



A meeting of Marino Institute of Education, Associated College Degrees Committee (MIE ACDC) was held on Thursday 19th November 2020 at 9am via Zoom.

Present: Registrar (Chair): Prof. Brendan Tangney
Dean of Graduate Studies: Prof. Martine Smith
Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Kevin Mitchell
School of Education - Head: Prof. Damian Murchan
Second Representative from the School of Education: Prof. Joanne Banks
Quality Officer - Roisin Smith
President of Marino Institute of Education: Dr Teresa O'Doherty
Second Representative from Marino Institute of Education: MIE Registrar Dr Seán Delaney
Representatives of MIE Course Groupings:
International Foundation Programme: Dr Barbara O'Toole
Further Education: Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha
UG Programmes: Dr Joan Kiely
Postgraduate Taught Programmes: Dr Gene Mehigan

Apologies: Vice-President of Global Relations (for item ACDC/20-21/003): Prof. Juliette Hussey

In attendance: MIE ACDC Secretary: Lucy Shah; Assistant Academic Secretary, TTL: Linda Darbey; TCD School of Education Administrative Manager: David Byrne; TCD Global Recruitment & Admissions Officer (for item ACDC/20-21/003): Clíodhna Martin; MIE IFP Programme Manager (for item ACDC/19-20/003): Brendan White; MIE Assistant Registrar: Dr Holly Foley; MIE Quality Officer: Julie O'Donnell

The Registrar welcomed new members, MIE Assistant Registrar Dr Holly Foley, MIE Quality Officer, Julie O'Donnell, the Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof. Martine Smith, and Secretary, Lucy Shah to the committee.

ACDC/20-21/001 Minutes of MIE ACDC of 14th May 2020

The Minutes were approved as circulated.

ACDC/20-21/002 Matters arising

i. HEA Mobility Report: MIE Response (ACDC/19-20/342)

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 4 November 2020, was circulated. The TCD Registrar noted that this document, outlining the MIE President's response to the HEA (Higher Education Authority) Mobility Review, had been requested at the last MIE ACDC meeting. The MIE Registrar briefly spoke to the document. He commented that all undergraduate programmes have now been semesterised for the 2020/21 academic year, and that this will increase the number of students who will be able to apply for the Erasmus+ programme. He noted that particular efforts have been made to address the mobility opportunities of the B.Ed. programme students, some of whom will now be able to undertake their Spring school placement requirements in the European School in Brussels. He stated that in response to the findings of the report on how the Erasmus+ mobility programme is communicated to staff and students, both internally and externally, there would be a focus on developing the website, including testimonials from students returning from their experiences abroad.

ii. International Foundation Strategic Curriculum Review (ACDC/19-20/343)

A memorandum from the IFP Programme Manager, dated 11 November 2020, was circulated. The Registrar acknowledged receipt of the memorandum, as had been requested at the last MIE

ACDC meeting. He noted that the Review had taken place prior to the approval of MIE's Quality Assurance Procedures by University Council, and amidst the emerging public health situation. He explained that as the Review had been carried out prior to the Trinity approval of the MIE Quality Assurance Procedures, he was recommending that the report would proceed no further. ACDC members agreed.

ACDC/19-20/343

The Registrar noted that the MIE President had been kept informed of proposed action that Trinity planned to take in regard to Student Accommodation.

ACDC/19-20/352

The Registrar noted that the BSc in Early Childhood Education was approved through Vacation Procedures.

ACDC/20-21/003 Standing item on International Foundation Programme (IFP)

The Registrar noted that two reports had been received for the meeting, one from TCD Global and one from MIE. He welcomed the Recruitment & Admissions Officer, Clíodhna Martin, to the meeting and invited the MIE IFP Programme Manager, Brendan White to give an update on the MIE IFP to ACDC.

i. MIE IFP Report update

A memorandum from the IFP Programme Manager, dated 11 November 2020, was circulated. The IFP Programme Manager spoke to the report, noting that for the 2019/20 cohort, all students experienced the disruption of normal activity due to the emerging public health situation. He reported that approximately one third of the course was subsequently experienced online. He highlighted that, despite this disruption, there was an overall positive progression outcome with 96% of students meeting their progression requirements.

