



A meeting of the MIE ACDC was held on 28 April 2022 at 9.00am.

Present: Professor Neville Cox, Registrar (*Chair*)
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies
Professor David Shepherd, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Professor Carmel O'Sullivan, Head of School of Education
Professor Joanne Banks, Second Representative from the School of Education
Ms. Roisin Smith, Quality Officer
MIE:
Professor Teresa O'Doherty, President of MIE Education
Dr Seán Delaney, MIE Registrar
Dr Gene Mehigan, Postgraduate Taught Programmes
Dr Sandra Austin, International Foundation Programme
Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha, Further Education

Apologies: Dr Joan Kiely, Undergraduate Programmes; Clíodhna Martin, Admissions and Recruitment Manager for IFP (for item MIE/ACDC/21-22/026)

In attendance: Ms Shauna Cassidy, MIE Assistant Registrar; Ms Ciara Conlon, Academic Affairs; Ms Linda Darbey, Assistant Academic Secretary; Mr Conn McCluskey, School of Education Manager; Ms Julie O'Donnell, MIE Quality Officer; Mr Brendan White, MIE IFP Programme Manager (for item MIE/ACDC/21-22/026)

MIE/ACDC/21-22/024 Minutes of the meeting 28 February 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 February 2022 were approved.

MIE/ACDC/21-22/025 Matters arising

- i. **MIE/ACDC/21-22/010:** External examiner nominees, Dr Brian Morrison and Dr Máire Nic An Bhaird, which were approved at the 18 November 2021 MIE ACDC meeting, were approved by Council on 6 April 2022.
- ii. **MIE/ACDC/21-22/014** The MES Primary Maths Education course proposal was approved by GSC on 21 April 2022 and will be presented to Council on 4 May 2022. The external review has been completed and the feedback was very positive.
- iii. **MIE/ACDC/21-22/015** Amendments to Modules on B.Sc Education Studies and B. Ed Primary (through Irish), which were approved at the February MIE ACDC meeting, were approved by USC on 22 March and by Council through USC minutes on 6 April 2022.
- iv. **MIE/ACDC/21-22/016** The proposed Elective Modules for the B.Sc. Early Childhood Education, which were approved at the February MIE ACDC meeting, were approved at USC on 22 March and Council through USC minutes on 6 April 2022.



- v. **MIE/ACDC/21-22/019:** The Registrar advised that the terms of reference for the curricular sub-committee will be circulated to members this week.

MIE/ACDC/21-22/026 Standing update on International Foundation Programme by the Recruitment and Admissions Manager, Global Relations & MIE IFP Manager

The Registrar invited the MIE IFP Manager to provide an update on this item. The MIE IFP Manager informed members that out of the 104 registered students, 95 are expected to complete the programme this year. Students are reporting challenges, including mental health difficulties, with 10% of students attending support services and MIE has increased supports available to students.

The MIE IFP manager advised that sub committees of the IFP co-ordinating committee will be established to examine curriculum development and student life, with the view to better align and update the programme. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies welcomed this review and advised he would be happy to facilitate this work where possible. The IFP Manager thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and stated that the terms of reference are currently being drafted and he will get in touch once work progresses.

An update from the Recruitment and Admissions manager was circulated and as she was unable to attend the meeting, the IFP Manager spoke to this. He advised that the number of firm acceptances for 2022/23 are similar to this time last year, although the number of overall acceptances for 2022/23 are slightly below. He noted that certain cohorts of students may face challenges in accepting offers, especially those from Russia and Ukraine. Chinese students are reporting mobility issues in relation to prohibitive costs of flights back to China and difficulties with securing visas, which may also impact prospective students' decisions to accept offers. The Registrar stated that non-EU students who have graduated with a Level 8 Degree or higher can apply to remain in Ireland to seek employment under the Third Level Graduate Programme and students should be advised as such.

