UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 31 March 2016 in A204

9.30 – 10.15 am

Present: Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Jennifer Bruen**,** Dr Deirdre Butler**,** Dr Brian Corcoran, Dr Eamon Costello, Dr Greg Foley, Ms. Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Dr David McKeon, Ms. Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Caroline McMullan, Dr Pádraig Ó Duibhir, Ms. Michele Pringle, Dr Joseph Stokes

Apologies: Mr. James Donoghue, Dr Mark Glynn, Ms. Barbara McConalogue, Professor Lisa Looney, Dr Andrew O'Regan, Professor Kevin Rafter, Ms. Annabella Stover

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1.   Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one item under AOB as follows:

- Acknowledgement of contribution of deceased student by the Programme Board of the BEng in Manufacturing Engineering with Business Studies.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 25 February 2016

The minutes of the meeting of 25 February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes

3.1   Dr Greg Foley provided background information on the remaining MSc in Plasma and Vacuum Technology students whose registrations will potentially be outside the maximum registration period allowed and who have attained 45 credits.   It was

<u>agreed</u> in the specific and unique circumstances of this programme that the Programme Chairperson would be asked to contact the students concerned and advise them that they could opt to exit with a Graduate Diploma should they not wish to continue with the Master's programme (Item 3.10).

3.2   The *DCU Feedback to Support Student Learning Policy* document was circulated. Following discussion on a suggested amendment to specify a timeframe within which a module co-ordinator would provide feedback, it was <u>agreed</u> that rather than amend the policy, it would be emphasised to module co-ordinators that when assigning assessments, specific details should be provided to students on when, where and how feedback will be provided.

It was <u>noted</u> that it was intended that the *Feedback to Support Student Learning Policy* and other related Teaching and Learning items would be gathered together in one central online location for ease of staff and student use.

3.3   It was <u>noted</u> that the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy was under consideration (Item 3.1).

3.4   It was <u>noted</u> that the drafting of proposals with respect to issues related to the external examiners' process was ongoing (Item 3.2).

3.5   It was <u>noted</u> that the follow-up with respect to a legacy re-admission candidate on the MA in International Relations programme was completed. It was <u>noted</u> that the candidate was not in a position to apply for re-admission at this time (Item 3.4).

3.6   It was <u>noted</u> that the update with respect to Akari was awaiting further system development (Item 10.1).

3.7   It was <u>noted</u> that the Faculty of Science and Health would submit a proposal with respect to the devolving to Faculty of the decision to register students, already registered on a programme, for stand-alone modules, at the May 2016 USC meeting (Item 6.1).

4.   External examiners for taught programmes

4.1   <u>Nominations</u>

4.1.1   Professor Philip Dine, NUI Galway
Modules in the School of Applied Languages & Intercultural Studies
<u>Approved</u>

4.1.2   Professor Andrew Rothwell, Swansea University
        Modules in the School of Applied Languages & Intercultural Studies
        <u>Approved</u>

4.1.3   Dr Mei Lin, Newcastle University
        Modules in the School of Applied Languages & Intercultural Studies
        <u>Approved</u>

4.1.4   Dr Maurice Walsh, Brunel University London
        BA in Journalism and MA in Journalism
        <u>Approved</u>

4.1.5   Professor Paul Callanan, UCC
        BSc in Applied Physics, BSc in Physics with Astronomy & BSc in Physics with
        Biomedical Sciences
        <u>Approved</u>

4.1.6   Professor Deanne den Hartog, University of Amsterdam
        MSc in Work & Organisational Psychology/Behaviour
        <u>Approved</u>

4.1.7   Dr Joss Hands, University of Newcastle
        MA in Film & Television Studies, MA in Social Media Communications
        <u>Approved</u>

4.2   Changes to duties

No items were submitted for the consideration of USC.

5.   Other issues

5.1   Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

5.1.1   Readmission request on a legacy basis: MSc in Guidance Counselling

The re-admission was <u>approved</u> subject to the following amendments to the
application form, the final version of which is to be re-submitted for the final
approval of the Chair of USC.

- The answer to question 1 should be indicated as 'no' as the candidate has not completed all academic requirements for the programme.
- The answer to question 3 should be reworded to make it clear that the candidate will be completing a taught Masters.
- Question 4, ' n/a' should be deleted and details of the applicant's professional/personal development inserted.
- Under question 7, the Programme Board should specify how the precision mark and overall classification will be arrived at for this candidate for the award of MSc in Guidance Counselling.

5.2   Faculty of Science & Health

5.2.1   Readmission request on a legacy basis:
         MSc in Integrative Counselling & Psychotherapy
         Approved

C.   Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6.   Marks and Standards issues

The Chair outlined that at a recent meeting, where the Appeals process was being considered, concerns were raised regarding the number of modules where a continuous assessment resit attempt was not offered (category 3 module). He emphasised that a category 3 module classification should only be used when the learning outcomes of the module can not be assessed in an alternative way.   He requested that Schools would revisit and review their category 3 modules to ensure that this was the case.

It was agreed that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education would provide a report to University Standards Committee in this regard at its next meeting.

7.   Incorporation Update

It was noted that there were no elements of Incorporation impacting on the work of USC at this time.

8.   Any other business

8.1   Clarification on criteria for appointing retired external examiners

In response to a query, the Chair outlined that in order for a retired academic to be considered for appointment as an external examiner, he/she needs to maintain an active research profile.

8.2   Recognition of contribution of a deceased student by the Programme Board of the BEng in Manufacturing Engineering with Business Studies

It was noted, in the particular circumstances of this student, that he was not eligible to be considered for an aegrotat award. However, it was agreed that the policy should be revisited so that it may be possible for USC to consider recommending a posthumous award based on the credits achieved by the student.

End

Signed:_____   Date: _____
          Chair

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 26 May 2016
9.30 a.m. in A204