



**A meeting of the MIE ACDC was held 02 March 2023 at 10.00am in Room 5, St. Marys Building MIE.**

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. Róisín Smith, Quality Officer  
Professor Teresa O'Doherty, President of MIE  
Dr Seán Delaney, MIE Registrar  
Dr Joan Kiely, Undergraduate Programmes  
Dr Aimie Brennan, Further Education  
Dr Sandra Austin, International Foundation Programme.  
Dr Gene Mehigan, Postgraduate Taught Programmes

Apologies: Mr Conn McCluskey, School of Education Manager  
Ms Linda Darbey, Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs

In attendance: Ms Shauna Cassidy, MIE Assistant Registrar; Ms Ciara Conlon, Academic Affairs; Ms Julie O'Donnell, MIE Quality Officer; Mr Brendan White, MIE IFP Programme Manager (for item MIE/ACDC/22-23/016).

---

**MIE/ACDC/22-23/014 Minutes of the meeting 17 November 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17 November 2022 were approved.

**MIE/ACDC/22-23/015 Matters arising**

- i. **MIE/ACDC/22-23/007:** The Registrar confirmed that the amendments to the Communications & Technology in Education module (PDE Further Education) were approved by USC and Council.
- ii. **MIE/ACDC/22-23/008:** The Registrar informed the meeting that the amendments to the Physical Education (PE) and Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) module (Bachelor in Education) were approved by USC and Council.

**MIE/ACDC/22-23/016 Standing update on International Foundation Programme by the Recruitment and Admissions Manager, Global Relations & MIE IFP Manager**

The Registrar welcomed the MIE IFP Manager to the meeting and invited him to provide an update on this item.

The MIE IFP manager provided an update on the current cohort of students, advising that out of 110 students who registered, 105 have continued into semester two. He explained that there were varied reasons for attrition such as students accepting direct offers to other Irish institutions. He advised that the acceptance rate is increasing annually, with quotas for some programmes already filled for 2023/24.



The MIE IFP manager advised that an application fee has been introduced, which has significantly improved the quality of applicants and reduced the volume of applications that do not progress. He noted that the fee is refundable should the student not meet the necessary requirements. Responding to a query from the Quality Officer, he stated that there is a need to ensure applicants can financially support themselves to progress in their chosen programme in Trinity.

The MIE IFP manager stated that additional supports are being provided to approximately 30% of students currently, to ensure they meet the necessary entry requirements for their chosen undergraduate degree programme. In response to a query from the Dean of Graduate Studies, he confirmed that the number of students accessing supports has fluctuated in the last number of years, likely due to the impact of the pandemic, and that it is hoped this will decrease in the coming years. The IFP manager stated that a recent survey of students indicated that students were happy with supports made available. He stated that the teacher-student ratio has been increased and events to promote integration have been held. The MIE Director stated that there is a very young age profile of students, with some as young as 16, and that it may be prudent to consider an age limit on applicants. The Registrar advised that a significant proportion of those accessing counselling services in Trinity are international postgraduate students. The Head of the School of Education highlighted that homestay accommodation may be suitable for younger students, and the MIE IFP manager confirmed that a small number of students do request homestay arrangements however the cost is higher. The MIE Registrar advised that a guardian arrangement is in place for students under eighteen. In response to a query from the Quality Officer, the MIE IFP manager advised that students are normally not permitted to repeat the IFP, but exceptions can be made in exceptional circumstances.

Speaking to the topic of the IFP curriculum review, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that surveys will be administered to teaching staff and former students on 3 March 2023, and the data will inform the work of the review working group. The Registrar concluded the item, thanking the MIE IFP Manager for the update.

#### **MIE/ACDC/22-23/017 Standing update on Quality Assurance of Linked Providers by Quality Officer**

The Registrar invited the Quality Officer to provide an update on the Quality Assurance items.

i. International Education Mark

The Quality Officer advised that the newly revised code of practice and handbook are both expected to be made available imminently. Linked Providers will be subject to an initial upfront cost in addition to an annual fee for certification. She informed the meeting that Trinity's English Language Teaching policy is progressing, and the final approved version will be provided to MIE as MIE can base their own policy on Trinity's. In response to a query, she advised that linked providers will be expected to apply, and report, directly to QQI.



ii. MIE Quality Review

The Quality Officer confirmed that the MIE Institutional Quality Review will be held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

The MIE President confirmed that MIE are currently preparing a submission to the Teaching Council to ensure compliance with Céim requirements.

**MIE/ACDC/22-23/018 MIE Response to External Examiners' Reports**

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 20 February 2023, was circulated along with the MIE responses to individual reports. The MIE Registrar advised that the responses have been produced by the relevant programme boards and were considered at the MIE Council in January 2023.

The Dean of Graduate Studies, commenting on feedback in the external examiner report, queried if there is scope to introduce more optionality in modules in the MES Leadership in Christian Education. The MIE Registrar advised that the current structure of the programme, which consists of four modules, does not allow for that and pointed out that students do have some choice when it comes to assessment, and that this will be made more explicit in future reports. He explained that newly introduced postgraduate programmes have six modules and optionality will be easier to introduce in this structure.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies commended MIE on the substantial responses produced. He noted that the response to feedback regarding student collaboration suggests that MIE is satisfied with the level of student collaboration and groupwork on the Bachelor in Education programme. He stated that Trinity is currently reviewing the External Examiner policy and practice and are examining the interaction between examiners and welcomed MIE input on the level of engagement with students and how MIE facilitate this. The MIE Quality Officer advised that the external examiner for the Bachelor in Education programme made site visits to Schools to observe student placements.

