



**Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council
Thursday 22 April 2021**

2pm

Via Zoom

Items are presented in the order in which they were discussed.

The President, Prof. Andrew Deeks, chaired this meeting of Academic Council.

1. Apologies were acknowledged.

Members were reminded that this meeting is being recorded for minuting purposes. The recording will be deleted once the minutes have been drafted.

The Chair reminded members to raise their virtual hands if they had any comments throughout the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting held 26 November 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2019 were approved as presented.

The Chair asked if there were any items from Part 2 (Items for Approval) or Part 3 (Items for Noting) on the agenda that members would like to bring forward to Part 1 for discussion. No virtual hands were raised.

Academic Council approved items from Part 2 and noted items from Part 3 of the agenda.

Part 1

ITEMS FOR DECISION/ DISCUSSION

3. Draft Education and Student Success Strategy

The President invited Deputy President Prof. Mark Rogers to present on this item.

Prof. Rogers reminded members that the Draft Education and Student Success Strategy has been in development for quite a while. It was effectively paused for a period in response to COVID-19. The purpose of this item today is to update members on the consultation process, on the nature of the Education and Student Success Strategy and to receive Academic Council comments or feedback. Following the Academic Council meeting today, the Strategy will go to Governing Authority (GA) for consultation and then to the University Management Team (UMT) for final approval.

The Draft Education and Student Success Strategy 2020-2024 is intended to succeed the Education Strategy 2015-2020. It is very much aligned to the UCD's Rising to the Future institutional strategy and structured around the four themes of:

1. Student-Centred Educational Experience
2. Student Engagement, Diversity, and Wellbeing.

3. Education that Connects, Inspires and Transforms
4. Technology Enhanced Learning.

The Rising to the Future objective is to provide an inclusive educational experience that defines international best practice and forms the basis of thinking around education and student success. The emphasis is placed on the core objectives and enablers rather than necessarily the four Rising to the Future strategy themes.

Workshops to discuss the draft Education and Student Success Strategy were held on Friday 6 November and Monday 9 November 2020. Forty-one individuals participated. Students, faculty and staff from across UCD partook. Those invited were asked to complete a pre-workshop electronic questionnaire on the draft Strategy document. Four small exploratory groups met between 19 February and 4 March 2021 to initiate exploration and deeper thinking about each theme.

The composition of the small exploratory groups was structured to include at least one of the following: a Chair (to be nominated by the Registrar), a representative of the UMT Education Group, a representative of UMT Student Experience Group, a student representative, a director of an operational unit (or nominee) with the responsibility to deliver under the relevant theme, and an early career academic nominated by a Vice-Principal for Teaching and Learning. The draft Education and Student Success Strategy was amended in response to feedback received at the workshops in November 2020 and the small exploratory groups in February and March 2021.

Earlier drafts of the Strategy were considered by the UMT Education Group and the UMT Student Experience Group. These are the University's committees responsible for assisting with the development of the Education Theme and the Student Experience Themes of the UCD Strategy, as per their Terms of Reference. These Committees and the UMT have also reviewed this version circulated for today's Academic Council meeting. Feedback received from these groups and feedback provided from Academic Council today will be incorporated into the final version of the strategy. It will be submitted to Governing Authority for comment also. UMT will then be asked to approve a final version, informed by the feedback received.

It was noted by the Deputy President that some of the feedback received has commented on the Strategy being quite high level and not necessarily defining the specific actions to be taken over the next number of years. One of the next steps in implementing this strategy will be to take these areas of action and develop the specific actions and initiatives that will contribute to delivering against the Strategy. Part of that next step is to ensure that we again consult students, faculty, and staff on these actions and initiatives.

Finally, it was emphasised that the strategy is not intended to be a transformational change from where UCD was progressing. It is an evolution of the previous strategy, and so many of the features in the last strategy are also present in the new strategy.

Prof. Rogers welcomed comments and suggestions from members.

In relation to the idea of the education experience that is research-led, a member asked if there had been any thought around whether pedagogy on UCD teaching practice is research-led. Considering new research on learning and an increased understanding of the brain, particularly in the last ten years, it is questionable that UCD could claim that our pedagogy is research-led. It was suggested that further research in this area rather than discipline-specific research would be more aligned with what is meant by the 'education experience'. Prof. Rogers responded to say that he agreed up to a point. As the University is an extensive and diverse environment, a challenge presents in which to try and drive such a fundamental change in practice. However, UCD endeavour to drive such practice and encourage change in thinking to ensure the most effective methodologies are being used in our teaching to ensure student learning is as effective as it can be. Diplomas and Certificates offered in the UCD Teaching and Learning unit and programmes offered in Innovation Academy are examples of such existing approaches.

