

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 195 OF
THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL
OF DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
HELD ON FRIDAY 27th SEPTEMBER, 2024

Meeting No 195

195.2.1 In attendance:

Dr. Diana Bogusevski	Dr. Brian Boyd	Dr. Conor Brady
Mr. Frank Brady	Dr. Ronan Bree	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
Mr. Peter Gosling	Ms. Helen Howley	Mr. Shane Hill
Dr. Siobhan Jordan	Ms. Briege King	Dr. Gillian Lambe
Ms. Holly Lambe Sally	Dr. Fiona Lawless	Dr. Paul Mac Artain
Dr. Moira Maguire	Dr. Annaleigh Margey	Dr. Eamonn Martin
Prof. Fergal Mc Caffrey	Ms. Catherine McCloskey	Dr. Tim Mc Cormac
Mr. Pat Mc Cormick	Dr. Ruth Mc Keever	Dr. Patricia Moriarty
Ms. Linda Murphy	Dr. Kieran Nolan	Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan
Mr. Gerry O'Brien	Ms. Teresa O'Rourke	Ms. Michelle O'Shea
Dr. Jade Pollock	Ms. Denise Quigley	Mr. John Reid
Mr. Conor Reidy	Ms. Eimear Rice	Dr. Kayla Rush
Dr. Brendan Ryder		

195.1.2 Apologies:

Dr. Gerry Gallagher	Ms. Irene Mc Causland	Dr. Kevin Mc Kenna
Ms. Deirdre O'Malley		

195.1.3 Absent:

Ms. Amy Flood	Dr. Joe Gildea	Dr. Martin Mc Hugh
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195.1.4 Minutes & Matters Arising of Academic Council Meeting No. 194

Minutes of Meeting No. 194 Approved

No matters arising

195.2.1 Sub-committee Minutes

Academic Quality Sub-Committee (AC:DOC:195:02:01)

Dr. Brendan Ryder presented two sets of minutes of the Academic Quality Sub-Committee to Academic Council. The Terms of Reference were reviewed in accordance with practice when a new Academic Council is constituted with the addition of three items to the Terms of

Reference which will monitor the effectiveness of quality assurance policies and procedures, including:

- Analysing annual External Examiners Reports and making recommendations to Council regarding action plan(s).
- Analysing annual Programme Board Reports and making recommendations to Council regarding action plan(s).
- Monitoring actions plans arising from periodic reviews (Academic and Professional Support Units).

QQI Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Providers of Blended and Fully Online Learning Programmes (cross reference with Learning and Teaching Sub-committee) and the implications for the Design and Approval of Programmes Policy is currently being discussed.

Graduate Research Studies Board (AC:DOC:195:02:02)

Dr. Tim Mc Cormac presented the minutes of the Graduate Research Studies Board to Academic Council.

Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee (AC:DOC:195:02:03)

Dr. Moira Maguire presented the minutes of the Learning and Teaching Sub-Committee of the February 2024 meeting to Academic Council.

Research Sub-Committee (AC:DOC:195:02:04)

Dr. Adele Commins presented the minutes of the first meeting of the new Research Sub-Committee to Academic Council. At this meeting the terms of reference were reviewed. A number of working groups were set up to look at the Research and Innovation Strategy Development and the Research Integrity Policy.

195.3.1 Student Voice (AC:DOC:195:03:01)

Ms. Holly Lambe Sally introduced herself as the new Student's Union President and Mr Gerry O'Brien, Vice President for Engagement. They took up their positions on the 1st July, 2024.

During the summer, DkITSU created a partnership with Dundalk Credit Union, in order to assist students on a financial and non-financial basis. The Student's Union are undergoing a planning operation for the "student hub" located in the old bar space, which will be a relaxed social environment for students and managed by Student's Union.

The main objectives of Student's Union for this academic year are :-

1. **Communication**- Improve communication across the board
2. **Inclusive campaigns and events**- Engagement with all student dynamics, socially and academically.

3. **Student Voice** – Ensure Student voice is heard and represented.
4. **Educational matters**- Provide Students with exam information, Continuous Assessment information and providing students with timely updates on decisions that can affect their studies.

