

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 7 June 2007

9.00 a.m.-10.20 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor Maria Slowey (Chair), Mr Jonathan Begg, Ms Olivia Bree, Professor Martin Henry, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Dr Andrew McGrady, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Gerry McNamara, Professor Heather Ruskin, Dr Anne Sinnott, Mr Brendan Tolan

Apologies: Dr Françoise Blin, Mr Eoin Byrne, Ms Jean Hughes, Dr Ronnie Saunders

In attendance: Dr Bryan MacDonald (representing the Teaching and Learning function in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing)

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the deletion of Item 4 and the inclusion of one new submission under Item 10.1, five new submissions under Item 10.2, one new submission under Item 11.1 and one submission under Item 13.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2007

Confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.

- 3.2** Noted that the issue of the devolution to Faculties of some activities might partially be addressed in the context of the proposed establishment of a Graduate Studies Board (or similar title), but that arrangements still remained to be made in respect of some other activities (those not relating to research students). (Item 3.2)
- 3.3** Noted that proposals in relation to the Academic Framework for Innovation would be the subject of an oral report to the 13 June meeting of Academic Council and a written submission to the 25 June meeting of Council. (Item 3.3)
- 3.4** Agreed to re-establish the working group to discuss issues relating to the delivery and award of programmes by DCU and another institution, or other institutions, with Ms McDermott as chair. (Item 3.5)
- 3.5** Noted that Dr Noel Murphy had carried out extensive consultation in relation to the proposed new report form for external examiners for taught programmes but that, in his new capacity as Head of the School of Electronic Engineering, he would not be in a position to continue this work. Agreed that Ms McDermott would request from him details of the conclusions available to date on the basis of the consultation, and that the work would then be finalised. (Item 3.6)
- 3.6** Noted that a policy statement relating to the decision-making processes used by the Disciplinary Committee would be submitted to a future meeting of Academic Council. (Item 3.7)
- 3.7** Noted that it would be possible to add a note to the Diploma Supplement to indicate that a Master's programme had had a credit rating of 75 and the rating had subsequently been changed to 90. Agreed that Ms McMorrow would consult Faculty Offices about the desirability of doing this. (Item 6)
- 3.8** Noted that Dr Gary Murphy, Director of Graduate Research, had submitted a proposal on graduate studies to Academic Council for its meeting of 13 June. (Item 7)
- 3.9** Noted that one of the proposals made by Dr Murphy (see 3.8 above) was for the establishment of a Graduate Studies Board (or similar title) which would be chaired by Dr Murphy, would meet alternately with the University Standards Committee, and would consider, *inter alia*, the range of issues relating to research students which is currently dealt with by the USC. (Item 7)
- 3.10** Noted that a School which had been requested to identify an alternative potential external examiner to the person originally nominated had done so and that the new nomination was on the agenda of the present meeting. (Items 8.1.2)

3.11 Noted that a School which had been requested to confirm the dates of appointment of two nominated external examiners had done so, that one nomination had therefore been deemed approved and that the other was now the subject of discussion within the School, with approval not being sought until the discussion had ended. (Item 8.1.7 and 8.1.8)

3.12 Noted that a School which had been requested to clarify the dates of appointment and proposed duties for a nominated external examiner had done so and that the nomination had therefore been deemed approved. (Item 8.1.10)

4. Proposal arising from decision on marks bands

Deleted from the agenda.

5. Proposal on revised English language requirements

Approved. Noted that there was concern within the University about the standard of academic English of some overseas students notwithstanding the fact that they had met the general English language requirements. Agreed to request Dr Claire Bohan, Director of Student Affairs, to address a future meeting of the University Standards Committee about this issue. Noted that the International Foundation Programme would in future have a wider remit which would allow scope for offering further support to students in relation to academic English.

6. Proposal on revised supplementary admissions procedure for applicants with disabilities

6.1 Approved subject the inclusion of flexibility with regard to the composition of the Disability Admissions Committee, particularly as far as the role of the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning is concerned; noted that it might be helpful to include the staff member responsible for disability in each Faculty rather than the Associate Dean. On behalf of the University Standards Committee, the Chair expressed thanks to Mr Pat Hoey, Disability Officer, for his work on this issue.

6.2 Noted that the HEA was to require higher education institutions to gather additional data on non-traditional students, including students with disabilities.

7. Proposal for readmission of a student following a protracted absence

7.1 Approved subject to the student being required to complete the degree programme in the shortest possible time. The student will therefore not be allowed to defer any part of the programme, though s/he may still avail of the standard number of repeat examination attempts if necessary.