The Head of the School of Education commended MIE on the structure of the response and for the weight assigned to the post-placement interview assessment component.

The Quality Officer pointed to the comments on adjustments to assessment marks awarded to students on the IFP, and in response, Dr Austin explained that marks were benchmarked from a previous cohort to ensure they were not at a disadvantage. The MIE President further explained inflation in Leaving Certificate results in recent years provided a strong rationale for the adjustments.

**Action/Decision**

**018.1** MIE noted the MIE response to the External Examiner reports.



**MIE/ACDC/22-23/019 MES Master in Education Studies (Christian School Leadership) Online Proposal**

**XX**

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 23 February 2023, was circulated along with the course proposal documentation.

The MIE Registrar spoke to the item, stating that this proposal is for the second fully online postgraduate programme. He advised that MIE are also proposing that the current face-to face MES (Leadership in Christian Education) will be suspended for 2023/24. He explained that the proposed programme will be structured around 6 modules in the first year, with students completing a dissertation in the second year of the programme.

The Dean of Graduate Studies welcomed the proposal and queried how access to health and disability supports will be provided virtually. The MIE Registrar explained that it is expected that the majority of students will reside in Ireland and that MIE can provide online consultations with disability and counselling services and can also arrange online medical consultations. The Quality Officer advised that certain services cannot be provided to students residing outside of Ireland due to regulatory requirements. The MIE Register stated that it will be highlighted to students that virtual services can only be provided to those residing in Ireland.

**Action/Decision**

**019.1** MIE ACDC approved the proposal for the online two year Master in Education Studies (Christian School Leadership) Online and Postgraduate Diploma exit award, with a first intake of September 2023.

**019.2** MIE ACDC approved the suspension of the MES (Leadership in Christian Education) for the academic year 2023/24.

**MIE/ACDC/22-23/020 Standing update on Communication**

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

The Registrar invited the Dean of Graduate Studies to provide an update.

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the External Examiner policy and practice is currently under review in Trinity. She provided further updates, stating that as part of PG renewal, English language requirements are being reviewed for all postgraduate programmes and that the model for assessment of research component of Postgraduate taught programmes is also under consideration, advising that there is a desire to showcase research skills in a discipline-specific manner.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies informed the meeting that advice has been issued to teaching staff on how to respond to challenges in ensuring academic integrity in light of the development of AI text generators. The



MIE Registrar advised that MIE have established a working group on Academic Integrity and will attend the National Academic Integrity Network meeting on 10 March 2023. He advised that MIE have been considering assessment design and stated that the MES Primary Maths have integrated ChatGPT into assessments. The Dean of Graduate Students stated that there has been a diverse response among Schools in Trinity, with some Schools incorporating AI text generators, as in MIE, while others are focusing on preventing use.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies provided an update on the Sustainability in UG Education (SUGE) Working Group, which is considering options on how to embed sustainability in the undergraduate curriculum, including building principles of sustainability into the graduate attributes. It was noted that sustainability features in the current MIE strategic plan and a mapping exercise has been completed to ensure sustainability is built into all MIE programmes. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that he is interested in discussing this further offline.

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

The Registrar invited the MIE President to give an update.

The MIE President advised that the bid to host the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement in January 2024 was successful, and preparations are under way to host approximately 700 attendees.

The MIE President stated that MIE attended a research workshop with the School of Education in September and that there are plans to host another meeting in MIE in the coming months. She further advised that MIE are currently collaborating with the Department of Sociology with respect to a PhD project focused on growing up in multicultural Ireland and the school-community relationship.

The MIE President provided an update on the TOBAR project, stating that an officer has been appointed and that work is progressing, and that recruitment of a PhD candidate is ongoing.

The Head of School of Education welcomed the engagement of MIE colleagues in the work of the School's research centres, particularly the Centre for Research in IT in Education (CRITE), which is a collaboration between the School of Education and the School of Computer Science & Statistics. She advised that activities have been taking place in the Centre for Cultures, Academic Values in Education (CAVE) research centre, including a seminar on technology for students with intellectual disabilities.

The Head of School of Education drew attention to a bid submitted by Trinity, MIE and other institutions for funding provided jointly from the Teaching Council and the Department of Education for a longitudinal research study to investigate teachers professional learning



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

**MIE/ACDC/22-23/024 Any Other Business**

- i. The Registrar advised that a query raised by the MIE Registrar in relation to parchments has been brought to the Graduation team in Academic Registry and that he will revert in due course.

**MIE/ACDC/22-23/025 Section B (For noting)**

MIE ACDC noted the following items:

- i. **External Examiner Nomination**

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar was circulated which outlined the external examiner nominations of Professor Claire Cassidy, University of Strathclyde, as external examiner on the Bachelor in Science (Education Studies) and Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education) and the nomination of Professor Gabriel Stylianides, University of Oxford, has been nominated as external examiner on the Master in Education Studies (Primary Mathematics).