



Minutes of the Marino Institute of Education Associated College Degrees Committee (MIE ACDC)

Wednesday 8th February, 2017

Present:

Registrar (Chair): Prof. Paula Murphy

Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer: Prof. Gillian Martin

School of Education - Head: Prof. Andrey Loxley

Quality Officer - Roisin Smith

Vice-President of Global Relations (for IFP item only): Prof. Juliette Hussey

President of Marino Institute of Education: Dr Anne O'Gara

2nd Representative from Marino Institute of Education: Dr Seán Delaney

Representatives of MIE Course Groupings -

International Foundation Programme: Brendan White

UG Programmes: Dr Patricia Slevin

Postgraduate Taught Programmes including Further Education: Dr Gene Mehigan

MIE ACDC Secretary - Ewa Sadowska

Apologies:

Dean of Graduate Studies: Prof. Neville Cox

2nd Representative from the School of Education: Prof. Colette Murphy

The Registrar warmly welcomed three new members representing the MIE course groupings to the committee: Brendan White for *International Foundation Programme*, Dr Patricia Slevin for undergraduate programmes and Dr Gene Mehigan for postgraduate taught programmes including further education.

ACDC/16-17/235 Minutes of ACDC of 30th November 2016

The *Minutes* were approved as circulated.

ACDC/16-17/236 Matters arising

It was noted that all Actions had been attended to.

ACDC/16-17/237 Standing item on International Foundation Programme (IFP)

The Registrar invited the MIE representative of the International Foundation Programme (IFP) to start the item off. The MIE IFP representative noted that there had been a degree of satisfaction with how the programme had commenced. He noted that there were twenty five students on the programme. It was anticipated that twenty four would complete the programme. Some students had been receiving additional tuition in mathematics. The students were well settled and integrated into the student life in the MIE in terms of taking part in general extracurricular activities such as sports which were available to local students in the Institute. Their timetable was fitted around the normal programmes in the MIE which enhanced further integration opportunities. The Vice-President of Global Relations noted that IFP students regularly attended the Global Room in Trinity, and that their familiarity with the geography of Trinity would assist them in their integration with the academic life in College next year.



Speaking about the following year, the MIE IFP representative noted that over eighty applications had been received to date, sixteen offers had been made and twelve offers had been accepted by paid deposits. The target for 2017/18 was to recruit over forty students. The current applicants were coming mainly from outside of the Middle East as the sponsorship there had not been finalised yet.

The Vice-President of Global Relations noted with similar satisfaction that the IFP, taught in the Marino Institute of Education from September 2016, comprised a diversified cohort of students. Two most numerous groups were from the Middle East and from China. The Vice-President of Global Relations reminded the committee members that students were grouped into two pathways, one leading to undergraduate degree courses in arts and humanities and the other leading to undergraduate courses in health sciences, sciences and engineering, and that it was intended to expand the arts pathway to include law and psychology for the following year. Students' progress was being monitored on an ongoing basis as an offer for a place on a course of study in Trinity was based on the student's progression in the IFP.

The President of Marino Institute of Education referred to a very successful event in the MIE in December 2016 attended by the Minister for Education and Skills who officially launched the IFP. All IFP students were present at the event with two of them speaking publically about their experience on the programme and all of the others presenting their group posters.

The Vice-President of Global Relations confirmed that a formal IFP committee meeting would be held later during the week to discuss various matters pertaining to the IFP, and that a report would be prepared for the May meeting of the MIE ACDC.

Action 1: to circulate a report on the IFP

The Registrar congratulated all interested parties in the successful commencement of this new programme. The Vice-President of Global Relations left the meeting at that point.

ACDC/16-17/238 Standing item on the QQI Quality Assurance of Linked Providers

The Quality Officer advised that Trinity had written to the MIE to commence the approval of linked provider quality assurance process under §33 (1) of the QQI Act and as outlined under the notification process §7.1 of the Approval of Linked Providers' Quality Assurance Procedure. The Quality Officer noted that the next step will be to arrange a meeting with MIE representatives to discuss the standards that would apply to the MIE quality assurance process, a timeline for submission of MIE quality assurance procedures and also the costs associated with the approval process and subsequent quality review. She anticipated that the final approval was likely to take place at the beginning of the 2017/18 academic year. An additional schedule would be drafted with the assistance of the Trinity Solicitor to be added to the current Memorandum of Understanding to address compliance with the QQI Act 2012.



The Quality Officer advised that she had recently met with QQI representatives with respect to Protection of Enrolled Learners for students enrolled in validated programmes delivered by Linked Providers. She noted that changes were being made to the relevant section of the QQI Act, and that any institution which intends to apply for an International Education Mark in the future would be required to fully comply with the amended legislation. QQI emphasised that where there was a mix of publicly and privately funded students on validated programmes in a single Linked Provider institution the risk was enhanced for DABs in connection with the refund of fees of privately funded students.

The President of Marino Institute of Education stated that the MIE operates as a transparent institution audited on an annual basis with Trinity representatives on its Governing Board. Most students on the undergraduate and postgraduate courses are publically funded with the exception of the International Foundation Programme whose students are entirely funded by private fees. As a going concern the MIE has a healthy a/c balance.