A full schedule of events is planned for Semester 1 including :-

- Freshers Fair & Freshers week
- Class Rep training & Bi-Elections for PTOs
- Mental Health Awareness week 6th Oct
- Black History Month & Diversity Week -October
- Hallowe'en Night
- Conferring
- Student races
- Welfare & Academic Campaigns – exams
- USI Comhairle Náisiunta DkIT Campus (TBC)

195.4.1 Exception Progressions

Motion 195.01

That student(s) in the School of Business and Humanities be granted Exceptional Progression and have their results approved as listed (AC:DOC:195:04:01)

Proposed By: Dr. Annaleigh Margey

Seconded By: Dr. Patricia Moriarty

Votes: 41
In Favour: 40
Against: 1
Abstention: 0

Dr Annaleigh Margey presented one Exceptional Progression on behalf of the School of Business and Humanities.

Following this case it was agreed that a discussion to examine 10 credits modules and progression was needed. The President agreed and referred the matter to Academic Quality Sub-Committee for further investigation.

195.5.1 Ratification of Results (AC:DOC:195:05:01)

Motion 195.02

That the Academic Council confirms the results of the Examinations as listed in the Examination Result Listing. (AC:DOC:195:05:01)

Proposed by: Dr. Diarmuid O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Dr. Sheila Flanagan

Votes: 45

In Favour: 45

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Each Head of School in turn presented the results from their School and acknowledged the work of their teams including Heads of Departments, Lecturers and Administrative Staff, the Registrar’s Office and Examinations Office and Ms. Sinead Dunne, Admissions Officer.

The Registrar commended the professionalism of the Examinations Office and added her thanks to Mr. Anthony Murray and his Team in light of the number of changes to boardsheets and appeals. It was noted that 15 postgraduate students will be graduating this year and their results are to be presented to DCU’s Academic Council on the 2nd October, 2024 for ratification.

195.6.1 Validations

(A) Microcredentials

Dr. Patricia Moriarty, Head of School of Business and Humanities presented four motions from her School regarding microcredentials for approval by Academic Council. All modules presented are existing modules. The approval of these Microcredentials is part of the school’s strategy plan for the future and it is envisaged will increase overall student numbers.

A discussed ensued on the management of microcredentials. Once all four schools come on board, there may be overlap and care will be needed on how they are marketed particularly with regards to modules with similar names from different schools with different learning outcomes.

Concerns regarding the running mode of these additional modules, the administration and the access to support services were voiced. It was agreed this was an operational matter for Executive Board.

Motion 195.03

That Academic Council ratifies the following validated modules as Microcredentials for the Department of Humanities (AC:DOC:195:06:01)

Micro-credential al Module Code	Micro-credential Title	Validation Type	NFQ Level	ECTS Credits	Delivery Mode(s)

CULT H8020	A History of Europe 1918-2007 'The breaking of Nations'.	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
PLSC H1002	The Struggle for Democracy	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
CULT H8013	Ireland 1912-1932: Revolution and Counter-Revolution	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
CULT H2029	Genocide, Social Darwinism and Racial Science	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
CULT H8010	Ireland: Citizenship and Ethnic Diversity	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
SPOR H8014	Exercise and Sports Psychology	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
SPOR H8015	New Venture Development for Sport	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
PSYC H7006	Exercise Psychology and Behavioural Change	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
SOCC H8024	Continuing Professional Development and Social Care	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
SOCC B8006	Care in a Multicultural Context	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
YTWK H7007	Youth Work Relationships	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
YTWK H8017	Addiction in a Youth Work Context	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
CULT H1019	Prehistoric Ireland: From the First Settlers to the Bronze Age	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
CULT H8027	"Irish Literature": Poetry, Fiction and Social Change	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
HIST H7004	Ireland, 1540-1800: Land and Religion	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
CULT H8007	Globalisation and Political Economy	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
SOCC H8013	Issues in Social Care	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
SOCS H8010	Sociology 1	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
YTWK H7011	Social Entrepreneurship	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
CULT H1026	Ireland 1800-1921: Success & Failure Under the Union	Existing	8	5	Face to Face