No further comments were made.

Decision	Academic Council endorsed the Draft Education and Student Success Strategy for consultation to Governing Authority.
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4. ACCSAC Assessment Appeals Policy: Academic Judgement Definition

The President invited Prof. Barbara Dooly to speak to this item.

Academic Council Committee on Student Appeals and Complaints (ACCSAC) is seeking the endorsement of Academic Council on a definition of academic judgment for the assessment appeals process. ACCSAC recommended that it would be appropriate to add clarity by what we mean by academic judgement

It is proposed that an agreed definition be included in the Assessment Appeals Policy to promote understanding of the scope of the policy and to ensure greater transparency regarding what is meant by academic judgement in the context of the Assessment Appeals process.

Academic Council is also asked to consider whether a definition of academic judgement should be included in the Academic Regulations. The Assessment Appeals Policy stipulates that 'students cannot appeal simply because they are unhappy with a mark awarded or any other academic judgement exercised' (3.4). However, the policy does not include a definition of academic judgement, and it is not defined in other relevant University documents such as the Academic Regulations or the Assessment Code of Practice. As the experience of case handling demonstrates that the number of academic appeals submitted concerning academic judgement is significant, it is proposed that the development and inclusion of a definition of academic judgement in the Assessment Appeals Policy will promote a better understanding of the policy's scope amongst students.

Decision	Academic Council approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed definition of Academic Judgement.• The inclusion of the proposed definition of Academic Judgement in the Assessment Appeals Policy.
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5. Policy on Research Degree Theses Embargos

The President invited Prof. Barbara Dooley to speak to this item and to deliver a PowerPoint presentation.

At the commencement of the Graduate Research Board, it was noticed that there is currently no University-wide policy for the placement of an embargo in a research degree thesis in UCD Library. The purpose of the proposed policy is to provide clarity to students, faculty and staff on why or why not an embargo would be placed on a research thesis to defer its transfer into the University's open access repository and articulate the process & procedure to be followed.

The policy will also be a reference for the Graduate Research Board (or the relevant Governing Board) when considering embargo applications.

In August 2020, ACEC approved the establishment of a Working Group to develop a Policy for Research Degree Embargo setting. The Working Group was established in September 2020. The overarching principles of the Policy are:

- Open Access: all research degree theses are expected to be made publicly available as soon as possible following the award of a degree.
- Setting an Embargo: Access restrictions will be applied, if required, once supported by appropriate documentation. Applications will be reviewed by the relevant Governing Board.
- Period of Embargo: The typical length of embargo is set at two years. Only exceptional circumstances, an embargo greater than two years or an extension to a two-year embargo, can be applied.
- Rapid Takedown Option: The rights owner of copyrighted material in a research thesis, who does not consent to the use of their work, can apply to the UCD Library, and the thesis will be taken down immediately.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: All embargo applications to the Governing Board will be submitted with all identifying information of the applicant removed (including name, School and Supervisor) to ensure any decision is based solely on the submission and avoid unconscious bias.

The Policy is accompanied by a Procedures document which outlines:

- Procedure to request an embargo on a research thesis
- Procedure for extending an embargo on a research thesis
- Procedure to request rapid takedown of a research thesis with two associated forms, one for the applicant and one for the library investigation.

Prof. Dooley invited feedback from members, and the President opened up the floor for comments.

Several members expressed a strong view that the Embargo Policy required significant amendment.

The significant impact on copyright permissions, potentially limiting publishing opportunities for doctoral students, and the encouraged use of a commercial site were the main points of concern.

Additionally, there was challenge to the automatic transfer process that would occur unless an embargo is sought.

Prof. Dooley thanked Academic Council for its feedback which will be brought back to the Working Group for consideration.

Decision	Academic Council asked for amendment(s) to be made to draft Research Degree Theses Embargos
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6. University Academic Calendars

The President invited Deputy President Prof. Mark Rogers to speak to this item.