The MIE President drew attention to difficulties that one current IFP student from Russia is facing due to the current political developments and outlined the additional supports MIE is providing, including accommodation on campus. She queried if IFP students from Russia or Ukraine who progress to undergraduate programmes in Trinity will be offered additional supports. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that Trinity has instigated an institutional response to this crisis, including the setting up of a working group, to coordinate the College response and establish supports for new and existing students from affected countries. She advised a specific email address has been established to coordinate queries and she will communicate further with the MIE President on this matter. The Senior Lecturer/ Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised the



MIE President to communicate any issues these affected students face to inform logistic or academic planning required.

Action/Decision

21-22/026: The Dean of Graduate Studies to communicate with the MIE President regarding Trinity's response to students affected by the invasion of Ukraine.

MIE/ACDC/21-22/027 Proposed Elective Module for B. Ed Primary (through Irish)

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 2 April 2022, was circulated along with a module descriptor form. The MIE Registrar stated that the proposal for a new elective module entitled 'Traditional Arts and Cultural Literacy' will complement the suite of elective modules provided to students on the last year of the programme. This module will provide students with a chance to develop their skills and meet the needs of primary schools where the traditional arts are valued. He advised that this proposal doesn't require any changes to the programme learning outcomes.

Members congratulated MIE in developing the elective module, commenting that it is a very attractive offering with a strong emphasis on culture and is pertinent to the current landscape of teacher education.

One member commended the fact that the methods used align with many of the principles of universal design for learning (UDL) and that this could be further highlighted by explicitly referring to UDL in the module specification. The member advised that workshops on embedding inclusivity are held regularly and colleagues from MIE are invited to attend these sessions.

The Academic Assistant Secretary advised that the [Trinity Inclusive Curriculum Project \(Trinity- INC\)](#) has developed many resources, including a checklist for micro-credentials for ensuring the principles of inclusive curriculum are followed, and offered to send these to MIE.

Action/Decision

21/22.028(i): MIE ACDC approved the Elective Module 'Traditional Arts and Cultural Literacy' for the B.Ed Primary (Irish-medium and English-medium) to be offered to students from September 2022.

Action/Decision

21/22.028(ii): The School of Education Second Representative to communicate with MIE on inclusive curriculum resources and workshops provided in Trinity.

MIE/ACDC/21-22/028 Standing update on Communication

- a) Inter-institutional collaboration including research – Head of School of Education and MIE President



As the Dean of Graduate Studies had to withdraw from the meeting, this item was moved up the agenda. The Registrar first invited the Head of School of Education and the MIE President to give an update. The Head of School of Education passed her warm congratulations to the MIE lecturer who recently passed her PhD *viva voce* examination with no changes recommended, as well as to colleagues in MIE who were awarded an European Research Council grant. She also extended her gratitude to organisers from both institutions who are hosting a symposium on the theme of a hundred years of Irish Education, which is organised by the Cultures, Academic Values and Education Research (CAVE) Centre, to be held on the 13th – 14th May 2022. She wished MIE well in hosting the Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE) Spring Conference on the 25th – 27th May 2022. She drew attention to a number of joint initiatives between the School of Education and MIE, including a joint submission to the Financial Support Scheme for hosting international conferences, run by Fáilte Ireland, and a joint research event to promote collegiality between staff in the institutions scheduled for September 2022.

The Committee also extended their congratulations to Dr Joseph Roche, School of Education, for his election to Fellowship on 25 May 2022.

b) Policies and procedures relevant to MIE – Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Graduate Studies

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that work on Academic Integrity is progressing and Council will shortly consider for approval the terms of reference for the Academic Integrity Working Group.

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised members that the [Return of Coursework](#) Policy has been updated. The current External Examiner policy will soon be revised and practices around the external examination will also be reviewed as challenges in securing external examiners has been reported.

The Dean of Graduate Studies withdrew from the meeting.

