

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

7 June 2017

2.00 – 3.00. p.m.

AG01, DCU Glasnevin Campus

PRESENT:

F. Blin	G. Hughes	B. Ní Áingléis
C. Brennan	M. Irwin-Bannon (Secretary)	K. Nolan
P. Brereton	B. Kelly (Chair)	R. O'Connor
J. Bruen	A. Looney	S. O'Neill
J. Bruton	L. Looney	N. O'Reilly
M. Butler	C. MacMurchaidh	J. Rami
S. Cullan	A. Matthews	R. Sadleir
J. Donoghue	E. McGlynn	A. Stevenson
N. Dunne	C. McGonagle	M R Sweeney
B. Flood	A. McKenna	P. Tiernan
C. Gurrin	P. McMorrow	J. Travers
D. Hand	E. McNulty	P. Young
C. Holland	P. Mooney	

APOLOGIES:

C. Bohan	A. Kearns	F. Murphy
J. Brunton	D. Keogh	D. Nic Mhathúna
D. Collings	P. Landais	M. O'Brien
P. Davis	Q. Liu	E. O'Riordan
E. Costello	J. Lovatt	M. Quinn
G. French	B. MacCraith	A. Sinnott
E. Guilfoyle	D. McKeon	J. Stokes
		B. Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE:

K. Johnston (Item 8)

The Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning informed Council that due to the unavoidable absence of the President and the Vice President Academic Affairs/Registrar he had been requested to Chair the meeting of Academic Council.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A: Minutes and related issues

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 12 April 2017

Approved, subject to the addition of one Council member to the attendance list

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 15 March 2017 and 5 April 2017

The minutes were approved.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 30 March 2017

The minutes were approved.

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 2 March 2017 and 20 April 2017

The minutes were approved.

B. Policy and strategy issues**7. President's report (oral report)**

There were no updates, as the President was unavailable to attend.

8. Presentation on Irish Survey of Student Engagement 2017

Ms Karen Johnston presented on the DCU results for the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) 2017.

The following were noted from the presentation made:

- There were approximately 2,300 responses by DCU students to the survey however the response rate was down 5%, from 31% last year to 26% this year. Mitigating factors such as conflicting events (e.g. reading week, placements, SU election), and students not necessarily seeing the benefit in responding to the survey were noted.
- The overall ISSE response rate nationally was 27% which was an increase of 5% from last year.
- The qualitative information provided through the survey is of a good quality and will be disseminated to Schools and Faculties in June 2017.
- It is anticipated that programme level reports will be made available in July 2017
- The key issues which emerged for students were feedback from, and interaction with, academic members of staff.

The following points were noted from the discussion which ensued:

- Some Schools indicated that they are already aware of the issues with respect to feedback but feel that additional resources are necessary to address the issue
- It was suggested that other possibilities could be explored to address timely feedback e.g. review design of assessment

9. Update to Marks and Standards 2017.1

The Chair outlined the changes to Marks and Standards drawing Council's attention to the following:

- The proposal that entry at Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma level with follow-on Diploma/Master's be offered for taught postgraduate programmes.
- The addition of award titles related to Erasmus Mundus Joint taught programmes (paragraph 1.2.3).
- Change to classification of taught Master's award: moving from first class, second class, pass to first class, second class, grade I, second class grade II and third class (paragraph 8.4.2). It is noted that no retrospection will apply.
- Addition of a regulation pertaining to weighted average module (paragraph 3.3.2 and glossary no. 16).
- Addition of a regulation with respect to the continuous assessment/examination split for category 3 modules (paragraph 7.2.3.6).
- Addition of Section 10, *Revocation of Awards or Credits*.
- A more detailed table of contents, minor edits/corrections to ensure consistency with related documentation and minor changes to format are also proposed.

In the discussion which followed the following were noted:

- The option to offer entry at Grad Certificate and Graduate Diploma level may have a detrimental effect on recurrent grant funding as there is an additional 50% granted for registered Master's students i.e. if a student is registered on a Graduate Diploma on 1st March (the date on which the student numbers are captured for funding purposes) but intends to continue to graduate with a Master's, there will be a loss of funding (50%) for that student in that particular funding year.
- It was noted that Schools and Faculties should be aware of this impact; however a direct effect of providing entry at Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma level could be an increase in the numbers of students registering.
- A query arose with respect to the change of ECTS credits attributed to Research Master's as amended in Marks and Standards (120-180 ECTS credits) and its alignment with Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis (normally 180 credits). Following discussion it was agreed that the amendment would remain in place, however it was recognised that an alignment between Marks and Standards and Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis would need to take place.
- It was clarified that the award titles list as outlined in paragraph 1.2 was not a full and exhaustive list of existing DCU programme/award titles but a list of accepted titles for programmes going forward. It was clarified that a case can be made at validation stage for a title other than those listed.

The amendments to Marks and Standards 2017.1 were approved.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

10. Items from recent sub-committees of Academic Council

Approved

11. Report from Director of Quality Promotion

Noted

12. Accreditation Reports:

12.1 MEd in Literacy Professional Practice

Approved

12.2 MA in Refugee Integration

Approved

13. Any other business

There were no items.

Signed: _____
President

Date _____

Date of next meeting:

**19 June 2017
2:00 pm in AG01
DCU Glasnevin Campus**