

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE**MINUTES**

Wednesday 14 April 2006

9.30-11.30 a.m. in A204

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

The Chair welcomed the members to the inaugural meeting of the University Standards Committee.

1. Terms of reference

- a. Noted that discussions were continuing with regard to the implementation of the recommendations on University committee structures approved by Executive on 4 April 2006.
- b. Noted that it would be important to draw up standing orders for the USC.
- c. Agreed that the term of office of the current USC should be three years plus the end of the current academic year, i.e. should be until the end of the academic year 2008-09.

2. Membership

- a. Agreed that one-third of the membership should constitute a quorum.

- b. Agreed that substitution of membership would not be permitted as a matter of course, though if a member wished to speak to an agenda item and could not be present an alternate would be welcome to attend.
- c. Noted that, in the proposals approved by Executive on 4 April 2006, the reference to representation by Faculties (through Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning) implied representation by Oscail (through a staff member deemed appropriate by Oscail).
- d. Agreed that it would be helpful to discuss with the Library, Education Services and the Computer Services Department the possibility of having one representative from these offices (perhaps on a rotating basis among the offices) on the USC. Agreed that this matter would be discussed with the Directors of these Units.
- e. Agreed that it would be desirable to consider having a Head of School and a Chairperson of Programme Board on the USC, one to come from Engineering/Science and the other to come from Humanities/Business. Agreed that this matter would be discussed with relevant parties.
- f. Noted that the Associate Deans for Research were in the process of selecting one of their number for membership of the USC.

3. Method of operation

- a. Noted that it might be desirable to consolidate some of the working groups which are currently examining a range of issues, possibly by making them into subcommittees of the University Standards Committee.
- b. Noted that, once final agreement had been reached on the implementation of the decisions on committee structures, documentation would be circulated electronically.
- c. Noted that further developments would take place with regard to issues such as the inclusion of standing items on the agenda and permission to submit late items.
- d. Noted that it would be helpful if meetings were two hours in duration.

4. Schedule of meetings

To be circulated.

5. Chair's introduction

Incorporated into Items 1-4 above.

6. Proposal to bring DCU academic structures and programme descriptions into alignment with the current state of the Bologna process and the National Framework of Qualifications process

- a. Noted that the current system of designating levels within programmes in DCU (with, for example, Level 1 typically designating the first year of an undergraduate programme and Level 5 a taught postgraduate programme) was tending to cause confusion in the light of the levels specified within the National Framework of Qualifications, and that it might be desirable to discontinue use of the DCU levels in favour of the NFQ levels. Noted also, however, that this would raise further issues about the lower years of programmes that form part of an award at a particular level and that, to overcome this, consideration might be given to assigning years within programmes to broad categories (for example, introductory, intermediate, advanced). This, in turn, raises issues relating to students who leave a programme before completion and who might, in future, be considered for a sub-degree award such as an undergraduate certificate or diploma.
- b. Agreed that it would be desirable to increase the credit rating for a taught Master's programme from the current 75 to 90, with the implication that, typically, the credit rating for the dissertation would be raised from 15 to 30. The basis for this proposal is that the current credit rating does not adequately reflect either the fact that a taught Master's programme typically lasts a calendar rather than an academic year or the amount of work involved in the dissertation vis-à-vis that involved in the taught modules. Noted that some programmes might not fit easily with the proposed new model, and agreed that discussions would have to take place on the issue with the relevant Programme Chairs.

7. First-year experience

Deferred to the next meeting.

8. Proposal for credit adjustment for taught postgraduate programmes

Discussed under Item 6 above.

9. Proposals from the School of Electronic Engineering: modifications to existing programmes

Approved in respect of proposal 1, 2 and 4. Agreed that it would be desirable to circulate proposal 3 to the outgoing Validation Committee and that the Programme Chair would be requested to provide details about the current programme structure as well as the proposed new one. Noted that it would be important, once the validation process was fully incorporated into the new committee structures, to work out principles to determine when a programme, or an addition to a programme, actually required validation and when it did not.

10. Proposal on credit recognition for summer school

Agreed that the proposal was welcome in principle but that further information should be requested about it, particularly in relation to whether or not it was proposed that students attending the school would sit a terminal examination.

11. Sub-group on *Marks and Standards*

Noted that the sub-group had agreed proposals on two issues, compensation regulations and notional learning hours per module, and that the members were willing to discuss other issues. Agreed that the sub-group should indeed continue to discuss other issues. Agreed that, since it had not been possible for the members of the USC to give the proposals on compensation regulations and notional learning hours due consideration before the meeting (they having had to be tabled at the meeting), the proposals would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

12. Procedures for monitoring external examiners' reports

Noted that there appeared to be a number of common issues arising from reports from across the University, that any process devised would need to be particularly robust, that proposals on a process would be made available soon and that the President would need to be kept informed in relation to the issue.

