MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 205
OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
OF DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
HELD ON FRIDAY 22nd MAY, 2026.

Meeting No 205

205.1.1 In attendance:

Mr. Frank Brady	Dr. Breda Brennan	Dr. Kevin Burns
Dr. Anita Byrne	Ms. Maeve Caraher	Mr. Dermot Clarke
Dr. Adele Commins	Ms. Karen Commins	Dr. Coleman Dennehy
Ms. Sinead Dunne	Dr. Sheila Flanagan	Ms. Amy Flood
Dr. Joe Gildea	Mr. Peter Gosling	Dr. Peadar Grant
Dr. Edel Healy	Mr. Shane Hill	Dr. Siobhan Jordan
Dr. Diako Khodaei	Dr. Briege King	Dr. Paul Mac Artain
Dr. Moira Maguire	Dr. Annaleigh Margey	Dr. Eamonn Martin
Prof. Fergal Mc Caffrey	Ms. Irene Mc Causland	Ms. Catherine McCloskey
Mr. Pat Mc Cormick	Dr. Martin Mc Hugh	Dr. Ruth Mc Keever
Dr. Patricia Moriarty	Ms. Linda Murphy	Mr. Gerry O'Brien
Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan	Ms. Geraldine O'Connor	Ms. Deirdre O'Malley
Dr. Teresa O'Rourke	Ms. Michelle O'Shea	Mr. Conor Reidy
Dr. Jade Pollock	Ms. Denise Quigley	Ms. Jacqueline Toal
Dr. Arjan Van Rossum		

205.1.2 Apologies:

Dr. Diana Bogusevschi	Dr. Conor Brady	Ms. Helen Howley
Dr. Brendan Ryder		

205.1.3 Absent:

Ms. Tobi Bewaji	Prof. Colette Henry	Dr. Tim Mc Cormac
Dr. Kevin Mc Kenna	Mr. Paul Murphy	Dr. Kieran Nolan
Ms. Eimear Rice		

205.1.4 Minutes & Matters Arising of Academic Council Meeting No. 204

Minutes of Meeting No. 204 Approved

Proposed by: Dr. Sheila Flanagan
Seconded by: Mr. Peter Gosling

Matters arising

No Matters arising

205.2.1 Sub-committee Minutes

Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee (AC:DOC:205:02:01)

Dr. Moira Maguire presented the minutes from the Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee and recognised Dr. Gerry Gallagher's contributions in her absence. The committee is presently engaged in reviewing the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy.

Graduate Research Studies Board (AC:DOC:205:02:02)

The minutes were noted.

Research Sub-Committee (AC:DOC:205:02:03)

Dr. Adele Commins presented the minutes from the Research Sub-Committee to Academic Council.

205.3.1 Policies

Motion 205.01

"That the Academic Council approves the discontinuation of the Garda/Police Vetting Procedures for the ***Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Social Care***"

Proposed by: Dr. Annaleigh Margey
Seconded by: Dr. Patricia Moriarty

Votes:	**32**
In Favour:	**32**
Against:	**0**
Abstention:	**0**

Dr. Annaleigh Margey informed the members of Academic Council that the policy is now obsolete, as it has been replaced by a single updated policy for the Institute. Students have been notified of the revised policy.

CORU will be conducting a programme monitoring review in the near future.

205.4.1 Schedule of Meetings for Noting (AC:DOC:205:04:01)

The schedule of meetings for 2026/2027 were noted.

205.5.1 Conferring Dates – Thursday 29th October, 2026 and Friday 30th October, 2026 for noting

The dates of Conferring for 2026 were noted.

205.6.1 External Examiners

A number of External Examiners were approved by Academic Council.

School of Engineering

Motion 205.02

"That the Academic Council confirms the appointment of the External Examiner(s) for the School of Engineering"

Title and Position: Dr. Chris Mc Parland, Technical Director, Atkin Realis, Dundalk.

