

**UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Thursday 12 January 2023

10.00 a.m. – 10.25

in A204

Present: Mr Eoin Crossen, Ms Liza Gieron, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Dr Anna Logan, Dr Siobhain McGovern, Dr Ruth McManus, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Dr Mark O’Brien, Dr Niamh O’Sullivan, and Dr Monica Ward (Chair)

Apologies: Dr Pascal Landais, Dr Jennifer McManis and Professor Joseph Stokes

The Chair welcomed Dr Siobhain McGovern as Interim Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning of DCU Business School to her first meeting of the University Standards Committee.

A Minutes and related issues

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted subject to the addition of two items under AOB as follows:

- Change to the location of meetings and occasional use of Zoom
- Notification of a late legacy re-admission

2. Minutes

2.1 *Minutes of the University Standards Committee meeting, 3 November 2022*

The minutes of the USC meeting of 3 November 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

2.2 *Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Integrity Sub-committee, 3 November 2022*

The minutes of the Academic Integrity Sub-committee of 3 November 2022 were approved, subject to the inclusion of the attendance list.

2.3 *Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Integrity Sub-committee, 24 November 2022*

The minutes of the Academic Integrity Sub-committee, 24 November 2022 were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 3 November 2022

3.1 It was noted that the programme regulations for the BSc in Physical Education with Mathematics and the BSc in Physical Education with Biology programme regulations had been finalised (Item 3.3).

3.2 It was noted that an update on the Academic Integrity Policy development was on the agenda of this meeting (Item 3.1).

3.3 It was noted that a review of the Faculty of Science and Health pilot framework for the consideration of students taking category 2 modules with outstanding assessment material, was due for review after the first year of operation in 2022. However, it was noted that there had been no occasion to activate the framework and therefore a review was not possible. It was noted that the pilot framework would be due for review after three years of operation in 2024 (Item 9, 20 May 2021).

3.4 It was noted that the following decisions were made by Chair's Action since the 3 November 2022 meeting:

3.4.1 Approval of an external examiner, Maynooth University, for the School of Law and Government (15 November 2022).

3.4.2 Approval of an external examiner, Queen's University Belfast, for the MSc in Specialist Nursing, Future Healthcare (8 December 2022).

3.4.3 Noting of a change to entry requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Sexuality Education and Sexual Wellbeing (9 December 2022) as follows:

- A minimum of two years' experience is not now required.

B. Faculty issues**4. External examiners for taught programmes****4.1 Nominations**

4.1.1 University of Derby
School of Human Development
Approved

4.1.2 University of Portsmouth
DCUBS
Approved

4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties

No items were submitted for consideration.

Other issues: Faculty**5.1 DCU Institute of Education**

5.1.1 Confirmation of current external examiners to serve as External Reviewers for Periodic Programme Reviews 2022-2023 for the following programmes:

- Master of Education in Literacy Professional Practice
- MSc in Education and Training Management (Leadership)
- Master of Education in Specific Learning Difficulties
- MSc in Education and Training Management (eLearning)
- Professional Diploma in Education

Noted

5.2 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

5.2.1 Confirmation of current external examiner to serve as External Reviewer for Periodic Programme Review 2022-2023 for the following programme:

- Bachelor of Arts (Joint Honours) (Law subject)
Noted

5.2.2 Nomination forms for the appointment of External Reviewers for Periodic Programme Reviews:

5.2.2a LLM (Master of Law)
Approved

5.2.2b MSc in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society
Approved

5.3 DCU Business School

5.3.1 Legacy readmission: MSc in Business Administration
Approved

C: Other issues (not Faculty-specific)

6. Recognition of Prior Learning Update

The Chair provided a briefing on the HCI funded national initiative being led by the IUA, which is looking at approaches to recognition of prior learning (RPL) across the higher education sector. She noted that the project group had submitted a first phase report in the last quarter of 2022 and was currently working on developing an action plan. She noted that one of the requirements arising from the report was that RPL would be part of a reporting structure within institutions. She noted that DCU has a plan to enhance its current RPL process and indicated that RPL would now be a standing item on the USC agenda.

7. Academic Integrity Policy Update

The Chair updated USC on the work of the Academic Integrity USC sub-committee. The sub-committee has met on three occasions and a draft policy was drafted which is currently being reviewed by sub-committee members. She reminded members of the USC sub-committee, should they have any feedback, to provide it by the deadline.

The Chair indicated that the next steps would be to arrange a series of meetings with Faculty colleagues over the coming weeks to examine the existing processes for dealing with incidents of Academic Misconduct and to consider how the process might be improved.

She noted that the recent AI-generated resources developments would also pose a challenge to the work on the Academic Integrity Policy and would be included specifically in the revised Academic Integrity Policy.

8. Granting of exceptional third repeat academic session by the Deputy Registrar, Annual Report (2021-2022 for registration in 2022-2023)

It was noted that eight students were granted an exceptional additional academic session in 2021-2022 for registration in 2022-2023.

9. Any other business**9.1 *Change to the location of meetings in semester 2 and occasional use of Zoom***

It was noted that for the three USC meetings remaining in semester 2, the 23 February 2023 meeting would be on Zoom, the 6 April 2023 meeting would be on St Patrick's Campus and the 11 May 2023 meeting would be on the DCU Campus.

9.2 *Consideration of a late legacy re-admission by Chair's Action*

It was noted that a late legacy re-admission request has been submitted in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for a student due to commence in second semester and it had been too late for inclusion in this meeting. It was agreed that the legacy re-admission application would be considered by Chair's Action.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 23 February 2023 10.00 a.m. Via Zoom
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