



**Minutes
of the Governance Committee for the Legacy BEd Programme
Monday 10 December 2018 at 11am
Conference Room, Arts Building**

Present:

Registrar (Chair): Prof. Paula Murphy

Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer: Prof. Kevin Mitchell

Head of School of Education: Prof. Damian Murchan

Quality Officer: Roisin Smith

1st Representative from DCU (Legacy BEd Course Director): Rev. Prof. Anne Lodge

2nd Representative from DCU (Deputy Dean): Prof. Pádraig Ó Duibhir

In attendance:

Secretary: Ewa Sadowska

Legacy BEd /18-19/13 Minutes of 18 June 2018

The minutes of the meeting were approved as circulated.

Legacy BEd /18-19/14 Matters arising

The Registrar noted that all matters arising were agenda items.

Legacy BEd /18-19/15 Report from the Legacy BEd Course Director on course-related matters

a) The 4th year Curriculum – an update

The Legacy BEd Course Director re-tabled a list of modules being taken in 2018/19 by two legacy BEd students which had already been approved at the June meeting. She confirmed that arrangements put in place for their 4th year aimed to ensure that the two legacy students were not missing on any module content and were following the same school placement arrangements as had been in place in the previous year. The modules continuing in their 2017/18 form for the 2018/19 students were School Placement, Research Methods/Dissertation and two elective options.

b) External examiner's report

The Legacy BEd Course Director spoke to a report for the 2017/18 cohort provided by Dr Glenda Walsh who continues as external examiner on the legacy Bachelor in Education course until Trinity's accreditation of the BEd cohort is complete at the end of the 2018/19 academic year. The report was very positive and the external examiner noted that some student submissions had included excellent instances of critical thinking and innovative synthesis of theory and practice, and that the assignments for the reflective practice module proved exceptionally interesting. All dissertations were double-marked and where there were discrepancies between the two markers the external examiner was asked to review those dissertations with the discrepancy higher than 5% whereas the marks with a lower discrepancy were averaged. The Legacy BEd Course Director clarified that in some cases a third marker was brought in with the agreement of the external examiner, so that as fair and accurate a mark as possible could be ensured for the student.



The external examiner also referred to her opportunity to read some of the assignments within the elective modules (such as Technology, Addressing Numeracy, Inclusive Education, Working in Small Schools) where she could see a range of informative projects relevant to their everyday teaching undertaken by the students. The external examiner also noted a very positive experience from visiting a 4th year student on a school placement and referred to the praise the student had received from the School principal and the class teacher for the extend of the knowledge, understanding and skills required to teach children in the primary school context. That was on the whole representative of the whole student cohort.

c) *Student evaluation outcomes of module satisfaction*

The Legacy BEd Course Director spoke to feedback results from the 2017/18 legacy student cohort, surveyed in the autumn 2018, tabled at the meeting. Twenty seven respondents, currently in teaching jobs, out of the cohort of 34 took part in the survey. Respondents were asked for comments on four main issues:

- Final school placement experience – The overwhelming majority was satisfied with their professional learning in the school setting and with the supervision and considered the experience relevant to their current employment.
- Dissertation – Most respondents were satisfied but some expressed dissatisfaction that the research methods module was taught in semester one while most of the work on the dissertation took place in semester two creating a time lapse between the two aspects of the research process. Some students also noted that the research methods module was too generic and not tailored to the teaching profession. Most students were satisfied with dissertation supervision. Students had selected their own dissertation topics and the majority stated in the survey that they found their dissertations relevant to their professional development.
- Elective modules – All 4th year students were offered their preferred optional modules and their feedback indicated satisfaction with them. Only with respect to the “Promoting Healthy Children’s Lifestyles in the Primary School” module some respondents indicated dissatisfaction.
- Compulsory modules – Seven compulsory modules were offered in 2017/18 for the final time and mostly students were satisfied with them although there was some level of dissatisfaction expressed mainly on the grounds that the modules did not appear to have been of relevance to the students’ teaching careers.

Overall, students gave positive feedback but some criticism of the programme was also expressed in the main to do with having had to spend too much time on the reflecting aspect of the course. A significant number of students would have preferred to have spent that time on being more prepared for their teaching career like on interview prep and how to fill out an application form although sessions on applying for jobs, creating CVs and attending interviews were also offered to this cohort of students as had been a normal practice on the course.

d) *Student cases – students’ progression towards completion*

The Legacy BEd Course Director advised that only 2 legacy students were in the 4th year but it was impossible to predict whether they could complete the year successfully as no marks were available yet. The Registrar re-confirmed that both students had signed a letter in 2015 noting that should they fail to complete the 4th year before the end of 2018/19 they would transfer to the DCU course.



e) Practice Placements

The Legacy BEd Course Director noted that both 4th year students would undertake the required 10-week placement in semester 2. The placement supervision and assessment would be carried out by the CICE legacy team.

f) Registration in 2018/19 and respective graduations

The Legacy BEd Course Director stated that she would be willing to check on the registration status of both legacy students in Trinity. In response to the Registrar's offer she undertook to email the student numbers and names to be forwarded to the Academic Registry to check against student registration records in Trinity.

Providing the students rise with their year they will graduate in November 2019.

Legacy BEd /18-19/16 Trinity's Policies and Procedures: update from the Quality Officer

The Quality Officer referred to two policies. Firstly, she noted that Council had approved in September a new Procedure for the Transfer to External Examiners of Students' Assessed Work. The Quality Officer stated that the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) had been introduced in May 2018 and that students' assessed work, including exam scripts, continuous assessment, and research theses should be treated as personal data. The External Examiner process presents a potential for breach of GDPR where students' assessed work is transferred to External Examiners prior to their attendance in College for subject or discipline Courts of Examiners or when Examiners wish to retain for example a thesis beyond one year. The Quality Officer noted that the Procedure had been uploaded on the TT&L website. Secondly, the Quality Officer also referred to a new Fitness to Study Policy recently approved by Board which supports and responds to student needs ensuring a positive student experience and promoting opportunities for students to develop to their full potential. The Policy is intended to be used to respond to and manage concerns regarding a student's fitness to perform all activities associated with attending College, and/or concerns regarding a student's capacity, and/or concerns regarding a student's mental health. The Policy will be shortly uploaded on the main policies page in College.

Legacy BEd /18-19/17 Dates of future meetings

It was confirmed that there would only be one final meeting of the committee in June 2019 as the Legacy BEd course will be discontinued from September 2019.

Legacy BEd /18-19/18 Any other business

There was none, and the meeting finished at 11.40am.

Registrar's signature: _____

Date: 10 December 2018