SPOR B7029	Sport Event Planning	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
CULT H8020	A History of Europe 1918-2007 'The breaking of Nations'.	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
SPOR B7029	Sports Event Planning	Existing	7	5	Face to Face

Proposed by: Dr. Annaleigh Margey

Seconded by: Dr. Patricia Moriarty

Votes: 42

In Favour: 42

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion 195.04

That Academic Council ratifies the following validated modules as Microcredentials for the Department of Business Studies (AC:DOC:195:06:02)

Micro-credential Module Code	Micro-credential Title	Validation Type	NFQ Level	ECTS Credits	Delivery Mode(s)
BUSS H7001	Business Computing Applications	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
COMM B7Z06	Workplace Communication Skills	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
COMP B7009	Web Development	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
LAW B7Z01	Elements of Business Law	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
BUSS B7035	Management Information Systems	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
MGMT B7012	Operations Management	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
RESA B7Z01	Research & Communication Skills	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
MRKT B7004	Marketing	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
MATH B7009	Business Mathematics	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
ACCT B7Z08	Cost Accounting	Existing	6	5	Face to Face

LAW B7Z02	Foundations of Law	Existin g	6	5	Face to Face
BUSS B7021	Perspectives in Entrepreneurship	Existin g	6	5	Face to Face
COMP B7007	Technology & Office Applications 1	Existin g	6	5	Face to Face
BUSS B7008X	Business Information Systems & Project Management	Existin g	7	5	Face to Face
MEDA B7004	Media Publishing	Existin g	7	5	Face to Face
MRKTB8Z 07	Doing Business in New and Emerging Markets	Existin g	8	5	Face to Face

Proposed by: Dr. Brian Boyd

Seconded by: Dr. Patricia Moriarty

Votes: 39

In Favour: 39

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion 195.05

That Academic Council ratifies the following validated modules as Microcredentials for the Department of Management & Financial Studies (AC:DOC:195:06:03)

Micro- credential Module Code	Micro-credential Title	Validatio n Type	NFQ Level	ECTS Credit s	Delivery Mode(s)
MRKT B8018	Consumer Psychology	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
ECON B7016	Economics and Society	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
HRM H1003	Human Resource Management	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
MRKT B7015	Contemporary Marketing & Communication	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
MRKT B7020	Consumer Psychology & Behaviour	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
MGMT B8Z07	Management	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
BUSS B8039	Wellbeing and Life Skills for the Resilient Graduate	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
FNCE B8004	Financial Management	Existing	8	5	Face to Face

BHVS B8001	Organisation Behaviour	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
MRKT B7023	New Product Development	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
BUSS B7202	Creativity, Innovation and Teamwork	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
MRKT B7021	Sales Management & Practice	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
MRKT B7022	Branding & Customer Relationship Management	Existing	6	5	Face to Face

Proposed by: Mr. Shane Hill

Seconded by: Dr. Patricia Moriarty

Votes: 40

In Favour: 40

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion 195.06

That Academic Council ratifies the following validated modules as Microcredentials for the Department of Hospitality Studies (AC:DOC:195:06:04)

Micro-credential Module Code	Micro-credential Title	Validation Type	NFQ Level	ECTS Credits	Delivery Mode(s)
CULN B7013	The Art of Pastry	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
CULN B7014	Food Safety Management	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
HOSP B7036	Human Resource Management for Hospitality, Events and Culinary Arts	Existing	6	5	Face to Face
MRKT H8Z01	Digital Marketing Management	Existing	8	5	Face to Face
EVNT H6Z01	Revenue Management for the Events Industry	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
ADMN B6005	Introduction to Sales and Marketing	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
MGMT B6006	Introduction to Revenue Management	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
EVNT H6001	Event Technology	Existing	7	5	Face to Face

EVNT H6002	Event Risk and Safety Management	Existing	7	5	Face to Face
CULN B7009	Applied Law for the Tourism Industry	Existing	7	5	Face to Face

Proposed by: Dr. Kevin Burns

Seconded by: Dr. Patricia Moriarty

Votes: 42

In Favour: 42

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

(B) School of Engineering

Programme Validation (AC:DOC:195:06:05)

