme for students from Wuhan.

The regulations circulated in advance of University Standards Committee were approved.

7.4 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

It was noted that the main changes were related to adjustments to structures to accommodate students taking the year abroad.

The regulations circulated in advance of University Standards Committee were approved.

7.5 Faculty of Science and Health

It was noted that the main changes were minor; the result of new programmes or entry points e.g. Common entry into Chemistry and Biology and arrangements around repeat students.

The regulations circulated in advance of University Standards Committee were approved.

7.6 *Open Education*

It was noted that the main change to the regulations were to retain category 1 status for modules that were originally category 2 but were changed to category 1 in the context of Covid-related arrangements last year.

The regulations circulated in advance of University Standards Committee were approved.

8. **Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2021-2022**

The Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2021-2022 were approved.

9. **Framework for consideration of students with outstanding assessment material for Category 2 modules in exceptional circumstances**

The Chair provided a briefing to USC on the proposed framework. A sub-group of USC had met on 13 April 2021 and had agreed that a proposal should be developed to enable a wider application for consideration of students with outstanding assessment material for category 2 modules in Faculties other than Science and Health. However, the Chair found in developing a proposal, it was difficult to clearly define the circumstances in which a framework would work more generally. He noted particularly that for Faculties, other than Science and Health the issue was with fourth year projects and defining what 'not completed' meant. He suggested that a better solution would be to change the module category from category 2 and make it clear that there would not be supervision beyond the normal timeframe for students who were submitting at a later point. He sought the views of USC on this proposal.

The following were noted from the discussion:

- In Open Education, the relevant modules had been amended to category 1 modules, however the Science and Health framework had been very useful in advising students on the specific criteria they could postpone.
- If the project type modules were changed to category one modules, then it could lead to students taking advantage of extra time and lead to inequity, even if the criteria were very specifically defined.
- The Science and Health proposal was in very limited circumstances and is time-defined. It would not be logistically feasible to create another type of examination period over the summer for undefined circumstances.
- It was suggested that final year projects might be best dealt with by classifying them as category 1 modules and dealing with the exceptions in the usual way (extenuating circumstances, deferral etc.).

It was suggested, that rather than develop and adopt a framework for other Faculties now, it would be useful to review the operation of the framework in the Faculty of Science and

Health in a year's time and to then have a broader discussion when the outcomes are known. This proposal was agreed.

10. Any other business

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting before the summer and thanked the Committee for its work during the year, and wished members a good summer.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 2 September 2021

9.30 a.m.