ACDC/16-17/239 Standing items

a) on communication – Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Graduate Studies to update on policy and procedure issues relevant to MIE

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies stated within the minutes of the last meeting that the repository on the role of the external examiner was being imminently set up on the undergraduate studies website. She further stated that the work on the information guidelines for staff and applicants under the RPL policy was ongoing. The Quality Officer advised of a number of new academic policies uploaded on the Trinity Teaching and Learning website and invited the MIE committee members to consult them in preparation for their own upcoming submission of policies and procedures under the 2012 Act.

b) on facilitation of inter-institutional collaboration including research:

The President of Marino Institute of Education noted that a joint proposal by the MIE and the School of Education in response to a Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH) Fund, Strand 1 Equity of Access to Initial Teacher Education (ITE) call from the HEA had been submitted together with a separate proposal from UCD-NCAD and covered by a joint memo under the Dublin Leinster Pillar I initiative. Proposers made presentations before a panel of HEA-appointed reviewers in mid-December, and the outcomes were expected before the end of February.

The Head of the School of Education emphasised that inter-institutional research groups set up within the Dublin Leinster Pillar I initiative had been very active and should be re-energised. The President of Marino Institute of Education reminded the meeting of collaborative research initiatives which had taken place in Marino in the past couple of year. She also stated that MIE staff were very active research-wise and would be willing to have their research outputs acknowledged in Trinity.

Action 2: MIE ACDC Secretary to forward recent internal communication from the Secretary's Office on the ways of capturing academic research productivity for



Calendar 2017/18 to which MIE staff who are research fellow in Trinity could contribute.

In reference to the B.Ed. through the medium of Irish (B.Oid.), the President of Marino Institute of Education noted that consultations with the Department of Education and Skills were ongoing. It is hoped that when funding becomes available it would cover at least four years of the programme delivery to allow the MIE to re-coup its seed costs. It was also planned that the MIE would initiate contact with the Department of Irish in Trinity if the project were to go ahead.

c) on the new institute of education:

The President of Marino Institute of Education noted the ongoing lack of progress with this joint initiative due to difficulties in realising the goal of a jointly accredited primary/post-primary PME. She proposed that this item should be re-phrased as Inter-institutional collaboration: Trinity, MIE, UCD and NCAD which was agreed.

ACDC/16-17/240 Validation of a new postgraduate Master in Education Studies course proposal in Leadership in Christian Education

The Registrar invited the MIE Registrar to speak to the circulated course proposal. The MIE Registrar noted that the new course proposal had been reviewed twice, in November 2016 and in early February 2017, by the School of Education and the Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology in line with *ACDC/09-10/4 minute of ACDC* on 9th July, 2010 which requires that validated postgraduate course proposals should follow a specific approval route. The MIE Registrar expressed his gratitude to colleagues from Trinity for their helpful feedback which enabled the proposed Masters course to become a valuable academic proposition aiming to make a strong and effective contribution to scholarly development in the area. As a result of the internal review an elective module was replaced by a substantive thematic module tailored to the main focus of the Masters course.

The committee recommend the MES proposal in Leadership in Christian Education for submission to the next Graduate Studies Committee on the 16th February 2017.

ACDC/16-17/241 Validation of a new postgraduate Master in Education Studies course proposal in Visual Arts

The MIE Registrar spoke to the circulated course proposal in Visual Arts. The MIE Registrar noted that the new course proposal had been reviewed twice, in November 2016 and in early February 2017, by the School of Education in line with *ACDC/09-10/4 minute of ACDC* on 9th July, 2010 which requires that validated postgraduate course proposals should follow a specific approval route. The MIE Registrar expressed his gratitude to colleagues from the School of Education for their extensive work involved in both revisions. The reviewers' comments were taken on board and resulted in a replacement of an elective module by a specific one focused on visual arts and by emphasising the development of the creativity theme through visual arts to avoid duplication of content already provided by the M.Ed. course in the School of Education. The MIE Registrar stated that the level of assessment would be carefully monitored over the first cohort to eliminate any over-assessment. He



concluded by thanking the MIE ACDC Secretary for her assistance in turning the proposals around efficiently.

The Head of Education noted that going forward the internal reviews should have a longer time frame. He also raised a query as to the average number of contact hours per week appropriate for a module delivery on a Masters course noting thirty five hours against twenty five hours in the MIE and the School of Education respectively. A comment was made that the number of contact hours might differ on various courses depending on, among other things, how much practical element there was to be taught on the module.

The committee recommend the MES proposal in Visual Arts for submission to the next Graduate Studies Committee on the 16th February 2017.

ACDC/16-17/242 To consider appointment of new external examiners

The committee noted the following candidatures:

- 1) Replacement of Prof. Ninetta Santoro on Professional Masters in Education (Primary Teaching) from 2016/17 by Dr Pádraig Ó Duibhir and recommended that the approval for Dr Ó Duibhir's nomination be sought from the University Council;
- 2) Replacement of Dr Geraldine Magennis on Bachelor in Science (Ed St), Bachelor in Science (Early Childhood Ed), Prof Dip in Ed (Further Ed) from 2017/18 and noted Dr Barbara Skinner's academic strengths matching primarily the needs of the IFP and recommended that further candidatures be provided for consideration at the next meeting;

Action 3: MIE Registrar to forward further candidatures to replace Dr Geraldine Magennis as external examiner from 2017/18.

- 3) Appointment of External Examiner on International Foundation Programme from 2016/17: CVs of a number of candidates had been considered and the committee recommended that the approval for Barbara Skinner's nomination be sought from the University Council subject to her consent.

Action 4: MIE ACDC Secretary to bring a submission to the University Council to seek approval for the recommended external examiners.

ACDC/16-17/243 AOB

It was agreed to return to the commencement time of 9am from the next meeting. There being no other business the meeting ended around 10.20am.

Date _____

Registrar _____