

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

6 June 2023

2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present:

C. Bohan	L. Boran	J. Bruton
D. Burke	A. Castillo Villaneuva	E. Clinton
R. Connolly	E. Crossen	S. Cullen
A. Daly	D. Elliott	D. Fahy
O. Feeney	P. Flynn	J. Foster
G. French	C. Furlong	D. Hand
S. Hegarty	A. Intizar	J. Kearney
A. Logan	L. Looney (Chair)	C. Mac an Bhaird
A. Maillot	D. Mc Carthy (Secretary)	J. McDonough
P. McGorman	S. McGovern	A. McKenna
E. MCLoughlin	J. McMackin	J. McManis
R. McManus	P. McMorrow	P. Mooney
A. Morrissey	G. Muntean	P. Murphy
B. Murphy	C. Ní Mhurchú	S. O'Brien
N. O'Sullivan	M. Pryce	M. Rocchi
P. Sharkey Scott	J. Stokes	T. Szecsi
G. Uí Laighléis	L. Van der Werff	M. Ward
B. White	P. Young	

Apologies:

Mark Brown	Martin Brown	M. Butler
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P. Gallagher	T. Gans	C. Gurrin
D. Keogh	M. Kirwan	V. Lambert
E. McGlynn	S. O'Brien	

In Attendance:

V. Cooke	M. Howell	A. Kirwan
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Prof. Lisa Looney, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar, chaired the meeting of Academic Council in the absence of Prof. Daire Keogh, President.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

A. Minutes and related issues

2. Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council of 5 April 2023

The minutes were approved subject to the following change being made:

“M. Ward recommended that the University should avoid reverting or moving to closed-book, time-bound invigilated assessments in all cases and encouraged colleagues to instead utilise the resources provided via the Teaching Enhancement Unit to reduce the vulnerability of specific assessment instruments to generative artificial intelligence”. (Page 5, Paragraph 2)

3. Matters arising

It was noted that there were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee of 22 March 2023, 19 April 2023 and 17 May 2023.

The minutes were approved.

5. Minutes of the meeting of the University Standards Committee of 23 February 2023, 6 April 2023 and 11 May 2023.

The minutes were approved.

6. Minutes of the meetings of the Graduate Research Studies Board of 16 February 2023 and 30 March 2023

The minutes were approved.

B. Policy and strategy issues

7. President's report (oral report)

There was no President's report due to the absence of Prof. Daire Keogh.

8. Strategic academic initiatives

Prof. Lisa Looney informed members that DCU Futures received positive feedback following the mid-term review of the project by the Higher Education Authority (HEA). L. Looney noted that this is an important milestone as DCU begins to look beyond the parameters of the current project to determine how the blueprint for radically reimagining undergraduate education can be embedded across the University.

L. Looney thanked Prof. Blánaid White, Dean of Strategic Learning Innovation, and the over one hundred colleagues from across the University who are involved in delivering the objectives of DCU Futures.

9. Academic Integrity

Dr Monica Ward, Dean of Teaching and Learning, informed members that DCU has undertaken considerable work to align its policies and procedures with the principles and guidelines developed by the National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN).

M. Ward informed members that a dedicated working group was established at the start of the 2022/23 academic year to review and revise DCU's 'Academic Integrity Policy' and the procedure for academic misconduct investigation and sanction, which adopted a consultative approach, engaging with staff and students from across the University when reviewing and revising the policy and procedure. M. Ward explained that substantial changes have been made to the policy, while the changes to the procedure are not as substantive as the Working Group is awaiting the final publication of the relevant guidelines by NAIN.

9.1 Academic Integrity Policy (Revised)

M. Ward noted that the purpose of the policy is to create and foster a culture of academic integrity within DCU and empower students and all staff to act ethically with respect to academic integrity.

Approved subject to the following changes being made:

- Include the underlined text: "Selling or providing previously completed assignments to other learners with the explicit intention of undermining academic integrity".
- Review and revise the following sentence for purposes of clarity and with regard to DCU's existing 'Intellectual Property Policy: "Sharing or selling staff or institutional intellectual property to third parties without permission".

M. Ward informed members that an Academic Integrity Officer is currently being recruited by the Teaching Enhancement Unit (TEU) and this Strategic Alignment of Teaching and Learning Enhancement (SATLE) funded role will support the implementation of this policy across the University.

9.2 Procedure for Academic Misconduct Investigation and Sanction

M. Ward explained that the revised procedure will continue to ensure consistency in academic misconduct investigation and sanction across the University. M. Ward informed members that "School representative" is used to refer to the first point of contact for issues relating to academic integrity, which varies across different Schools, e.g., Programme Chair, Teaching and Learning Convenor, etc.

M. Ward noted that the record of the sanction against a student will be kept at the faculty level, while a flag will be added to the centrally-held student record to ensure that, should a second allegation be made, even if in a different School or Faculty, the first incident would be visible.

Approved

Prof. Lisa Looney thanked the Working Group for their work in revising the 'Academic Integrity Policy' and the Procedure for academic misconduct investigation and sanction, and staff and students for engaging in the consultation process. It was noted that the revised policy and procedure will apply from the commencement of the 2022/23 academic year.

C. Items for formal approval/noting

10. Examination and Progression and Awards Boards Reports, Summer 2023

The Reports from the Progression and Awards Boards (PABs) for Summer 2023 were approved. Academic Council conferred awards on those students who were approved for award by the relevant PABs.

11. Marks and Standards 2023.1

Approved

12. Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2023/24

Prof. Joseph Stokes set out the proposed changes to *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* for the 2023/24 academic year, which include the addition of reference to the University's 'Export Control Policy', providing clarification on advanced entry to a graduate research programme and a revision of appeals procedures following a benchmarking exercise completed by the Academic Secretariat.

J. Stokes called particular attention to the addition of "suspension of one's study" to the possible changes to a student's registration status, explaining that, unlike a deferral, a suspension of one's study is not included in calculation of a student's maximum registration period and will be automatically granted in specific circumstances once applied for by the student. J. Stokes informed members that guidelines are being developed for consideration

by the Graduate Research Studies Board that will set out the specific circumstances within which a deferral and a suspension of one's study will be granted.

Approved

13. Any other business

Prof. Lisa Looney thanked all staff for their hard work during this transitional year as the University fully returned to normal operations with regard to teaching and assessment, and encouraged staff to consider in particular challenges with regard to the redesign of assessment as they prepare for the next academic year.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

<p>4 October 2023</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> <p>Via Zoom</p>