Academic Council is asked to approve:

- The proposed revised Academic Calendar 2021/22 for immediate publication
- Approval of Academic Calendars 2022/23 and 2023/24 as provisional and for publication as such, subject to further consultation with the University community

Academic Calendar 2021/22:

Prof. Rogers informed members that Academic Calendars are usually published several years in advance to ensure a consistent approach. The original calendar for 2021/22 was approved in April 2018, and at that time, the suggested academic calendar start date was on a Wednesday for operational reasons. However, the Wednesday start has proved challenging. As such, now the proposal is to adjust the start date to a Monday. In the context of COVID-19, the suggestion is to delay the start date to the following Monday rather than bring it back. This would serve as a small mitigation of the impacts of COVID-19, particularly concerning the leaving cert and the calculated grades approach that is partially being taken this year. Furthermore, Academic Council were informed that UCD has not yet received confirmation that the leaving certificate results will be out in standard time, and therefore, this is a prudent measure.

Academic Calendars 2022/23 and 2023/24:

The second request is for approval of interim calendars for subsequent years. It is suggested that these calendars will undergo review as part of a major review of the academic cycle. Particularly given the ongoing concerns concerning GAP processes and the time available for correction, it would be prudent to consider the appropriateness of the calendars in the future in a holistic way.

Decision	Academic Council approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed revised Academic Calendar 2021/22.• The proposed provisional Academic Calendars 2022/23 and 2023/24
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The President informed Academic council of Matters Arising:

- New Subject Proposals – Both Psychotherapy and American Studies were approved by ACEC in February and added to the UCD Subject Register.

- Psychotherapy: It was agreed at the ACEC in February that Prof. Colin Scott, as College Principal of Social Sciences and Law would arrange a consultation between the School of Medicine and the School of Psychology to ensure collaboration opportunities are not missed. Prof. Colin Scott has confirmed that colleagues in psychology are supportive of the new subject in Medicine and are aware of opportunities for collaboration.
- American Studies: Academic Council noted that this subject, in accordance with Statute, is affiliated with the School of English, Drama & Film and not the Clinton Institute on the UCD Subject Register.
- Award of Tenure - Assistant Professor Eugenio Lilli
Academic Council to note Assistant Professor Lilli's assignment to the School of History.

The Award of Tenure submission to Academic Council in November 2020 stated in error that Assistant Prof. Eugenio Lilli was assigned to the Clinton Institute for American Studies. While Assistant Prof. Lilli is located in the Clinton Institute, the President, as per the Tenure Policy which states the following: "*The President, in accordance with Statute 6 (Chapter 17 Schools) shall assign Lecturers/Assistant Professors and Associate Professors to a School.*", Assistant Prof. Lilli has been assigned to the School of History.

- The President noted that this is a historic meeting of the final meeting of Academic Council in its current composition. The University can look forward to a new composition of Academic Council from September 2021 onwards and it is hoped that members consider putting themselves forward for election and to encourage their Faculty colleagues to do so also. Certain ex-officio roles will continue, and notably, in the new composition of Academic Council, an increased proportion of Academic Council will be student representatives. The Registrar as Secretary to AC and Returning Officer of the AC elections will give an update on the planned Academic Council elections.

Academic Council Elections – Status Update

The President invited the Secretary to Academic Council, Prof. Mark Rogers, to provide an update on Academic Council elections.

Prof Rogers provided Committee members with information on:

- The background of the Academic Council composition Working Group process and the subsequent revised Academic Council composition approval.
- The new membership structure of Academic Council as per Academic Council composition approved by Academic Council.
- The Elected Academic Categories. There are three cohorts in each of the six Colleges:
 1. Professor / Full Professor
 2. Associate Professor / Assistant Professor
 3. Heads of Subject
- The Nominations process. An email from the Registrar will announce the formal opening of the Nominations process and a link to the online portal.
- A summary of what is required to seek nomination to a constituency.
- The schedule of elections. Elections are scheduled to open on 16 June and close on 24 June 2021.
- The elections method: PR-STV using ERS97 counting rules.
- Communication and engagement. Members of Academic Council, Heads of School and College Principals are encouraged to engage with the nominations process and support and promote the engagement across the University in terms of the election process. In this way, the next Academic Council will be established on sound footing having gone through a hugely democratic process in terms of how the next membership is constituted.

Prof. Rogers opened the floor up for comments.