13. Appointment of external examiners

13.1 Taught programmes

13.1.1 *Reappointment*

Dr G Martin, Trinity College Dublin

Modules in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies

Approved.

- 13.1.2 *Additional examining duties*
Professor M Byram, University of Durham
Modules in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 13.1.3 *Reappointment*
Mr Michael Cunningham, journalist
Modules in the School of Communications
Approved.
- 13.1.4 *Reappointment*
Mr Michael Heney, RTÉ
Modules in the School of Communications
Approved.
- 13.1.5 Dr J Downey, Loughborough University
Modules in the School of Communications
Approved.
- 13.1.6 Ms A Phillips, Goldsmith's College, University of London
Modules in the School of Communications
Approved.
- 13.1.7 Dr M Pickering, Loughborough University
Modules in the School of Communications
Approved.
- 13.1.8 Ms K Southworth, University College Falmouth
Modules in the School of Communications
Approved.
- 13.1.9 Professor T Redman, University of Durham
Modules in Dublin City University Business School
Approved.
- 13.1.10 Revd E Fitzgibbon, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick
Modules in All Hallows College
Approved.
- 13.1.11 Dr P Delaney, Trinity College Dublin
Dr M Henry, St Patrick's College, Maynooth
Dr K O'Gorman, Milltown Institute
Modules in All Hallows College
Approved.
- 13.1.12 Dr P Delaney, Trinity College Dublin
Modules in All Hallows College
Approved.
- 13.1.13 Dr M Henry, St Patrick's College, Maynooth
Modules in All Hallows College
Approved.
- 13.1.14 Dr K O'Gorman, Milltown Institute
Modules in All Hallows College
Approved.

13.1.15 *Reappointments*

Professor C Lennon, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Dr M Killeavey, University College Dublin

Modules in Mater Dei Institute of Education

Approved.

13.1.16 Dr U B Agnew, Milltown Institute

Modules in Mater Dei Institute of Education

Approved.

13.1.17 Professor M Cronin, Boston College, Ireland

Modules in Mater Dei Institute of Education

Approved.

13.2 Postgraduate research students

13.2.1 Dr D Cox, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.1, PhD, School of Biotechnology

Approved.

13.2.2 Dr P Spiers, Trinity College Dublin

Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology

Approved.

13.2.3 Dr T McCormac, Institute of Technology, Tallaght

Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.3, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences

Approved.

13.2.4 Dr C Taylor, University College Dublin

Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.4, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance

Approved.

13.2.5 Professor M Mansfield, University College Cork

Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.5, PhD, School of Physical Sciences

Approved.

13.2.6 Dr E Lewis, University of Limerick

Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.6, PhD, School of Physical Sciences

Decision deferred pending further discussion with the School.

13.2.7 Professor L Sarno, University of Warwick

Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.7, PhD, Dublin City University

Business School

Approved.

13.2.8 DR M Piotrowska, University of Krakow

Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.8, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies

Approved.

- 13.2.9 Professor H Somers, University of Manchester
Professor A L Jakobsen, Copenhagen Business School
Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.9, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 13.2.10 Professor S Cowman, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Professor T Collins, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.10, PhD, School of Education Studies
Approved.
- 13.2.11 Professor E McLaughlin, Queen's University, Belfast
Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.11, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 13.2.12 Professor F de Jong, Universiteit Twente
Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.12, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 13.2.13 Dr M Burke, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. USC/2006/A1/13.2.13, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.

14. Postgraduate research matters

14.1 Application for direct entry to the PhD register

- 14.1.1 Student ref. USC/2006/A1/14.1.1, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

14.2 Applications to transfer to the PhD register

- 14.2.1 Student ref. USC/2006/A1/14.2.1, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 14.2.2 Student ref. USC/2006/A1/14.2.2, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 14.2.3 Student ref. USC/2006/A1/14.2.3, NICB/School of Biotechnology
Approved.

14.3 Request for re-registration under 'write-up' status

- 14.3.1 Student ref. USC/2006/A1/14.3.1, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.

15 Proposal on ‘cotutelle’ arrangement involving St Patrick’s College

The proposal was welcomed, and was approved apart from the section relating to awards, in respect of which it agreed that St Patrick’s College would seek further information (from, for example, Dublin City University Business School in relation to the way in which awards are organised for the BA in European Business).

16. Request to change offering type: MSc in Information Technology

Decision deferred pending the submission of additional information.

17. Any other business

None

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____