

ACADEMIC COUNCIL**MINUTES**

23 May 2022
2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting**Present:**

W. Ahmed	B. Anderson	S. Belton
S. Blott	L. Boran	M. Brown
M. Brown	J. Brunton	J. Bruton
M. Butler	PJ. Byrne	P. Cahill
A. Castiloo Villaneuva	A. Corcoran	E. Costello
M. Crane	S. Cullen	D. Curran
M. Dowling	B. Egan	D. Fahy
O. Farrell	M. Farrelly	C. Furlong
R. Gillanders	S. Guasoni	D. Hand
S. Hegarty	A. Intizar	J. Kearney
E. Kennedy	D. Keogh (Chairperson)	D. Kinahan
A. Logan	T. Lokot	A. Looney
L. Looney	C. Mac an Bhaird	A. Maillot
C. McArdle	A. McAuley	D. Mc Carthy (Secretary)
K. McDonagh	J. McDonough	E. McGlynn
P. McGorman	R. McManus	P. McMorrow
M. McSharry	P. Mooney	E. Morgenroth
A. Morrissey	J. P. Mosnier	G. M. Muntean
B. Murphy	F. Murphy	N. Murphy
B. Nolan	M. O'Brien	S. O'Brien
S. O'Brien	K. O'Sullivan	N. O'Sullivan
P. Sharkey Scott	J. Stokes	A. Stover
T. Szecsi	J. Travers	G. Uí Laighléis
L. Van der Werff	M. Ward	B. White

Apologies:

P. Gallagher	K. Goodman	C. Loscher
A. McKenna	J. McMackin	C. O'Gorman
P. Rosati	A. Sinnott	M. R. Sweeney
J. Usher		

In Attendance:

V. Cooke		
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1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A. Minutes and Related Issues**2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 6 April 2022**

The minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee of 9 March 2022 and 13 April 2022

The minutes were approved.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 7 April 2022 and 12 May 2022

The minutes were approved.

6. Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 17 February 2022 and 31 March 2022

The minutes were approved.

B. Policy and Strategy Issues**7. President's report (oral report)**

7.1 The President thanked staff for their continued hard work during the 2021/22 academic year, calling particular attention to the work undertaken to facilitate maintaining face-to-

face teaching into the start of Semester 2. The President reminded staff to take the annual leave they are entitled to over the summer period.

- 7.2 The President noted the launch of 'Funding the Future' by Minister Simon Harris on 4th May 2022. The President welcomed the announcement of the funding model for higher education, which envisages an investment of €307 million annually in the sector to address the core funding gap, and the commitment of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to reviewing the current levels of student contribution. The President also welcomed the intention to reduce the ratio of students to academic staff to EU and OECD norms but acknowledged that the employment control framework for higher education will have to be relaxed to facilitate this.
- 7.3 The President noted the establishment of a new oversight group, which will be chaired by Minister Simon Harris and will monitor and report on innovations in the sector as part of 'Funding the Future'. The President congratulated Prof Anne Looney, Executive Dean of the Institute of Education, on her appointment to this group as Co-Chair.
- 7.4 The President noted the launch of 'Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy' by Minister Simon Harris on 18th May 2022. The President welcomed this new strategy and the emphasis placed on building a more inclusive and engaged research and innovation system that will address major societal issues. The President informed Academic Council that it is the intention of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to amalgamate the functions and activities of the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).
- 7.5 The President noted that Prof Greg Hughes has concluded his term as Vice President for Research and Innovation and thanked him for his commitment to this role over the last five years. The President informed Academic Council that the role has now been separated into two distinct roles, the Vice President for Research and a role focused on Innovation, with the latter incorporating student entrepreneurship and DCU ALPHA. The President informed Academic Council that the closing date for applications for the role of Vice President for Research is 27th May 2022, while the call for expressions of interest in the second role will be issued at a later date.
- 7.6 The President noted that the BSc in Global Challenges, which is due to launch in September 2022, completes the list of DCU Futures programmes to be accredited (see Item 13.2). The President acknowledged the support amongst staff for the various innovations in teaching and assessment introduced by the DCU Futures programmes and called particular attention to the level of staff engagement during the consultation stage in the development of the University's transversal skills framework.
- 7.7 The President noted that a panel of international experts reviewed the DCU Futures programmes on 13th April 2022 and commended the University on its achievements to date in this regard, calling particular attention to the strength of vision and execution of the project. Dr Blánaid White informed Academic Council of the panel's view that the

innovations from the DCU Futures programmes are integrated into existing programmes and that the innovative practices in assessment continue to be developed as the programmes are delivered.