Speaking about the current cohort of students, he reported that there was a decision to delay the start of the academic year until the 2 November 2020, as students globally were experiencing difficulties receiving their high school and English language results in time. He reported that there was a significant increase of 40% in student numbers this year, with 91 students registered. He stated that this is a challenging year, as half the students are located in Ireland, while the other half are in their home countries. He noted that students will be given the opportunity to come to Ireland in January 2021 to join the group here, and that this is dependent on the emerging public health situation. He reported that students are making the transition successfully and that they are being supported through this process.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies queried how the IFP team is dealing with laboratory requirements for students who are attending virtually from their home countries. The IFP Programme Manager reported that Science teachers are exploring options for students to experience laboratory work, and that the use of virtual laboratories in Virtual Learning Environments is being considered. He noted that this is to be discussed at the next IFP co-ordinating committee meeting.

ii. International Foundation Programme Recruitment and Admissions Update

A memorandum from the Admissions and Recruitment Officer, dated 11 November 2020, was circulated. The Registrar invited the Recruitment & Admissions Officer to speak to the item. She spoke briefly to her memorandum, reporting that there were 91 students this year, an increase from 65 students the previous year. She explained that while there is a heavy reliance on China and the Gulf states for students, there is increasing diversity in the programme, with students coming from Malawi, Mongolia, Thailand and Vietnam for the first time this year. She noted that

Russia and Ukraine are potential growth markets, and there will be a focus on growing these. She pointed out that Drama, Film, Music, Religion, Social Studies and Sociology and Social Policy have now been added to the IFP.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies posed a question on the relationship between the modules taken in the IFP and the requirements for destination courses in Trinity. He noted that Further Education and Training (FET) entry routes into undergraduate courses in Trinity can be complicated, and that there is a rationale to simplify this. The IFP Programme Manager explained it is a hybrid approach, with many courses requiring an overall grade, as well as a specific grade in, for example, Mathematics, while programmes like Psychology require students to take a subject from a Pathway B Science subject and a Pathway A elective. He acknowledged that in some areas there are levels of complexity that are challenging.

Decision/Action ACDC/20-21/003: The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to discuss IFP pathway module requirements for entry into Trinity destination programmes with Global and the IFP programme manager, and to report back to a subsequent ACDC meeting.

ACDC/20-21/004 Standing item on the QQI Quality Assurance of Linked Providers

A document from the TCD Quality Officer, dated November 2016, was circulated. The Registrar invited the Quality Officer to provide an update on the Quality Assurance of Linked Providers.

The Quality Officer congratulated MIE on the approval of the MIE Quality Assurance Procedures by University Council and Board. She noted that MIE have complied with §33(3) of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Amendment Act 2019 to publish their procedures as approved and provide a copy to Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). She explained that now that the approval process was complete, an Extraordinary Annual Meeting cited in the MIE ACDC Terms of Reference (approved in November 2016 and circulated to the meeting) would be enacted for the first time this year. She referred to the Agenda items for that meeting as outlined under 5ii and advised that the items discussed at this meeting of MIE ACDC relate to 5iia, and 5iif. She noted a change to the Trinity Quality Committee Terms of Reference that going forward all quality reviews conducted under the MIE approved QA procedures would go forward to the Trinity Quality Committee.

The Quality Officer noted that the Trinity Quality Committee had approved a Virtual Quality Review Procedure at its meeting on the 12 November 2020. She noted that a copy of this procedure has been provided to MIE to inform the development of an MIE Virtual Review Procedure, which will need to be submitted to Trinity for approval prior to its adoption by MIE. She informed members that she was working with Academic Registry to ensure that MIE Programme data is provided to the Irish Register of Qualifications. She advised MIE that the Higher Education Authority, QQI and the Teaching Council would all be ensuring the quality assurance of online and blended teaching this year, and that is important to retain all documentation pertaining to changes in assessment, professional placements to inform the preparation for the MIE institutional quality review.

ACDC/20-21/005 Standing update on communication & inter-institutional collaboration by

Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies

The Registrar invited an update relating to the item from the Dean of Graduate Studies who advised that there had been no recent policies and procedures to report on of relevance to MIE. She noted that the focus has been on exploring the impact of Covid-19 on teaching practices.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised members that the Trinity Education Project (TEP) had now been mainstreamed. He reported that while there had been new

structures, processes, timetables and curriculum changes implemented as a result of TEP, a culture change relating to assessment had come about as a result of the emerging public health situation. He advised that he hopes to retain some of the gains made in that space going forward. He acknowledged that the online modality of assessments has some challenges, and there were slight grade inflations in results in 2019/20, but that the conversion of many exams into take-home assessments offered the opportunity to ask students searching questions and to demonstrate conceptual understanding of a topic. He noted that this requires a shift in the way teaching is done, and that students had responded positively to this shift. He noted that this modality of assessment did increase the potential for cheating and stated that National Academic Integrity Network was exploring the best way to safeguard against this.