MIE/ACDC/21-22/029 Standing update on Quality Assurance of Linked Providers by Quality Officer

The Registrar invited the Quality Officer to provide an update on the following items:

i. Institutional Quality Review

The Quality Officer thanked colleagues in MIE for participating in the Trinity Institutional Quality Review held in March 2022 and advised that the Review report is expected in June 2022.

ii. Linked Provider Annual Dialogue Meeting



The annual dialogue meeting was held on 27 April 2022, the minutes of which will go for approval to the Quality Committee.

iii. Approval of the Linked Provider Quality Review Procedures

The Linked Provider Quality Review Procedures will be considered at Council on 4 May 2022 before proceeding for approval to Board. Planning for the quality review will commence once approved.

iv. QQI Updates

The Quality Officer advised that a number of revised guidelines from Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) are to be released soon. The Quality Assurance Guidelines for Blending Learning are being reviewed to include QA guidelines on online learning and are expected to be available soon. The revised code of practice for the Provision of Education and Training to International Learners' is also to be published soon. An International Education Mark (IEM) will be awarded to higher education and English language education providers who have demonstrated that they meet national standards in respect to providing education to international students. Early discussions with QQI on this topic have commenced; it is not yet clear if the application process is open to Linked Providers, or if they are to be included in the IEM Application of their Designated Awarding Body. The criterion for assessment will centre where the academic governance lies and there are different arrangements across the sector. One area of identified need that has emerged from discussions with QQI is the need for an English Language Teaching Policy. The Quality Officer advised that Professor Lorna Carson, Head of the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences and founding Director of the Centre for English Language Teaching has agreed to lead out on the development of the Policy and will consult on the draft policy with MIE. An additional consideration, unknown at this time, is the cost to apply for the IEM, this decision will be made by the Minister (DFHERIS) and is likely to be significant.

MIE/ACDC/21-22/030 MIE programme entries for Calendar part II and III for 2022/23

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 6 April 2022 with enclosed Calendar entries for 2022/23 was circulated. The MIE Registrar advised that there are no amendments to the Calendar Part II (undergraduate). The recently approved MES in Primary Maths has been added to the entry for the Calendar Part III, along with other minor amendments in relation to admissions regulations and programme structure sections for each programme.

Some minor amendments were offered including:

- When referring to the NFQ Level refer also to 'the National Framework of Qualifications' i.e. level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- In the International Foundation Programme entry in Calendar Part II state the type of award students will receive.
- Entries that have a part-time delivery option should state how many credits are offered each year.



Action/Decision

21/22.029: MIE ACDC approved the entries for the Calendar Part II and III 2022/23, subject to minor amendments, and will recommend the changes to USC and GSC for approval.

MIE/ACDC/21-22/031 Any Other Business

- i. The Assistant Academic Secretary advised that new resources have been developed to support academic and teaching staff proposing new PG courses. She advised that an expression of interest form and a course outline form is being introduced for postgraduate course proposals in Trinity, which will support the development of course proposals. Schools completing an expression of interest form for courses for consideration by GSC in 2022/23 will be invited to attend an information session will be held on 21 June 2022. She extended the invitation to MIE colleagues to attend, and offered to meet MIE to discuss the supports being put in place in Trinity following the meeting.
- ii. The Registrar stated that he will communicate with MIE regarding holding commencement ceremonies for MIE graduates on Saturdays as this will minimise disruption to schools.
- iii. The Registrar enquired if members would like to conduct meetings face to face or via Zoom next year and members agreed to meet in person. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies raised the possibility of holding a meeting on MIE campus and this suggestion was warmly welcomed by members.

Section B (For noting)

MIE ACDC noted the following items:

i. External Examiner Nominations

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar was circulated and outlined the following external examiner nominations:

- a. Dr Karen Kerr for the Professional Master of Education (Primary)
- b. Dr Ioanna Palaiologou for the Bachelor in Science (Early Childhood Education)

ii. Provisional ACDC dates for 2022/23

A Memorandum from the MIE ACDC Secretary was circulated and members noted the proposed dates for the next academic year.