

UNIVERSITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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**MINUTES**

Thursday 7 April 2022

9.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m. via Zoom

**Present:** Dr Brad Anderson, Dr Lorraine Delaney, Ms Liza Gieroń, Dr Rachel Keegan (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Dr Anna Logan, Dr Ruth McManus, Mr Peter McGorman, Dr Jennifer McManis, Ms Phylomena McMorrow, Professor Sharon O'Brien, Dr Niamh O'Sullivan and Professor Joseph Stokes

**Apologies:** Professor Michael Dowling, Dr Mark Glynn, Ms Kate Goodman and Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon

**SECTION A: MINUTES RELATED ISSUES**

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**2. Minutes of the meeting of 6 January 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of 6 January 2022 were approved.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of 6 January 2022**

3.1 The Chair informed members that a revised process for the conduct of Progression and Awards Boards has been drafted. This documentation has been reviewed by the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning and the Student Awards Manager, Registry. The Chair advised members that the revised process would, broadly speaking, see a continuation of practices implemented during the pandemic. The draft document is currently with the Registrar for review (item 8).

3.2 It was noted that a revised nomination submission for an external examiner for the BSc in Computer Science, which had been considered at the meeting of 18 November 2021 is ongoing (Item 4.1.5).

- 3.3 It was noted that an update on the academic integrity policy is on the agenda of this meeting (item 6).
- 3.4 It was noted that a new nomination for an external examiner for the School of Communications was approved by Chair's action on 28 January 2022 (item 4.1.2).
- 3.5 It was noted that a nomination for an external examiner for the BEng in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering was approved by Chair's action on 9 February 2022.
- 3.6 It was noted that a change to the current programme regulations for the BSc in Physical Education with Mathematics (PEM) and the BSc in Physical Education with Biology (PEB) to identify non-compensatable modules (MS147 and SG415 for the PEM and SG415 for the PEB) was approved by Chair's action on 14 February 2022.
- 3.7 It was noted that the addition of actuarial modules to the existing external examiner workload for the BSc in Actuarial Mathematics was approved by Chair's action on 17 February 2022.

## **SECTION B: FACULTY ISSUES**

### **4 External examiners for taught programmes**

#### **4.1 Nominations**

- 4.1.1 University of Portsmouth  
Modules in the School of Law and Government  
Approved
- 4.1.2 Royal Holloway University of London  
Modules in DCUBS  
Approved. It was noted that only the modules for year one of the BSc in Digital Business and Innovation were included on the submitted EE1 form. The Chair informed members that it was subsequently confirmed that the modules for years two to four would also be included in the external examiner's workload. It was agreed that these would be added to the EE1 form after the meeting.
- 4.1.3 NUI Galway  
BSc in Nursing (Mental Health)  
Approved
- 4.1.4 NUI Galway  
MSc in Psychology (Conversion), MSc in Psychology and Wellbeing  
Approved

#### **4.2 Renewal of appointment/changes to duties**

There were no items for consideration.

### **5. Other issues: Faculty**

#### **5.1 DCU Institute of Education**

5.1.1 Legacy readmission request: Professional Certificate/Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education  
Approved

5.1.2 Legacy readmission request: Professional Certificate/Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education  
Approved. It was noted that additional information was provided to the Chair in relation to the currency of the candidate's learning since leaving the programme. It was noted that the candidate may have completed another module in special and inclusive education that was not included in the submitted paperwork. It was agreed that Dr Logan would follow up with Ms McMorrow on this after the meeting.

### **SECTION C: OTHER ISSUES (NOT FACULTY-SPECIFIC)**

### **6. Marks and Standards update**

The Chair informed members that a subgroup has been convened to look at necessary changes to Marks and Standards on foot of developments in the MicroCreds project. He indicated that given micro-credentials is an evolving space, what is being considered is a separate micro-credentials section rather than fully integrating them into existing Marks and Standards. It was noted that the updated Marks and Standards would be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

### **7. Update on academic integrity**

The Chair advised members that a draft research integrity plan has been developed and this has been discussed with the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning, the Teaching Enhancement Unit and the Students' Union Vice-President for Academic Life. He noted that some amendments have been made to the plan on foot of these discussions. He noted that some of the activities in the plan are straightforward, such as providing information to learners, but that some are more complex and would require further consideration.

The Chair noted that the DCU Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy would need to be updated to reflect new threats around contract cheating. It is expected that revisions to the Policy will be completed in advance of the next academic year.

The Chair informed members that a series of masterclasses are being organised at a national level focusing on the detection of contract cheating. These will take place in May 2022 and will be attended by DCU representatives. He noted that remote learning and assessment present particular challenges for higher education institutions in mitigating the risks of academic misconduct.

**8. Academic Regulations for Postgraduate degrees by Research and Thesis, 2022-2023**

Item deferred. It was noted that a minor amendment to the wording of the appeals section would be considered at the next meeting of the GRSB.

**9. Report on granting of exceptional third repeat academic session**

The report was noted. The Chair drew attention to the higher numbers of third repeat academic sessions granted this year, noting that these were largely driven by Covid and remote learning circumstances.

**10. Any other business**

Dr Logan noted that this was Mr Kelly's last meeting and on behalf of current and former Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning, she expressed her gratitude for his leadership over the past ten years. Dr Logan noted Mr Kelly's significant knowledge and expertise and his invaluable support which would be sorely missed by colleagues across the University. She noted his student-centred approach, his ongoing guidance and his creativity in finding solutions to complex issues.

Ms McMorrow echoed Dr Logan's sentiments, noting Mr Kelly's extensive knowledge, fairness and practical thinking which has been so valuable in advancing the goals of the University. She noted that Mr Kelly's departure would leave a big gap, not only on this Committee but across the wider University community. Professor Stokes equally noted Mr Kelly's exceptional knowledge and, along with other members of the Committee, thanked him for his ongoing and generous support.

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

**Date of next meeting:**

Thursday, 12 May 2022

9.30 a.m. via Zoom