The Quality Officer queried whether MIE had received any direction from the Teaching Council regarding school placements. The MIE President advised that school placements have been deferred until Spring, and that there has been direction from Government that inspections of school placements not take place this semester. She advised that the Teaching Council had been flexible with its expectations the previous year, however, the expectation for this academic year is for standard procedures to take place. She advised that the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) has expressed concern regarding placements visits proceeding this academic year.

The Head of the Trinity School of Education reported that the Teaching Council had been very accommodating in its approach to-date, and that the challenges were at the school level. He noted that while the technology is available to inspect student placements, the General Data Protection Regulation is a challenge. The Representative for Further Education, Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha explained that 25% of a student's grade is for lesson planning, and 25% is for post-assessment, while 50% is based upon the teaching and learning. She noted that as students will still be teaching, the objective will be to ensure that students think more deeply about their teaching practice. Responding to a query from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies asking whether there is a contingency plan in place if teaching placements cannot take place, she advised that the Teaching Council has a requirement of a 10 week placement, and in 2019/20 ZOOM was employed as a form of assessment for the placement, with students presenting to a Panel of Assessors. The Registrar commented that the matter of school placements is a systemic issue, which will need a Department of Education and Skills' solution.

Decision/Action ACDC/20-21/005: The MIE President and the Head of School of Education to discuss the matter of school inspections and provide an update at the next MIE ACDC meeting.

ACDC/20-21/006 MIE Analysis of the National Student Survey results for 2019/20

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 11 November 2020, was circulated. The Registrar invited the MIE Registrar to speak to the item. The MIE Registrar stated that the National Student Survey invites students on first year undergraduate, final year undergraduate, and taught postgraduate courses to respond to over sixty questions grouped by a number of engagement factors. He noted that the survey had taken place prior to the pandemic, and that the response rate of 41% had been the highest in the sector and third highest in the country. He stated that the survey is useful to compare MIE's own results against previous years, rather than across institutions.

The Registrar spoke to the document that had been circulated, advising that MIE's results showed consistency across a number of indicators from the previous year with some minor improvements. He noted that the lowest results were seen in student-faculty interactions. He spoke of the non-indicator items, noting that approximately 9 out of 10 students had a positive experience, and would choose to study at MIE again. He said that there is scope for improvement in three areas, student-faculty interaction, supportive environment, and

quantitative reasoning. Responding to a comment from a member on how the area of quantitative reasoning could be improved, the Registrar advised that there had been focus on improving this last year. He reported that lecturers had been encouraged to be more specific with the presentation of their data and had received a lecture from a guest speaker about methods of doing this.

The Quality Officer requested that the non-indicator questions be analysed and that all results should be displayed the following year in tabular form. She advised that it is useful to look also at the students who responded 'never' to questions, as insights can be drawn from these. She advised that the new survey in February will contain questions on Covid-19.

Decision/Action ACDC/20-21/006: MIE to provide data on all 21 questions in the 2020/21 Student Survey report.

ACDC/20-21/007 To consider: external examiners' reports for 2019/20

A document from the MIE Registrar was circulated. The MIE Registrar spoke to the item. He began by explaining the Irish language External Examiner's report, which had been received in Irish, highlighting the various point that had been made. He noted that the External Examiner commended MIE for the work that had been completed in establishing the course. He highlighted that MIE would be examining grades allocated to students on the B.Ed. programme, as the allocation of first-class honours to students had come up in the External Examiner's report. He advised that all reports had been considered by the programme boards in MIE, and a response to each report will subsequently be presented at the February ACDC meeting.

ACDC/20-21/008 Nominations of External Examiners for 2020/21

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 11 November 2020, was circulated. The MIE Registrar spoke to the item. He advised that three terms of office are due to expire at the end of 2020/21 and that three nominations had been received, one for each term of office.

Decision/Action ACDC/20-21/008: Dr Tom Walsh, Dr Grainne Ni Dhomhnaill, Dr Anne Chappell were endorsed for Council as External Examiners. The MIE ACDC Secretary to submit the nomination to January 2021 Council for approval.

ACDC/20-21/009 AOB

The Registrar advised members that invitations to the December virtual Commencement Ceremony would be sent to the appropriate MIE students shortly.

Registrar: Brendan Tangney
Date: 19 November 2020