EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday 1 June 2016

2.00 – 4.05.m. in A204

Present: Dr Claire Bohan, Dr Jennifer Bruen, Mr James Donoghue, Professor John Doyle, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Mr Billy Kelly (Chair), Professor Barry McMullin, Dr Anne Sinnott**,** Professor Fionnuala Waldron

Apologies: Professor Mark Brown, Professor Regina Connolly, Dr Brian Corcoran, Professor John Costello, Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, Professor Lisa Looney, Ms Aisling McKenna

In attendance: Ms Karen Johnston, Institutional Research and Analysis Officer

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Ms Karen Johnston, Institutional Research and Analysis Officer.

SECTION A: AGENDA, MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1.   Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 4 May 2016

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes of 4 May 2016

3.1   It was <u>noted</u> that issues with respect to external examiners were currently under consideration (Item 3.2).

3.2   It was <u>noted</u> that action with respect to the Graduate Attributes was ongoing (Item 3.3).

3.3   It was <u>noted</u> that a second meeting to draft a set of rules in relation to publication of First Destination Survey outcomes on the university website was due to take place shortly (Item 3.4).

3.4   It was <u>noted</u> that evidence of Master's equivalent research output for the MA in Psychotherapeutic Studies had been provided and the programme was now deemed approved (Item 7).

3.5   It was <u>noted</u> that the Master of Education (Special Educational Needs), CICE request for an extension of the accreditation period into the next academic year is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 3.5).

3.6   It was <u>noted</u> that clarification had been provided with respect to the title of the MA i Léann na Gaeilge as shown on the University parchment and it was confirmed that the title is translated in full (Item 9).

3.7   It was <u>noted</u> that the Irish Survey of Student Engagement is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 5).

SECTION B: STRATEGIC MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION/NOTING

4.   **Update on strategic activities undertaken within the IUA**

There was no update on this item.

5.   **Report on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)**

Ms Karen Johnston presented on the outcomes of the Irish Survey of Student Engagement 2016 and the following were <u>noted</u>:

- The survey this year had considerably fewer questions and included new indicators.
- The overall response rate in DCU (incorporating St. Patrick's College and Mater Dei Institute) had increased from 26% to 32%.
- The average response rate across all the institutions surveyed was 22%.

- Of the first year students surveyed, their evaluation of the entire educational experience as 'good' or 'excellent' was 90%. This was an increase from 79% for 2014-2015.

In the discussion which followed it was <u>noted</u> that:

- Where specific qualitative information is required at institutional level, additional question blocks can be added, as and when needed.
- There was some concern expressed at the disappointing figures with respect to staff/student interaction outside of the classroom environment and it was felt that the figures did not necessarily reflect the reality of engagement and the question asked could be rephrased.
- The survey outputs focused on academic development and it would be useful to be able to survey the 'whole student engagement'.

The Chair thanked Ms Karen Johnston for her very useful and interesting presentation.

SECTION C: PROGRAMME AND MODULE-SPECIFIC ISSUES

6.   Review of Education Committee Goals 2015-2016

The Education Committee Goals of 2014-2015 were reviewed and progress noted is recorded in Appendix I attached.

7.   Proposal on standardisation of titles for taught undergraduate and postgraduate programmes

The proposal to standardise Master's titles for the university was discussed and the following <u>noted</u>:

- A standardised list of titles for taught and postgraduate programmes was <u>agreed</u> as outlined in the document (some existing titles as listed in the document will be updated e.g. DCUBS programmes).
- The existence of a standardised list would not preclude a Faculty making a case for a title and designatory letters in specific cases. The validation guidelines will be amended to reflect the agreed listing.
- Each Faculty is asked to consider the designatory letters and titles of existing programmes where they do not conform to the agreed standardised list.

- It is recommended that the list of agreed titles is included in Marks and Standards.

8.   Faculty Annual Progress Reports (APR) (2014-2015)

The outcomes of APRs conducted during 2014-2015 per Faculty and including Open Education were noted. The university level issues and recommendations identified in the annual programme reviews broadly mirrored those identified over the last number of years and related to staffing and the need to address the aging infrastructure, and in particular the need to update teaching equipment and teaching support systems.