Programme(s): Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Civil Engineering

Time: 1st October 2025 - 30th September 2028

Proposed by: Mr Pat Mc Cormick
Seconded by: Dr. Breda Brennan

Votes:	**34**
In Favour:	**34**
Against:	**0**
Abstention:	**0**

Motion 205.03

"That the Academic Council confirms the appointment of the External Examiner(s) for the School of Engineering"

Title and Position: Mr. Desmond Walsh, Head of Department, MTU (Cork Campus)

Programme(s):

- Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in International Civil Engineering

Time: 1st October 2025 - 30th September 2028

Proposed by: Mr Pat Mc Cormick
Seconded by: Dr. Breda Brennan

Votes:	**36**
In Favour:	**36**
Against:	**0**
Abstention:	**0**

School of Business and Humanities

Motion 205.04

"That the Academic Council confirms the appointment of the External Examiner(s) for the School of Business and Humanities"

Title and Position: Dr Dilara Demir Bloom, Assistant Lecturer and Co-Director, Turn to Teaching, Department of Adult and Community Education, Maynooth University, Maynooth, County Kildare. (Existing Extern - Additional Programmes)

Programme(s):

- Certificate in Navigating Higher Education (Headstart)
- Certificate in Engaging with Higher Education (Pathways)

Time: 1st October 2025 - 30th September 2028

Proposed by: Dr. Annaleigh Margey
Seconded by: Dr. Patricia Moriarty

Votes:	**36**
In Favour:	**36**
Against:	**0**
Abstention:	**0**

205.7.1 Academic Council – Procedural Issues Concerns – Mr Peter Gosling/Dr Ruth Mc Keever

Mr. Peter Gosling introduced this agenda item on behalf of colleagues from the School of Informatics and Creative Arts and outlined a number of concerns for consideration by Academic Council.

Firstly, clarification was sought regarding the roles and entitlements of observer members and members in attendance. Following discussion, it was agreed that no amendment to the current Constitution is required at this time. It was confirmed that neither observer members nor those in attendance hold voting rights and may contribute to discussions at the discretion of the Chairperson. It was further agreed that non-members should withdraw from the meeting once the relevant agenda item has concluded.

Secondly, the Council considered the use of two different methods for vote counting. A detailed discussion took place, during which several members expressed their views. It was agreed that, where feasible, the online voting system (Using Microsoft Form) is the preferred method.

This approach was recognised as more efficient and streamlined, offering enhanced confidentiality and reducing the potential for human error. The system ensures that each member can only cast a single vote, provides time-bound voting, and allows results to be exported in Excel format for

record-keeping purposes. To support its effective use, it was agreed that links to motions will be shared in the meeting chat to facilitate ease of access.

In addition, members agreed to consider holding one face-to-face meeting per academic year to support engagement and foster collegial interaction.

In the interim, members were encouraged to keep cameras on during virtual meetings to enhance participation and engagement.

A discussion took place on the operation of Academic Council meetings in relation to inclusion and accessibility issues.

It was noted that there is a desire for some members to vote by a show of hands. It was agreed to establish a working group to examine Academic Council meeting inclusion and accessibility.

The group will be led by Dr. Anita Byrne, with Dr. Joe Gildea and Ms. Catherine McCloskey as members. Members or representatives from other areas who are interested in contributing are invited to join the working group.

Thirdly, the role of the proposer and seconder was raised, with concern expressed that, in some instances, the role of the seconder appears to be nominal and that the individual may not always have sufficient awareness of the background to the motion.

Following discussion, it was agreed that both the proposer and seconder should be present at the meeting and possess an appropriate working knowledge of the subject matter under consideration.

If the proposer or seconder are unable to attend, another representative may assume the role as appropriate.

205.8.1 A.O.B.

Ms. Sinéad Dunne requested that it be formally recorded that the IMPC Committee has not convened for over a year. She noted that the Committee had previously been responsible for making recommendations to Academic Council.

It was further noted that the decision for the IMPC Committee not to meet was taken at Executive Board level.