Concerning promoting engagement at a School level, a member asked if it would be appropriate to view Academic Council membership as something that would add weight to promotion opportunities in the future. Prof. Rogers confirmed that the leadership roles within Academic Council are certainly already recognised by the Faculty and Promotions Committee. Therefore, the potential for using membership of Academic Council and the impact

one may have had as a member within a future faculty promotions application is already appropriate albeit not highlighted explicitly.

The President pointed out that there is currently a review group in place looking at the Faculty Development Framework, where such points are described. Therefore, Academic Council can take this point to the review group to consider it for inclusion.

Part 2

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

7. Academic Council Work Plan 2021/2022

Decision	Academic Council approved the Academic Council Work Plan 2021/2022.
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8. Business Undergraduate Taught Programmes Board – Terms of Reference

Decision	Academic Council approved the Business Undergraduate Taught Programmes Board – Terms of Reference.
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9. Taught Programme Transfer and Re-Admission Policy

Decision	Academic Council approved the Taught Programme Transfer and Re-Admission Policy.
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10. Policy for theses in Research Degree Programmes

- Amendments to related:
 - Policy for Theses in Research Degree Programmes and
 - Guidelines for Preparation, Submission, Examination and Dissemination of Research Degree Theses
- Academic Regulations 2021-2022 amendments

Decision	Academic Council Policy for theses in Research Degree Programmes.
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11. Professorship Title:

- The College of Science Academic Titles Review Group are recommending the approval of the following professorship title for the following candidate from the School of Biology and Environmental Science to AC for formal approval.
- This is in line with the Procedures for Awarding Titles Professors and Associate Professors.

Name	School	Title
Fiona Doohan	School of Biology and Environmental Science	Professor of Plant Health

Decision	Academic Council approved the professorship title as presented.
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12. New and Renewed Headship of School Appointments

College	School	Proposed Head of School	Duration
Arts and Humanities	Languages, Cultures & Linguistics	Assoc. Prof. Síofra Pierse	<u>Start Date:</u> 16 August 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 16 August 2024 Option to extend to one year
Arts and Humanities	Irish, Celtic Studies & Folklore	Dr. Kelly Fitzgerald	<u>Start Date:</u> 16 August 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 16 August 2024 Option to extend to one year
Art and Humanities	Music	Dr. Ciaran Crilly	Extension until 31 August 2023
Health and Agricultural Sciences	Veterinary Medicine	Prof. Michael Doherty	Extension until 31 August 2023
Health and Agricultural Sciences	Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems	Dr. Fiona Timmins	<u>Start Date:</u> 1 March 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 1 March 2026
Science	Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences	Prof. Wim Meijer	Extension until 31 August 2022
Science	Chemistry	Assoc. Prof. Michael Casey	Extension until 31 August 2022
Social Sciences and Law	Geography	Dr Julien Mercille	<u>Start Date:</u> 1 September 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 31 August 2024
Social Sciences and Law	Law	Dr. Niamh Howlin	<u>Start Date:</u> 1 September 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 31 August 2022
Social Sciences and Law	Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice	Dr Karen Anderson	<u>Start Date:</u> 1 September 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 31 August 2024
Social Sciences and Law	Economics	Dr Kevin Denny	<u>Start Date:</u> 1 September 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 31 August 2024
Social Sciences and Law	Politics and International Relations	Dr Jos Elkink	<u>Start Date:</u> 1 September 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 31 August 2024 (with the possibility of a 2-year extension)
Social Sciences and Law	Psychology	Prof. Suzanne Guerin	Extension for two years until 31 August 2024
Science	Earth Sciences	Professor Peter Haughton	<u>Start Date:</u> 1 September 2021 <u>End Date:</u> 31 August 2024

Decision	Academic Council approved New and Renewed Headship of School Appointments.
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13. New and Renewed Head of Subject Appointments

School	Subject	Proposed Head of Subject	Duration
School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Biomedical Engineering	Prof. Madeleine Lowery	<u>Start Date:</u> 01/03/2021 <u>End Date:</u> 28/02/2023
School of Languages, Cultures & Linguistics	German	Dr Siobhán Donovan	<u>Start Date:</u> 01/09/2021 <u>End Date:</u> 14/01/2022

School of Languages, Cultures & Linguistics	French and Francophone Studies	Assoc. Prof. Douglas Smith	<u>Start Date:</u> 01/09/2021 <u>End Date:</u> 31/08/2022
UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems	Children's Nursing	Dr Suja Somanadhan	<u>Start Date:</u> 01/04/2021 <u>End Date:</u> 01/04/2024

