UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday 1 June 2006

9.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. in A204

Present:	Professor Maria Slowey (Chair), Mr Jonathan Begg, Dr Françoise Blin, Ms Olivia Bree, Mr Kevin Griffin, Ms Jean Hughes, Ms Louise McDermott (Recording Secretary), Dr Andrew McGrady, Dr Noel Murphy, Ms Yvonne Tuohy
Apologies:	Professor Martin Henry, Professor Eugene Kennedy, Professor Heather Ruskin, Dr Ronnie Saunders, Dr Anne Sinnott
In attendance:	Mr Eoin Byrne

The Chair welcomed Mr Eoin Byrne, the incoming Education and Welfare Officer of the Students' Union, who is to become a member of the University Standards Committee with effect from 1 July 2006. She expressed sincere appreciation, on behalf of the Committee, to Ms Yvonne Tuohy, the outgoing Officer, for her very significant contribution to the work of the Committee, and previously to that of Standing Committee of Academic Council, in 2005/06.

1.   **Adoption of agenda**

       The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of three additional submissions under Item 13.1, five additional submissions under Item 13.2 and three additional submissions under Item 14.2.

2.   **Minutes of the meeting of 14 April 2006**

       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   <u>Noted</u> that discussions were in progress with regard to the management of a number of issues formerly dealt with by Standing Committee of Academic Council. (Item 1a)

3.3   <u>Noted</u> that a number of issues relating to the standing orders and membership of the USC would be resolved shortly. (Items 1b, 2d and 2e)

3.4   <u>Noted</u> that Professor Heather Ruskin would represent the Associate Deans for Research on the USC. (Item 2f)

3.5   <u>Noted</u> that discussions were ongoing with regard to proposals about programmes in the School of Electronic Engineering. (Item 9)

3.6   <u>Noted</u> that, at the first meeting of the Academic Strategy Committee (scheduled for 16 June 2006), detailed discussions on procedures for validation would take place.

3.7   A request from the Faculty of Science and Health in respect of student attendance at a summer school was <u>approved</u>. (Item 10)

3.8   Further information is to be sought about a query involving a change to the offering type of a programme. (Item 16)

4.   Report from meeting of Working Group on Modularisation of 24 May 2006

Following a very detailed and wide-ranging discussion, it was <u>agreed</u> that the report, the thrust of which was broadly welcomed, would be circulated to the members of the USC for further comment and that an updated report would be made to Executive and Academic Council.

Among the issues raised in the discussion were the following:

- the possibility of combining 2.5-credit modules if 5-credit modules become the standard unit of currency
- the importance of aligning module descriptors with the level at which modules are offered
- the possibility of replacing references to the current DCU levels with references to the levels appropriate to the NQAI framework

- the ways in which levels within programmes might be designated more flexibly than is the case at present, e.g. by the use of terms such as introductory, intermediate and advanced
- the potential that existed for the abolition of the concept of years as distinct from levels (though there was a recognition of the fact that the outcome of ongoing discussions on funding mechanisms would influence this)
- the extent to which the same module might be deemed to have different learning outcomes depending on the group to which it was taught
- the importance of the upcoming Strategic Innovation Fund in terms of planning for undergraduate teaching
- the importance of using the budgetary model to facilitate interdisciplinary teaching
- the importance of providing advice and support to students in a flexible modular system
- the need to align assessment methods and strategies and learning outcomes
- the possibility that the template for module descriptors would need to be redesigned to take account of ongoing developments
- the relationship between timetabling and modular systems
- the role of study weeks.

Agreed that Mr Begg would send the Chair a document outlining the ways in which timetabling and pedagogical priorities interact with each other and that these issues would be incorporated into the development of the updated report referred to above.

The Chair expressed her appreciation to the members of the Working Group on Modularisation for their very significant contribution to the extensive discussion which had taken place to date on modularisation and a range of related issues.

5.   Proposal on Interdisciplinary Programme Board

The potential importance of such a board, in view of many of the issues raised under Item 4 above, was noted.

6.   Proposal on compensation regulations

Noted that this proposal would be discussed at the 14 June 2006 meeting of Academic Council.

7.   Proposal on notional learning time per module

Agreed that this issue would be addressed in the context of the more general proposal on modularisation referred to under Item 4 above.

8.   NQAI levels and DCU programmes

Agreed that Mr Griffin would discuss this issue with each of the Faculties with a view to putting a proposal to Academic Council in the near future.

9.   Credit for taught Master's programmes

Noted that this proposal would be discussed at the 14 June 2006 meeting of Academic Council. Agreed that discussions would be needed to take account of variations in the ways in which credits were allocated across different programmes.

10.   Joint degrees across institutions

Discussion deferred.

11.   External examining of taught programmes - procedures

Discussion deferred.

12.   Student feedback systems

Discussion deferred.

INTERIM BUSINESS ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

13.   Appointment of external examiners

13.1   Taught programmes

13.1.1   Dr V Politis, Trinity College Dublin
         Modules in All Hallows College
         Approved.

13.1.2   Dr P Mason, University of Cardiff
         Modules in the School of Communications
         Approved.
13.1.3   Dr K Sanders, University of Sheffield
         Modules in the School of Communications
         Approved.
13.1.4   Professor D Mitchell, Manchester Metropolitan University
         Modules in the School of Nursing
         Approved.
13.1.5   Ms Sue Higham, Thames Valley University
         Modules in the School of Nursing
         Approved.
13.1.6   Professor B Leahy, St Patrick's College, Maynooth
         Modules in St Patrick's College
         Approved.
13.1.7   *Extension of appointment*
         Mr Michael Heney, RTÉ
         Modules in the School of Communications
         Approved.
13.1.8   *Reappointment*
         Mr T Twomey, Limerick Institute of Technology
         Modules in Oscail
         Approved.
13.1.9   Dr J McBryde, University of Strathclyde
         Modules in Oscail
         Approved.
13.1.10 Dr M Oliver, Institute of Education, London
         Modules in the School of Education Studies
         Approved.