Motion 195.07

That the Academic Council ratifies approval of the following programme(s)
(AC:DOC:194:06:05):

Department	Programme Title(s) (provisional)	Validation Type	NFQ Level	Award Class	ECTS Credits	Delivery Mode(s)
Engineering Trades and Civil Engineering	<i>Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in International Civil Engineering</i>	New (collaborative provision with HUE China)	8	Major	240	Full-time, Blended

Proposed by: Dr. Breda Brennan

Seconded by: Dr. Brendan Ryder

Votes: 42

In Favour: 41

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

Dr. Breda Brennan presented the new programme Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in International Civil Engineering which is a collaborative provision with Heibei University of Engineering HUE China to Academic Council.

Dundalk Institute of Technology delivery one third of the modules on the programme in blended mode, with the remaining modules being delivered by HUE.

All students are based at HUE in China and Dundalk Institute of Technology have devolved responsibility for recruitment of students to HUE. The programme will be validated by Dundalk Institute of Technology as a Dundalk Institute of Technology award.

This is a dual award with over 100 students enrolled. The collaboration will be governed by a Consortium Agreement, which details the collaborative arrangements for delivery of the consortium programme, including the academic quality assurance.

The students will register in Dundalk Institute of Technology and HUE and those who complete the programme will receive both Dundalk Institute of Technology and HUE awards.

Dr. Brennan thanked her staff for their involvement which was a long road and in particular the guidance from Dr. Brendan Ryder, Dr. Sheila Flanagan and Dr. Diarmuid O' Callaghan.

Motion 195.08

That Academic Council approve the Programme Special Regulations for the delivery of the following programme (AC:DOC:195:06:06):

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in International Civil Engineering

Proposed by: Dr. Breda Brennan

Seconded by: Dr. Brendan Ryder

Votes: 42

In Favour: 42

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Dr. Breda Brennan presented the Programme Special Regulations for the delivery of Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in International Civil Engineering for approval.

A comparison between Dundalk Institute of Technology Assessment and Standards and HUE academic policies revealed that most academic quality assurance is well aligned but there are some exceptions.

As the programme will be delivered in China, for practical reasons relating to programme delivery and management, this programme will require some derogations from Dundalk Institute of Technology Assessment and Standards.

These regulations seek to detail the derogations from Dundalk Institute of Technology Assessment and Standards that will be required for Dundalk Institute of Technology to deliver this programme and make an award.

The Special Regulations referred to in this policy will apply ONLY to the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in International Civil Engineering.

Implementation of the quality assurance procedures will be the collective responsibility of the Head of School of Engineering, Head of Department of Engineering Trades and Civil Engineering and Joint Programme Board (JPB).

195.7.1 President's Prizes for Conferring of Awards 2024

Motion 195.09

"That the Academic Council approves the nominations for the Presidents Prizes for the conferring of awards 2024 as follows

- President's Prize for Academic Excellence- School of Informatics and Creative Arts
- President's Prize for Academic Excellence – School of Engineering
- President's Prize for Academic Excellence- School of Business and Humanities
- President's Prize for Academic Excellence – School of Health and Science

Proposed by: Dr. Sheila Flanagan

Seconded by: Dr. Brendan Ryder

Votes: 44

In Favour: 44

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Dr. Brendan Ryder presented the list of President's Prizes to Academic Council for Academic Excellence and congratulated all the students on their achievements.

Motion 195.10

"That the Academic Council approves the nominations for the Presidents Prizes for the conferring of awards 2024 as follows

- President's Prize for Enterprising Student of the Year-Individual

Proposed by: Dr. Sheila Flanagan

Seconded by: Dr. Brendan Ryder

Votes: 46

In Favour: 46

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Dr. Brendan Ryder presented the list of President's Prizes to Academic Council for the following categories

- President's Prize for Enterprising Student of the Year-Individual

Dr. Ryder thanked the selection committees and staff involved in the process.

