ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

15 April 2015

2.00 – 3.45 p.m. in AG01

PRESENT:

C. Bohan	G. Foley	A. McGrady
M. Brennan	S. Fox	P. McMorrow
P. Brereton	G. Gillick	B. McMullin
J. Bruen	M. Glynn	D. Molloy
P. Byrne	E. Guilfoyle	G. Murphy
J. Carroll	S. Ingle	M. Nic Giolla Mhichíl
E. Costello	M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)	B. Nolan
M. Crane	P. James	K. Nolan
Y. Crotty	D. Kenny	P Ó Duibhir
J. Dowling	A. Lodge	M. O'Brien
J. Doyle	L. Looney	C. Renehan
H. Esmonde	B. MacCraith (President/Chair)	A. Stover
B. Flood	A. Matthews	M R Sweeney
P. Flynn	C. McDonagh	X. Wang

APOLOGIES:

S. Belton	J. Costello	C. McMullan
M. Brown	Y. Daly	P. McNally
J. Brunton	P. Landais	A. O'Regan
M. Byrne	M. Loftus	C. Pressler
B. Corcoran	C. MacMurchaidh	A. Sinnott

The President opened the meeting and formally welcomed Dr Anne Lodge, Principal of the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE) to her first meeting of Academic Council, noting that CICE had recently signed a formal linkage agreement with DCU (*see also item 7.1*).

1.   Adoption of agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues

2.   Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 11 February 2015

The minutes of 11 February 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising

The President indicated that the issues relating to the agenda of Academic Council, which were raised in the informal discussion following the last Academic Council meeting, had been noted and would be addressed in due course. He added that, in the interim, he would welcome proposals for topics for discussion from Council members.

4.   Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 3 December 2014, 4 February 2015 and 4 March 2015

The minutes were approved.

5.   Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 15 January 2015 and 26 February 2015

The minutes were approved.

6.   Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 21 January 2015

The minutes were approved.

B: **Policy and strategy issues**

7.   **President's report**

7.1   With regard to Incorporation, a significant milestone has been reached in the signing of the linkage agreement with the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE), which was formally approved by Governing Authority on 12 February 2015. DCU is now the sole accrediting body of CICE programmes and all three Colleges involved in Incorporation are now formally linked to DCU. The President acknowledged Dr Anne Lodge, Principal of CICE and Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Vice President for Academic Affairs (Registrar) for their significant work on the agreement.

With respect to the broader process, the Incorporation Board, which meets every two weeks, is focused on the September 2015 milestone to ensure that all necessary systems are in place.

It was further noted that work was ongoing to finalise the configuration of Schools in the two main Faculties affected by Incorporation.

The President confirmed that there is strong support for Incorporation from the Department of Education and Skills and the HEA. He noted that the annual budgetary meeting with the HEA will take place in the week of 13 April 2015, while funding of Incorporation is handled through a separate process.

7.2   As reported in the media, the President noted that DCU has preferred bidder status for All Hallows College and negotiations are currently taking place.

7.3   Congratulations and thanks were extended to all those involved in the graduation ceremonies that took place on 28 March 2015 and in particular the Registry, for the very efficient and effective organisation of the event.

7.4   Noting the recent signing of the Athena Swan Charter, which aims to advance the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics, the President also indicated that the Aurora initiative, which is a leadership development programme for women in higher education, is being pursued by DCUBS.

7.5   The President reminded members that DCU will host the 2015 Times Higher Education Young Universities Summit (YUS) and indicated that university Presidents from five continents are expected to attend. The announcement of the THE top 100 under 50 rankings will take place during the summit.

7.6   CAO data from the 1 February 2015 cut-off deadline has been confirmed and the President <u>noted</u> that the overall numbers of preferences, particularly for programmes associated with Incorporation, appeared positive from the DCU perspective. He indicated that the focus for Marketing and Communications would now be on change of mind deadlines, with particular emphasis on the STEM programmes.

7.7   The Educational Trust will hold an event over the coming weeks to formally announce a new Student Centre, which will cost €14 million. It was <u>noted</u> that €8 million was raised from the Students' Union and the remaining €6 million was raised mainly from private donors.

        The establishment of the funded Chair in Assessment in Education was <u>noted</u>.

7.8   The President <u>noted</u> that on 26 February 2015, honorary doctorates had been conferred on Mr. Brian Cody, Dr Pearse Lyons and Dr Margaret MacCurtain. He <u>noted</u> too the positive impact of such an important university event.

7.9   The most recent Nobel Laureate lecture was delivered on 13 April 2015 by Ms. Leymah Gbowee, a Liberian peace activist, and proved very inspiring. Over 200 secondary school students attended. The importance of engaging DCU undergraduate students in such events was <u>noted</u>.

8.   Presentation by Professor L. Looney, Dean of Graduate Studies, on the National Framework for Doctoral Education

        Professor L. Looney made a presentation on the National Framework for Doctoral Education which is due to be launched shortly. In the discussion which followed the commitment within the Framework of equipping doctoral students with career enhancing skills, whilst maintaining Graduate Training Elements as optional was raised. It was also <u>noted</u> that the duration of funding greatly influences the amount of time that can be set aside for further skills' development for research students. It was <u>noted</u> too that the alignment by the funding agencies to the Framework will be a key factor in its roll-out.

Related to equipping doctoral students with career enhancing skills as indicated above, it was <u>noted</u> that not all learning is necessarily accredited and the Graduate Studies Office is currently investigating the development of the E-portfolio for use by research students.

The President thanked Professor L. Looney for her clear and comprehensive presentation.

At this point the President left the meeting and the remainder of the meeting was chaired by the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Registrar).

9.   **Presentation by Professor Barry McMullin, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Computing and Mr David Molloy, School of Electronic Engineering on Guru**

The Vice President for Academic Affairs (Registrar) introduced the presentation noting that Senior Management and Executive had recently approved the roll-out of the Guru system across DCU.

Professor B. McMullin and Mr. D. Molloy demonstrated the Digital Examination Subsystem of Guru, which enables the electronic submission of examination papers to external examiners and also provides Programme Chairpersons with a range of detailed reports on student achievement across programme modules. It was <u>noted</u> that further related subsystems will be developed over the coming year.

Following the presentation the following items were noted:

- It was clarified that the system uses a secure means of access verification.
- The system is technically available in DCU from September 2015 and discussions will take place at School and Faculty level in relation to the roll-out of the system.
- Mr. D Molloy and Professor B.McMullin were congratulated on the development of the system and wished every success in its commercialisation.
- Professor B. McMullin announced that Enterprise Ireland had just granted funding of €300,000 over the next 18 months to support the commercialisation of the system.

C: **Items for formal approval/noting**

10.   **Items from recent subcommittees of Academic Council**

Approved.

11.   **Accreditation report: MEd in Specific Learning Difficulties/Dyslexia**

Approved.

12.   **Accreditation report: MA in Irish Studies**

Approved.

13.   **Accreditation report: LLM in Law**

Approved.

14.   **Report from the Director of Quality**

Noted

15.   **Report on INTRA Activities 2014**

Noted.

16.   **Any other business**

There were no items.

Date of next meeting:

<div style="border:1px solid">

Wednesday 10 June 2015
2.00 p.m. in AG01

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Signed: _____   Date: _____
            President