

**UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

Thursday 6 April 2023

10.00 a.m. – 11.10 a.m.

G401, St Patrick's Campus

**Present:** Ms Liza Gieron, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Dr Anna Logan, Dr Jennifer McManis, Dr Ruth McManus, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Mark O'Brien, Dr Niamh O'Sullivan, Professor Joseph Stokes and Dr Monica Ward (Chair)

**Apologies:** Mr Eoin Crossen, Dr Pascal Landais, Dr Siobhain McGovern and Mr John McDonough

**A: Minutes and related issues**

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda as circulated was adopted, subject to a change to item 4.1.3, proposed examiner for the MA in History.

**2. Minutes of the USC meeting 23 February 2023 and Academic Integrity Sub-committee meetings**

The minutes of the meeting of 23 February 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

**2.1 University Standards Committee, 23 February 2023**  
Approved

- 2.2 Academic Integrity Sub-committee, 15 December 2022  
Approved

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of 23 February 2023**

- 3.1 It was noted that a meeting had taken place of USC Academic Integrity sub-committee and the feedback from stakeholders on the current process had been explored. In addition, the Chair had presented on the National Academic Integrity Network Framework (NAIN) for Academic Misconduct Investigation and Case Management draft document which was due to be finalised shortly. A mapping of the draft Academic Misconduct Investigation and Case Management and DCU's current processes was in progress (Item 3.1).
- 3.2 It was noted that it was planned to bring the Review and Approval of Results for Taught Programmes document for noting at the August 2023 meeting of University Standards Committee. It was planned that any recommended changes to the document for the academic year 2023-2024 would be considered at that point (Item 7).
- 3.3 It was noted with respect to the request for the change to the Review and Approval of Results for Taught Programmes, DCU Business School would be requested to provide a more detailed rationale on the need to amend the composition of Progression and Award Boards (PABs) (Item 5.5.2).

**B: Faculty issues**

**4. External examiners for taught programmes**

**4.1 Nominations**

- 4.1.1 Cardiff University  
Modules in the School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved

- 4.1.2 University College Dublin  
Module in the School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved
- 4.1.3 University of Northumbria  
MA in History  
Approved
- 4.1.4 Leeds Beckett University  
Certificate in Religious Studies (CRS)  
Certificate in Religious Studies CRSPT  
Certificate in Religious Studies (PMEP)  
Approved
- 4.1.5 University of South Wales  
Graduate Certificate in Education of Pupils on Autism Spectrum  
Approved
- 4.1.6 University College Cork  
MSc in Climate Change  
Approved

**Other issues: Faculty**

**5. Other issues: Faculty**

There were no items for consideration.

**C: Other issues (not Faculty-specific)****6. Recognition of Prior Learning Update**

It was noted that the Chair had recently attended an ‘RPL for Enterprise Think In’ as part of the National RPL in Higher Education Project, co-sponsored by the Technological Higher Education Association and the Irish Universities Association, and funded by the Human Capital Initiative.

Several Higher Education Institutes presented their programmes and related RPL case studies.

It was noted that DCU has offered a successful interview candidate a research assistant position on the RPL team.

**7. Proposed Amendments to Marks and Standards 2023-2024 (V2023.1)**

It was noted that the amended Marks and Standards 2023-2024 (V2023.1) document as presented was for consideration at today’s meeting and that final approval would take place at the next meeting of USC in May 2023.

The following items were discussed and proposed for final agreement:

<b>Paragraph number</b>	<b>Detail of the proposed change</b>	<b>Outcome of discussion</b>
4.2.3	Delete current description of membership of the Progression and Award Board and insert link to the <i>Review and Approval of Results for Taught Programmes</i> document	Agreed to insert web link to <i>Review and Approval of Results for Taught Programmes</i> document

5.2.5 and 5.2.6	It was flagged that the deferral of an academic session not extending the maximum registration period was raised as an issue with respect to various leave types and long-term illnesses particularly for postgraduate research students. As paragraph 5.2.6 covers both taught and research students, the issue will be explored ahead of the next USC meeting and it was noted that a proposal might be made in this regard.	For consideration of USC at its 11 May 23 meeting
6.3.7	There was a discussion on the understanding of pre-requisite modules and it was agreed that although there is a tacit understanding that there is no progression within an academic year, Marks and Standards was not sufficiently explicit in this regard. It was agreed that a form of wording would be proposed for inclusion in Marks and Standards, which would reflect that progression applies from academic year to year, but not within an academic session.	Agreed to add in a new paragraph about progression
7.2.3.4	It was noted that it should be made clearer that this paragraph applies to Category 1 modules, i.e. Where a module has a final examination assessment component, a resit of the examination assessment component must be offered within the academic session (Category 1 modules)	Amended wording for consideration of USC at its May 23 meeting
7.2.3.5	It was noted that it should be made clearer that this paragraph applies to Category 2 and Category 3 modules i.e. Where a module has a continuous assessment component, a resit of the continuous assessment may not be feasible within the academic session in all cases (Category 2 and 3 modules)	Amended wording for consideration of USC at its May 23 meeting

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7.2.3.6	Amend the definition of Category 1 modules: A resit is available for both* components of the module (CA/Exam)/(CA)	Amended wording for consideration of USC at its May 23 meeting
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\*‘Both’ is used in the context of the module having a CA/Exam split; where the module is 100% CA there will also be a resit of assessment if it is a category 1 module.

**8. Any other business**

There were no items of business

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of next meeting:**

Thursday, 11 May 2023 10.00 a.m. Room A204, Glasnevin Campus
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