



The UCD Medicine Taught Governing Board

Terms of Reference

Changes approved by ACEC 12 December 2024

1. Purpose and function of the Governing Board

- 1.1. The Medicine Taught Governing Board is responsible to the Academic Council or its relevant committee for the design, development, regulation and quality, and for overseeing the delivery of programmes within its remit.
- 1.2. The Board is also responsible for monitoring the overall performance of students registered to these programmes, monitoring their progression and ensuring their academic welfare.
- 1.3. The Board will recommend the structure and content of these programmes, and any regulations or policy which govern them, and make decisions or recommendations regarding the admission, progression, continuation and graduation of the students registered to these programmes in line with the University's approved policies and procedures.

2. Terms of Reference

- 2.1. The Governing Board, subject to review by the Academic Council or its relevant committee shall for each programme within its remit:
 - (i) Promote excellence in education by articulating the aims and outcomes of the programme and agree a strategy and academic plan for the programme.
 - (ii) Approve proposals regarding the structure and content of the programme and any special regulations relating to the programme, seeking University-level endorsement as appropriate and reporting annually to Academic Council or its relevant Committee on such approvals.
 - (iii) Ensure that the modules contributing to the programme support the academic coherence of the programme and the quality of the graduate output.
 - (iv) Oversee and enhance the academic quality of the programme and the student learning experience.
 - (v) Establish, where appropriate and subject to the University's regulations and policies, programme-wide norms and guidelines regarding teaching and learning approaches, student workloads and assessment and grading practice.
 - (vi) Admit students to the programme in accordance with the University's regulations and policies.
 - (vii) Adjudicate student applications for leave of absence from and transfer between programmes.

- (viii) Make decisions in line with the University's approved policies and procedures in relation to Continuation and Readmission, Fitness to Continue in Study and Fitness to Practice.
 - (ix) Establish in accordance with University policy, mechanisms to assure and enhance the quality of educational and related activities and participate fully in the quality assurance/quality enhancement processes of the university.
 - (x) Ensure implementation of University strategy, policies and procedures in teaching, learning, assessment and widening participation.
 - (xi) Monitor progression and completion rates of students.
 - (xii) The Board shall support the development of strategic and operational plans for education within the College. These plans shall be prepared within the overall planning framework for the University, Colleges and Schools.
- 2.2. The Governing Board shall prepare annual academic operational programme plans, identifying resource implications of any proposed change in activity. The plans shall be developed in consultation with the College Principal and College Executive. Agreed plans will be subject to review /approval at the University level for their alignment to the programme and University strategic plan. The Governing Board will also be required to prepare strategic academic programme plans, at such intervals as the University may require.
- 2.3. Where the Governing Board proposes changes to the Programme that have significant resource implications, these should be planned as part of the formal academic and operational planning process. Where the Governing Board (or the Dean acting on the delegated authority of the Governing Board) proposes a change to the programme that has significant resource implications outside this formal planning process, they must consult with and seek the approval of the Head and the School Executive of the School of Medicine.
- 2.4. The Governing Board shall, within the resources made available by the University, ensure that appropriate supports are in place to meet the welfare, pastoral and academic administrative needs of students registered to the programmes.
- 2.5. The Governing Board shall work with the University and the School of Medicine to promote the programmes both internally and externally.
- 2.6. The Medicine Governing Board shall be chaired by the Dean of Medicine. The responsibilities of the Dean will be shared with a number of Associate Deans:
- (i) The Associate Dean, Programmes & Educational Innovation has oversight for all Undergraduate programmes and is the Deputy Chair of the Medicine Governing Board.
 - (ii) The Associate Dean, Taught Graduate Programmes has responsibility for Taught Graduate Programmes and Continuing Professional Development activities and students thereof.
 - (iii) The Associate Dean, Research & Innovation has oversight of graduate research programmes and students thereof.
 - (iv) The Associate Dean, International Studies has responsibility for monitoring and enhancing the academic support to international students of the School of Medicine in any programme.
 - (v) The Associate Dean for Radiography has responsibility for assuring the academic standards and professional competence of graduates in Radiography programmes.
 - (vi) The Associate Dean for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion has the responsibility for

creating an environment where equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) is paramount, and everyone is treated fairly in accordance to the principles of EDI.

- (vii) The Associate Dean for Student Affairs has the responsibility for providing academic support to the School's Undergraduate Programme Teams and Programme Managers in matters pertaining to students including engagement, academic welfare, pastoral care, wellbeing and discipline.
- 2.7. The Governing Board shall support the Dean in fostering fruitful relationships with external and professional bodies, other stakeholders and alumni relevant to the programmes.
- 2.8. The Governing Board may form such and so many sub-committees as it deems necessary to perform its functions, and may delegate any of its functions to a sub-committee/standing committee. The Dean shall be entitled to chair, or nominate the chair, of any sub-committee established by the Board.
- 2.9. The Governing Board may appoint as individual coordinators for different aspects of the programmes, and determine their roles and responsibilities, on the recommendation of the Dean of Medicine.
- 2.10. The Governing Board shall establish so many Programme Examination Boards, as subcommittees of the Governing Board, as are required for the programmes it governs. The responsibilities of the Programme Examination Board shall be as per the Academic Regulations.
- 2.11. The Governing Board or Sub-Committee(s) of the Governing Board shall hold a Programme Forum, at least once in each academic year. The Programme Forum should include all academic staff involved in the delivery of the Programme or the part of the Programme associated with the relevant sub-committee(s). The major strategic and operational decisions facing the Board during the trimester should be presented to the forum, and the input and advice of the Forum sought and taken into consideration by the Board.