7.2 Noted that Section 29 of *Marks and Standards*, which deals with minimum and maximum times and modes of attendance, does not distinguish between a student who requests a deferral because of illness or some other adverse circumstance and a student who chooses to request a deferral in the absence of any such circumstances.

8. Revised nomination form: external examiners for taught programmes

Both the revised nomination form (EE1) and a new supplementary form (EE2) designed to cater for requests for reappointment and changes to duties were approved. Appreciation was expressed to Ms Claudine Devereux of Student Awards in the Registry for her work in relation to this issue.

9. *Marks and Standards* for 2007/2008 for the Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) in St Patrick's College

Noted and approved.

INTERIM BUSINESS ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL**10. Appointment of external examiners****10.1 Taught programmes**

10.1.1 Dr A Crilly, University of Ulster
Modules in the School of Communications
Approved.

10.1.2 Professor G King, University of Manchester
Modules the School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

10.1.3 Professor B Axelsson, Stockholm School of Economics
MBS in Strategic Procurement, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.

- 10.1.4 Professor S Mac Mathúna, University of Ulster
Modules in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 10.1.5 Dr A Feng, Durham University
Modules in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 10.1.6 *Retrospective reappointment*
Mr P Dean, University of Luton
BSc in Multimedia and MSc in Multimedia, School of Communications
Approved.
- 10.1.7 *Reappointment*
Professor D Hillier, University of Leeds
Graduate Certificate in Corporate Treasury and MSc in Finance and
Capital Markets, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.
- 10.1.8 *Addition to duties*
Professor D Mitchell, Manchester Metropolitan University
Module in the School of Nursing
Approved.
- 10.1.9 *Reappointment*
Dr S Aylwin, University College Cork
Graduate Diploma/MSc in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy,
(Turning Point), School of Nursing
Approved.
- 10.1.10 *Reappointment*
Dr A Rickard, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Modules in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 10.1.11 Dr R Davis, University of Glasgow
Modules on the EdD programme in St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 10.1.12 Dr J Gleeson, University of Limerick
Modules on the EdD programme in St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 10.1.13 Professor H Gunter, University of Manchester
Modules on the EdD programme in St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 10.1.14 Dr D Male, Institute of Education, University of London
Modules on the EdD programme in St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 10.1.15 Professor D Reay, University of Cambridge
Modules on the EdD programme in St Patrick's College
Approved.

10.1.16 *Changes to duties*

Dr R Crawshaw, Lancaster University
Professor L O'Dowd, Queen's University, Belfast
Dr D Smith, University College Dublin
Professor T Hartley, University of Leeds
Ms M Yamashita, University of Birmingham
Dr M Rogers, University of Surrey
Modules in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.

10.1.17 Professor M Brake, University of Glamorgan
MSc in Science Communication
Approved.

10.2 Postgraduate research students

- 10.2.1 Professor P Engel, University College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.1, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 10.2.2 Professor Å Sternesjö, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 10.2.3 Dr J Kiniry, University College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.3, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.4 Dr D Barbosa, University of Calgary
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.4, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.5 Dr S Weibelzahl, National College of Ireland
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.5, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.6 Dr A Vallecillo, University of Málaga
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.6, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.7 Mr N Whyte, Institute of Technology, Carlow
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.7, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.8 Dr S Clark, Sheffield Hallam University
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.8, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 10.2.9 Professor M Mars, University of Salamanca
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.9, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved.

- 10.2.10 Dr N Quinlan, National University of Ireland, Galway
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.10, MEng, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.11 Dr T Curran, University College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.11, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 10.2.12 Professor S Gong, Queen Mary, University of London
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.12, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.13 Dr V Wade, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.13, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.14 Professor S Boll, University of Oldenburg
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.14, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.15 Professor G Greenway, University of Hull
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.15, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 10.2.16 Professor S Kasap, University of Saskatchewan, Canada
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.16, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.17 Dr G O'Donnell, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.17, MEng, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.18 Dr J Power, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.18, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.19 Dr H Roche, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.19, MSc, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 10.2.20 Dr C Stenson-Cox, National University of Ireland, Galway
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.20, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 10.2.21 Professor M Reiss, Institute of Education, University of London
Dr R Jarman, Queen's University, Belfast
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.21, PhD, School of Communications
Approved.
- 10.2.22 Professor A Sullivan, Queen Mary, University of London
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.22, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.