- 7.8 The President thanked Dr Blánaid White and Dr Ciaran Dunne for their work on the DCU Futures project to date and congratulated them on the recent successful visit of Prof David E. Goldberg, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and founder of iFoundry, an educational incubator designed to bring about cultural and curriculum change at a large public university.
- 7.9 The President noted that QQI recently commended the DCU Futures project, recognising its inspirational and innovative approach to reimagining the undergraduate curriculum, which embeds transversal skills and transforms how students learn.
- 7.10 The President noted that the Teaching Enhancement Unit is hosting the DCU Assessment Hackathon 2022 on 24th May. The President welcomed the involvement of Frank van der Berg, a Senior Educational Consultant currently working in the Centre of Expertise in Learning and Teaching at the University of Twente (an ECIU partner), in this event.
- 7.11 The President noted that DCU continues to work to support the reception of Ukrainian refugees. The President informed Academic Council that DCU recently welcomed the first of four hundred refugees to its Glasnevin and St. Patrick's campuses.
- 7.12 The President acknowledged the ongoing work of the Irish Refugee Integration Network (IRIN) and thanked staff from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in particular for their work in this regard. The President informed Academic Council that it is currently unclear how many Ukrainian students will be joining DCU in September 2022 but that updates will be provided to the relevant staff when this is better known.

8. Strategic academic initiatives

Prof Lisa Looney informed Academic Council that the reporting period for programmes funded under the Human Capital Initiative is currently underway and that the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) is awaiting the outcome of its funding application to Erasmus+ for Phase 2 of the ECIU University project. A more detailed update on both these initiatives will be provided to Academic Council in Semester 1 of the 2022/23 academic year.

C. Items for Formal Approval/Noting

9. Examination and Progression and Awards Boards Reports, Summer 2022

Approved

10. Marks and Standards 2022.1

Dr Anna Logan informed Academic Council that the most substantial change to Marks and Standards for the 2022/23 academic year is the inclusion of a separate section for micro-credential modules. It was noted that this section identifies items where micro-credential modules are not directly aligned with Marks and Standards.

Prof Lisa Looney noted that this approach will ensure there is sufficient regulation of micro-credential modules while also allowing DCU to be flexible in terms of developing these modules in order to offer upskilling opportunities to industry, professional and societal stakeholders. L. Looney thanked Dr Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, the Director of Micro-Credential Strategy & Innovation, for her significant input into this process.

A. Logan called attention to other revisions that were made to Marks and Standards in response to sectoral and University developments, in particular, making more overt reference to module 'carry-forward' in Section 7 and reducing the minimum number of credits for the Professional Certificate at NFQ Level 9 from 20 to 10.

Approved

11. Examination Regulations 2022/23

Approved

12. Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2022/23

Approved

13. Accreditation Reports

13.1 BSc in Athletic Therapy and Training/MSc in Athletic Therapy and Strength and Conditioning

Approved

13.2 BSc in Global Challenges

Approved

13.3 MSc in Strategic Learning and Development

Approved

14. **Joint Sectoral Protocol between Designated Awarding Bodies and Quality and Qualifications Ireland for the Inclusion of Qualifications within the National Framework of Qualifications**

Endorsed

15. **Report on INTRA activities 2020-21**

It was noted that staff are currently engaging with industry partners to expand INTRA opportunities for students enrolled on humanities and social sciences programmes.

Prof Lisa Looney informed Academic Council that a Director of Placement has been appointed, who is responsible for INTRA and International student mobilities, and that the location for DCU Placement (currently under refurbishment) will be in the Henry Grattan Building.

Noted

16. **Items from recent sub-committees of Academic Council**

Noted

17. **Any other business**

There was no other business.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

5 October 2022 2.00 p.m. Zoom meeting