13.2   Postgraduate research students

13.2.1   Dr J Donlon, National University of Ireland, Galway
         Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.1, MSc, School of Biotechnology
         Approved.
13.2.2   Professor T McCarthy, University College Cork
         Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology
         Approved.
13.2.3   Dr G Walsh, University of Limerick
         Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.3, PhD, School of Biotechnology
         Approved.
13.2.4   Professor S G Mayhew, University College Dublin
         Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.4, PhD, School of Biotechnology
         Approved.

13.2.5   Professor R Galvez-Cloutier, Laval University, Quebec
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.5, PhD, School of Biotechnology
          Approved.
13.2.6   Professor V Beattie, University of Glasgow
          Professor H Mellett, Cardiff Business School
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.6, PhD, Dublin City University
          Business School
          Approved.
13.2.7   Professor C Goodhart, London School of Economics
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.7, PhD, Dublin City University
          Business School
          Approved.
13.2.8   Dr S Bell, Queen's University Belfast
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.8, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
          Approved.
13.2.9   Dr N Geraghty, National University of Ireland, Galway
          Professor A Maguire, University College Cork
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.9, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
          Approved.
13.2.10   Professor D de Rossi, University of Pisa
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.10, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
          Approved.
13.2.11   Dr S Moane, Limerick Institute of Technology
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.11, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
          Approved.
13.2.12   Professor S Lunte, University of Kansas
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.12, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
          Approved.
13.2.13   Professor A P de Silva, Queen's University Belfast
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.13, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
          Approved.
13.2.14   Dr N Hurley, University College Dublin
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.14, PhD, School of Computing
          Approved.
13.2.15   Dr J Power, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.15, MSc, School of Computing
          Approved.
13.2.16   Dr M Emms, Trinity College Dublin
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.16, PhD, School of Computing
          Approved.
13.2.17   Dr D Meurers, Ohio State University
          Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.17, PhD, School of Computing
          Approved.

13.2.18 Dr A Morrison, University College Cork
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.18, MEng, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.

13.2.19 Professor H G Perros, North Carolina State University
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.19, PhD, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.

13.2.20 Professor T Griffin, University of Cambridge
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.20, PhD, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.

13.2.21 Professor B Cousin, Université de Rennes
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.21, PhD, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.

13.2.22 Dr P Sapaty, National Academy of Sciences, Kiev
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.22, PhD, School of Electronic
Engineering
Approved.

13.2.23 Dr A Shafat, University of Limerick
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.23, MSc, School of Health and
Human Performance
Approved.

13.2.24 Dr D Geraghty, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.24, MEng, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

13.2.25 Dr D Toal, University of Limerick
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.25, MEng, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

13.2.26 Dr N Sims, University of Sheffield
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.26, PhD, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

13.2.27 Professor S Wilks, Swansea University
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.27, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

13.2.28 Professor K Grattan, City University, London
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.28, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

13.2.29 Professor C Murray, University College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.29, PhD, English Department,
St Patrick's College
Approved.

13.2.30 Dr P Caffrey, University College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.30, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.

13.2.31 Professor K Bartle, University of Leeds
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.31, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.

13.2.32 Professor T Monteiro, Universidad de Aveiro
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.32, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

13.2.33 Dr G Woods, Dublin Institute of Technology
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.33, MEng, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

13.2.34 Dr M Harris, University of Ulster
Student ref. USC/2006/A2/13.2.34, MEng, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

14.   Postgraduate research matters

14.1   Application for direct entry to the PhD register

No items.

14.2   Applications to transfer to the PhD register

14.2.1 Student ref. USC/2006/A2/14.2.1, School of Computing
Approved.

14.2.2 Student ref. USC/2006/A2/14.2.2, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

14.2.3 Student ref. USC/2006/A2/14.2.3, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.

14.2.4 Student ref. USC/2006/A2/14.2.4, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.

14.2.5 Student ref. USC/2006/A2/14.2.5, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved.

14.2.6 Student ref. USC/2006/A2/14.2.6, School of Biotechnology
Approved.

14.2.7 Student ref. USC/2006/A2/14.2.7, School of Electronic Engineering
<u>Approved.</u>

14.3   Request for change of supervisor

14.3.1 Student ref. USC/2006/A2/14.3.1, School of Physical Sciences
<u>Approved.</u>

15   Request to admit transfer student (School of Education Studies)

<u>Approved.</u>

16.   Proposal on 'cotutelle' agreement (St Patrick's College)

<u>Approved.</u> <u>Agreed</u> none the less that the possibility of having a joint degree parchment might also be explored with the University of Paris-Sorbonne Paris IV.

17.   Proposal on part-time delivery of the European Graduate Diploma/MSc in Business Informatics

<u>Approved.</u>

18.   Any other business

None

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14 September 2006

Signed: _____   Date: _____
              Chair