195.8.1 Updates to DkIT Award Standards.

Motion 195.11

That the Academic Council adopts the following QQI award standards as DkIT standards, replacing current Award Standards as appropriate:

- Integrated Award Standards for Business (NFQ Levels 5-9) (replaces Business Award Standards) (AC:DOC:195:08:01);
- Integrated Award Standards for Early Learning and Care - Awards Standards (NFQ Levels 5-8) (AC:DOC:195:08:02);
- Integrated Award Standards for Pre-Higher Education Foundation Awards for International Students (NFQ Level 5 & NFQ Level 8) (AC:DOC:195:08:03).

Proposed by: Dr Brendan Ryder

Seconded by: Dr Sheila Flanagan

Votes: 43

In Favour: 43

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

Dr. Brendan Ryder presented three new QQI award standards as Dundalk Institute of Technology standards, replacing current Award Standards. It was confirmed that the new standards will be adopted during Programmatic Review for existing programmes and immediately for new programmes.

Motion 195.12

That the Academic Council approves the updated DkIT Awarding Policy (AC:DOC:195:08:04) (AC:DOC:195:08:05) (AC:DOC:195:08:06).

Proposed by: Dr Brendan Ryder

Seconded by: Dr Sheila Flanagan

Votes: 44

In Favour: 44

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

195.9.1 Entry requirements (AC:DOC:195:09:01)**Motion 195.13**

That the Academic Council approves the revised academic entry requirements for the following programmes:

- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Engineering (Common Entry)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering

Proposed by: Dr. Breda Brennan

Seconded by: Dr. Sheila Flanagan

Votes: 45

In Favour: 44

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

Dr. Breda Brennan presented the background to this motion. The current entry requirements for the programmes are the standard entry requirements for entry to a Level 8 programme at Dundalk Institute of Technology with additional requirements in Mathematics. The School of Engineering propose to amend the entry requirements by reducing the mathematics requirement. An environmental scan of entry requirements to Honours degree programmes in cognate areas within the TU/IOT sector indicates that most providers have reduced the mathematics entry requirements in response to falling student demand.

The current entry requirements for these programmes have been in place since the programmes were validated in 2017, having been re-approved in the 2018/2019 programmatic review. The required higher standard in mathematics (as compared with level 7 programmes in cognate disciplines) is due to both the challenging level of mathematics on the programmes and the requirement for an honour grade in mathematics (or equivalent) at entry, stipulated by Engineers Ireland (EI) in their accreditation guidelines. These programmes are not currently EI accredited but the school intends to apply for EI accreditation in parallel with the current programmatic review. The completion of an EI-accredited honours degree programme is an important step towards professional chartership and is of particular value in certain Engineering disciplines such as Civil Engineering.

However, in recent years, the CAO intake to these programmes has declined and is reaching an unsustainable level - therefore the school is now in a position where action must be taken to avoid these programmes being withdrawn from the Institute's academic portfolio. In consultation with the Admissions Office, the School is aware that a significant number of applicants are not being offered places on the programme due to not meeting the entry

requirements. It is reasonable to assume that a large proportion (or all) of these applicants are not meeting the current mathematics entry requirements. While the Department of Mathematics and Computing Science provides an alternative mathematics examination in late August (for applicants who have not met the Honours Maths entry requirements for these and other programmes in DkIT), the number of candidates registering for the examination and/or reaching the required standard is insufficient to offset these losses.

It has also come to light that a number of secondary schools in our region are limiting the number of students who are allowed to participate in the Leaving Certificate Honours Mathematics programme.

195.10.1 MU-DKIT Regional Graduate Academy Update

Dr. Sheila Flanagan updated Academic Council on the positive progress of the development of the Graduate Research Academy under the guidance of Dr. Tim Mc Cormac during the Summer months. This work commenced in June 2024 and involved some tight timelines. This is the first time Maynooth University have been involved in such a collaboration.

As a result of all this work a new “MU-DKIT Regional Graduate Academy” will be established with an initial 5-year agreement.

The current DCU Students will be protected by a new DkIT/DCU collaboration agreement until 2029.

Dr. Tim Mc Cormac provided a comprehensive presentation on the full process followed by a questions and answer session.

The President congratulated Dr. Tim Mc Cormac and Dr. Sheila Flanagan on the extensive work and long hours involved in getting the project to this stage.

195.11.1 A.O.B.

No A.O.B.