It was noted that there was a need to provide a response on the university issues raised and it was noted that the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar has written to Senior Management over the last two years raising the resourcing issues. It was noted that it was important that feedback from Senior Management would be provided at School level.

It was noted that the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning/Education were evaluating the Annual Programme Review form with a view to its modification. It was noted too that a working group would be set up to review what elements are required for a Periodic Programme Review when a programme is also undergoing accreditation by an external professional body.

The absence of any centralised marketing of taught postgraduate programmes was discussed. It was noted that to date, PAC applications for programmes in DCUBS were down by 65%, possibly attributable to changes to the web landing page.

It was noted that the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar and the Dean of Teaching and Learning/Deputy Registrar will draw up a report based on the Faculties' university level feedback with a view to a submission to Senior Management.

9.   Proposed restructure of the BA in Applied Language and Translation Studies

The proposal to introduce an alternative year 3 for students on the BA in Applied Language and Translation Studies, who do not qualify or are unable, because of exceptional circumstances, to spend a year abroad was approved.

10. **Proposal regarding a one-year one-off extension of the offering of the Master of Education (Special Educational Needs), CICE**

The proposal was <u>approved</u> for the academic year 2016-2017, in the specific context of the need to accommodate legacy students.

11. **Proposed re-title and change in delivery mode to the MSc in Work and Organisational Behaviour**

The proposed re-title of the MSc in Work and Organisational Behaviour to the MSc in Leadership and Organisational Behaviour was <u>approved</u>. The new title will apply only to the programme delivered externally. The change in delivery mode to part-time (monthly block release) off-campus was <u>approved</u> for external cohorts only.

12. **Proposal with respect to BEd programme for September 2016 intake**

It was <u>noted</u> that the proposal is the bringing together of the two existing accredited programmes, BEd (Primary) SPD and the BEd (Primary), CICE, with a view to forming a shared programme.

The proposal was <u>approved</u>.

13. **Proposed restructuring of the Graduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs (SPD) and the Graduate Diploma in Learning Support and Special Educational Needs (CICE) into one programme**

It was <u>noted</u> that the proposal is the bringing together of two existing accredited programmes, delivered by SPD and CICE into one programme. The proposal was <u>approved</u> subject to a change to the proposed title as follows:

- Graduate Diploma in Inclusive Education, Learning Support and Special Education

Or

- Graduate Diploma in Learning Support and Inclusive and Special Education.

14.   **Proposed restructure of the 3U MEng in Healthcare Technologies**

The proposed re-titling of the 3U MEng in Healthcare Technology to MEng in Digital Health and Medical Technologies was <u>approved</u>.

It was <u>noted</u> that the proposed changes to modules were within the remit of Faculty to approve.

15.   **Proposed restructure of the Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder**

The re-titling of the Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder to Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils on the Autism Spectrum was <u>approved</u>. The re-ordering of the delivery of course content was also <u>approved.</u>

16.   **Validation proposal: International Master in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies (MA)**

It was <u>noted</u> that the programme proposed will be in partnership with Charles University Prague, and the University of Glasgow, who will run the programme. DCU will deliver 40 of the 120 ECTS credits. It was <u>noted</u> that the programme will run regardless of the outcome of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree funding application.

The Education Committee granted <u>approval</u> to the proposed programme for further development towards accreditation.

17.   **AOB**

There were no items.

Signed: _____Date_____
              Chair

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday, 28 September 2016
at 2.00 in A204