3. Dean of Medicine

- 3.1. The Dean of Medicine will ordinarily be the Head of School of Medicine.
- 3.2. The Dean of Medicine shall, in respect of each of the programmes within the remit of the Medicine Board,
 - (i) Chair and ensure the proper, effective and efficient operation of the Governing Board.
 - (ii) Offer academic leadership by promoting innovation and best practice in the design, development, delivery and quality enhancement of the programme.
 - (iii) Develop and maintain effective collaborative relationships with the Principal of the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences, the Heads of Section within of the School of Medicine, and with other Schools involved in the delivery of the programme.
 - (iv) Lead the quality assurance/quality enhancement processes for the programme and participate where appropriate in the quality assurance/quality enhancement processes of the university.
 - (v) Lead the implementation of the University strategy, policies and

procedures in teaching, learning, assessment and widening participation.

- (vi) Oversee the effective and efficient administration of the programme, supported by and in collaboration with the School of Medicine Programme Office
 - (vii) Support the development of a collaborative administrative network involving the Registrar's Office, the School of Medicine Programme Office and School administrators.
 - (viii) Work with the Governing Board and the University to ensure that the programmes meet the required standards for national, and where required, international accreditation.
 - (ix) Build and develop the internal and external profile of the programme.
 - (x) Liaise and build effective relationships with external and professional bodies, other stakeholders and alumni relevant to the programme.
 - (xi) Perform ceremonial and representative roles in respect of the programme.
 - (xii) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Registrar of the College Principal.
- 3.3. The Dean of Medicine may make decisions in regard to the programmes within the remit of the Medicine Governing Board, or the students applying to or registered to those programmes, on the delegated authority of the Governing Board.
- 3.4. The Dean of Medicine shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Management Committee of the School of Medicine.
- 3.5. The Dean of Medicine will report and be accountable, via the Registrar and the Bursar, to the College Principal and President and to Academic Council.

4. Composition of the Governing Board

- 4.1. The following shall be voting members of the Governing Board
- (i) Dean of Medicine (Chair)
 - (ii) Associate Dean, Programmes and Educational Innovation (Deputy Chair)
 - (iii) Associate Dean, Graduate Taught Programmes
 - (iv) Associate Dean, Research and Innovation
 - (v) Associate Dean, International Affairs
 - (vi) Associate Dean, Radiography
 - (vii) Associate Dean, Student Affairs
 - (viii) Associate Dean, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
 - (ix) Director, School of Medicine
 - (x) Chair, BHLS Degree Committee (or Deputy Chair as alternative)
 - (xi) Chair, Medicine Degrees Committee 1 (or Deputy Chair as alternative)
Scope: Stages 1,2,3 & 4a Direct Entry Medicine MB BCh BAO incl. RUMC.
 - (xii) Chair, Medicine Degrees Committee 2 (or Deputy Chair as alternative) Scope: Stage 1 & 2 Graduate Entry Medicine MB BCh BAO.
 - (xiii) Chair, Medicine Degrees Committee 3 (or Deputy Chair as alternative)
Scope: Stages 4b & 5 Direct Entry Medicine & Stages 3 Graduate Entry Medicine
 - (xiv) Chair, Radiography Degree Committee (or Deputy Chair as alternative)
 - (xv) Chair, EMS Degree Committee (or Deputy Chair as alternative)
 - (xvi) Chair, Graduate Taught Programmes Committee (or Deputy Chair as

alternative) Scope – All graduate taught programmes – Belfield & Hospital, inc. CPD)

- (xvii) Chair, Biomedical Research Degrees Committee (or Deputy Chair as alternative)
- (xviii) Chair, Clinical Research Degrees Committee (or Deputy Chair as alternative)
- (xix) School Head of Teaching and Learning, School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science
- (xx) School Head of Teaching and Learning, Public Health, Physiotherapy & Sports Science
- (xxi) One Registrar's nominee
- (xxii) Chair of Admissions Committee
- (xxiii) Chair of Staff Student Committee
- (xxiv) Coordinator of UCD Intern Training Network
- (xxv) Academic Member nominated by College of Science
- (xxvi) Four student members nominated by the Students' Union. One of which is the UCDSU Health Sciences Officer, or in their absence the UCDSU Education Officer , and 3 students who are completing a programme for which the Governing Board is responsible

The following shall be non-voting members of the Governing Board

- (xxvii) Up to four members co-opted by the Board to ensure appropriate expertise is available to conduct its business effectively.
- (xxviii) Student Adviser

- 4.2. The Medicine Degrees Programme Manager or nominee shall act as Secretary to the Board.

5. Conduct of Business:

- 5.1. The Governing Board should meet at least 4 times per academic year, to include at least 2 meetings in the Autumn trimester and at least 2 meetings in the Spring trimester; meetings shall be aligned to the schedule of meetings of the appropriate University committees.
- 5.2. The meetings of the Board shall be convened by the Dean, with a minimum of seven days' notice of a meeting.
- 5.3. Where the Dean is unable to attend a meeting of the Board, the Associate Dean, Programmes and Educational Innovation may act as chairperson for that meeting.
- 5.4. The members of the Board may not nominate others to attend meetings on their behalf with the exception of those listed within the programme board membership as Deputy or alternate to a sub-committee Chair.
- 5.5. A meeting shall be considered quorate when one third of the members entitled to vote are present.
- 5.6. Circulation of meeting papers to members shall be at least five working days in advance of the meeting.