- 10.2.23 Dr P Duggan, Waterford Institute of Technology
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.23, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 10.2.24 Dr F Timmins, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.24, MSc, School of Nursing
Approved.
- 10.2.25 Professor G O’Sullivan, University College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.25, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 10.2.26 Dr T Heift, Simon Fraser University, Canada
Dr M Schulze, University of Waterloo, Canada
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.26, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.27 Professor D Vernon, Etisalat University College, United Arab Emirates
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.27, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.28 Professor L de Sousa, Universidad Técnica de Lisboa
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.28, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.29 Dr J Wu, University of Ottawa, Canada
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.29, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.30 Dr C Bleakley, University College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.30, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.31 Professor A Zisserman, University of Oxford
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.31, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.32 Professor J Sheehan, Diakonhjemmet University College, Oslo
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.32, PhD, All Hallows College
Approved.
- 10.2.33 Professor B Sarkadi, National Medical Centre, Hungary
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.33, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 10.2.34 Dr H Roche, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.34, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 10.2.35 Professor P Visich, Central Michigan University
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.35, PhD, School of Health and Human
Performance
Approved.

- 10.2.36 Professor J Tait, University of Sunderland
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.36, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 10.2.37 Dr Y Wu, University of Ottawa, Canada
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.37, MEng, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.38 Dr P Corcoran, National University of Ireland, Galway
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.38, MEng, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.39 Dr G Lacey, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.39, MEng, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.40 Professor R J Millar, University of Ulster
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.40, MEng, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.41 Dr PJ Cregg, Waterford Institute of Technology
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.41, PhD, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 10.2.42 Dr L Pitchford, CNRS, Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.42, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 10.2.43 Dr E Sweeney, Waterford Institute of Technology
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.43, PhD, Music Department,
St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 10.2.44 Dr E Sweeney, Waterford Institute of Technology
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.44, MA, Music Department,
St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 10.2.45 Professor C Goulding, University of Wolverhampton
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.45, PhD, Dublin City University
Business School
Approved.
- 10.2.46 Professor M Saren, University of Leicester
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.46, PhD, Dublin City University
Business School
Approved.

- 10.2.47 Professor J Squires, University of Bristol
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.47, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 10.2.48 Dr J McGinley, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.48, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 10.2.49 Dr B Murray, Institute of Technology, Tallaght
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.49, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 10.2.50 Dr F Eves, University of Birmingham
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.50, PhD, School of Health and Human
Performance
Approved.
- 10.2.51 Professor R Mansell, London School of Economics and Political Science
Student ref. USC/2007/U3/10.2.51, PhD, School of Communications.
Approved.

Noted that research students should play no role whatsoever in the selection and nomination of an external examiner, and agreed that this would be stressed to one School which had slightly involved a student, though not on a basis that, in the view of the University Standards Committee, rendered the nominations unfit for approval.

Noted that a certain lack of clarity existed as to which members of a School were entitled to sign external examiner nomination forms, and agreed that, while this had not caused any problems in practice, it would none the less be brought to the attention of Dr Gary Murphy.

11. Postgraduate research matters

11.1 Applications to transfer to the PhD register

- 11.1.1 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.1, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 11.1.2 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.2, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 11.1.3 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.3, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 11.1.4 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.4, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 11.1.5 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.5, School of Nursing
Approved.

- 11.1.6 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.6, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 11.1.7 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.7, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 11.1.8 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.8, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 11.1.9 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.9, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 11.1.10 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.10, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 11.1.11 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.11, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 11.1.12 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.12, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 11.1.13 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.1.13, School of Biotechnology
Approved.

11.2 Request for change of registration from MSc to PhD

- 11.2.1 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.2.1, School of Computing
Approved.

11.3 Requests to change supervisory arrangements

- 11.3.1 Student ref. USC/2007/U3/11.3.1, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.
- 11.3.2 Student ref. USC/2007/11.3.2, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 11.3.3 Student ref. USC/2007/11.3.3, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.

Noted that no particular procedure existed in relation to a request for a change of supervisor where the proposed new supervisor was from a different School from the original supervisor. Agreed that, while no problems in relation to this issue were apparent, it would none the less be mentioned to Dr Gary Murphy.

12. Request for module exemption

BA in Economics, Politics and Law (1 candidate)

Approved.

13. Proposal for the deposit of theses in electronic formats

The proposal was approved in principle, but it was agreed to request the working group which had proposed it to include some additional detail in relation to security issues and, if possible, to circulate the revised proposal to the members of the University Standards Committee electronically so that, if approved, it could be submitted for approval to the 25 June meeting of Academic Council.

Date of next meeting:**5 September 2007 (Graduate Studies Board or similar title)****4 October 2007 (University Standards Committee)**Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____