Decision	Academic Council approved New and Renewed Head of Subject Appointments
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14. Proposal for Emeritus Professor/Assoc Professor/Assistant Professor

Name	Emeritus Title	School	Retirement Year
Professor Gerard Fealy	Emeritus Full Professor	Nursing Midwifery & Health Systems	2020/2021
Assistant Professor Sinead O'Toole	Emeritus Assistant Professor	Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems	2019/2020
Assistant Professor Peter Donnelly	Emeritus Assistant Professor	Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems	2020/2021
Associate Professor Alan Hunter	Emeritus Associate Professor	Agriculture and Food Science	2019/2020
Associate Professor Mary Forrest	Emeritus Associate Professor	Agriculture and Food Science	2019/2020
Assistant Professor Finola Cronin	Emeritus Assistant Professor	English, Drama & Film	2020/2021
Professor Barbara Kirby	Emeritus Professor	Veterinary Medicine	2019/2020
Professor Philip O'Connell	Emeritus Full Professor	Geary Institute	2020/2021
Professor Stephen Gardiner	Emeritus Full Professor	Mathematics and Statistics	2020/2021
Professor Michael Scott	Emeritus Professor	Biomolecular and Biomedical Science	2019/2020
Associate Professor Dermot Ruane	Associate Professor Emeritus Dermot Ruane	Agriculture and Food Science	2008

Decision	Academic Council approved proposals for conferment of Emeritus as presented.
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15. ACCSAC: Assessment Appeals Policy

Decision	Academic Council approved the ACCSAC: Assessment Appeals Policy.
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16. ACCAC Report

Decision	Academic Council approved the ACCAC Report.
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17. ACCAC Procedure for the Review of Academic Centres

Decision	Academic Council approved the ACCAC procedure for the review of Academic Centres
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18. Academic Council Committee Chairs

Decision	Academic Council approved the Academic Council Committee Chairs
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19. Academic Council Committees Membership 2021-2022

Decision	Academic Council approved the Academic Council Committees Membership 2021-2022
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20. High Performance Athlete Academic Flexibility Policy

Decision	Academic Council approved the High Performance Athlete Academic Flexibility Policy
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Part 3

ITEMS FOR NOTING

21. AC Subcommittee Approved Minutes

Committee	Reference
ACCASP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 21 October 2020 Minutes of meeting held on 3 February 2021 	21.01.N01a
ACCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 15 October 2020 Minutes of meeting held on 19 November 2020 Minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2020 Minutes of meeting held on 28 January 2021 	21.01.N01b
ACCSAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 19 October 2020 	21.01.N01c
ACCSCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 21 October 2020 	21.01.N01d
UPB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 13 October 2020 Minutes of meeting held on 30 November 2020 	21.01.N01e
ACEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held 24 September 2020 Minutes of meeting held 9 December 2020 	21.01.N01f

Decision	Academic Council noted Academic Council subcommittee approved minutes as presented.
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22. UCD Research

- UCD Research Integrity Policy
- UCD Procedures for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research

Decision	Academic Council noted UCD Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UCD Research Integrity Policy• UCD Procedures for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research
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23. Research Funded Pathway Policy

Decision	Academic Council noted the Research Funded Pathway Policy
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24. Visiting, Adjunct and Clinical Appointments

Decision	Academic Council noted Visiting, Adjunct and Clinical Appointments
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25. Summary of Extern Examiners' reports 2018/19

Decision	Academic Council noted Summary of Extern Examiners' reports 2018/19
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26. AC response to Senator Bacik query regarding SNA Programmes

Decision	Academic Council noted Academic Councils response to Senator Bacik query regarding SNA Programmes
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27. Draft Dignity and Respect Review Report

Decision	Academic Council noted the Draft Dignity and Respect Review Report
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Item of Other Business

The President informed members of a final Matters Arising item:

At its meeting on 26 November 2020, AC approved Adjunct Professor status for Professor Michael Bruen. It has since been brought to the University Secretariat's attention that this status must be revoked until Professor Bruen has completed a Post-Retirement Contract (PRC). When this contract comes to an end, the application may be resubmitted for approval by AC.

The President extended a thank you to members for their active membership of Academic Council.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____