	Education Committee Goal		Oversight of Priority Tasks in 14/15	Progress Update December 2015/Actions proposed	Progress update June 2016/Actions proposed
1	Support excellence in teaching and learning and the personal development of DCU students	1.1	Implementation of the agenda in technology enhanced learning, led by NIDL	This project is ongoing.	Ongoing (upgrading of classroom digital technologies, Loop)
		1.2	Further development the Teaching Enhancement Framework, including the development of appropriate student feedback structures to inform this process	There has been limited progress on QuEST. This is linked to the National Framework.	Ongoing (The National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning is currently piloting a voluntary national professional development framework). VPAA to discuss with IUA Registrar's Group.
		1.3	Implementation of the Generation 21 framework, including embedding graduate attributes in the curriculum (these to include the development of a sense of responsibility with respect to sustainability issues)	There has been limited success in measuring the embedding of Graduate Attributes due mainly to IT systems issues. It is planned to explore the measurement of learning outcomes related to graduate attributes in place in DCUBS.	Ongoing. DCUBS measuring graduate attributes. Other Faculties will explore methods of measurement.
		1.4	Development of a plan to integrate research opportunities into undergraduate programmes.	Activities taking place throughout the university to be captured.	Working Group set up and due to report in 2016-2017.
2	Support collaborative provision and internationalisation of both programmes and student experience	2.1	A review of university capacity to respond to the educational needs of larger cohorts of international students	Under the remit of External and Strategic Affairs Office.	Under the remit of External and Strategic Affairs Office. Exploration taking place on schemes to introduce international students.
		2.2	An assessment of resources required to deliver and support increased levels of student mobility.	Under the remit of External and Strategic Affairs Office.	
		2.3	Development of significantly enhanced tools for assessing and approving collaboratively	Progress being made and work ongoing.	Guru module under development

			based programmes.		
		2.4	Development of instruments to underpin internationalisation of researcher education.	Progress being made and work ongoing.	Ongoing
3	Develop strategically DCU's taught programme portfolio	3.1	Undertaking a review of global, European and national trends in skills needs, and emerging areas	This goal will be addressed in a proposed review of Graduate Attributes.	Ongoing
		3.2	Developing principles on programme viability/desirability which would be linked to decisions on initiating and on ceasing programmes	Some aspects of this goal have been incorporated into the APR process.	Ongoing
		3.3	Putting in place a mechanism to establish optimum student numbers for DCU in medium and longer term	Some aspects of this goal have been incorporated into the APR process.	Noted, that space requirements an impediment to the expansion of student numbers.
		3.4	Investigation of the development of a portfolio relating to the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Ireland, 2014—2020.	Further work to be completed.	Ongoing
4	Play a strategic role with partners in addressing the education needs of our region	4.1	Contributing to Regional Cluster planning	In progress	Review of movement from Further Education to 3rd level ongoing.
		4.2	Developing the DCU DkIT Graduate School	In progress	Ongoing
		4.3	Exploring options for joint taught master's with DkIT.	In progress	Ongoing
5	Further DCU's commitment to participation, equal access, increased flexibility and lifelong learning.	5.1	Contributing to the development of DCU's plans in addressing equity of access to higher education (the Access Strategy)	New Access Strategy currently being developed.	Access Strategy in progress and close to completion.
		5.2	Contributing to the Age Friendly initiative	In progress. A set of modules to be made available for the age	Modules launched.

				friendly initiative.	
		5.3	Developing processes and systems related to flexible progression	Progress cannot be made due to the limitations of the current IT systems.	Progress cannot be made due to the limitations of the current IT systems.
6	Position DCU as provider of innovative structured postgraduate research programmes.	6.1	Refining and embedding school based structured PhD pathways	There are pathways developed for each School.	Complete
		6.2	Introducing QA mechanisms for GTEs not part of an accredited award.	The QA mechanism has been developed and agreed by GRSB and will be implemented shortly.	Ongoing
		6.3	Exploring certification of accredited researcher learning in teaching and enterprise-related areas.	Some progress has been made on both elements of this goal. Suggestion to change goal to 'Embed research student engagement with teaching and enterprise-related areas'	Ongoing

Actions arising from discussions of Education Committee 2 December 2015, outcomes noted 1 June 2016

1. Presentation from DCUBS on measurement of Graduate Attributes (1.3) *Complete*
2. Review Graduate Attributes, particularly look at sustainability (meeting in February 2016) (1.3)(3.1). *Will be reviewed in context of strategic planning*.
3. Set up a working group to ascertain the work being done in the university to integrate research opportunities into undergraduate programmes. *Working Group set up, to report in 2016-2017*