



## MINUTES

Meeting	: SETU Academic Council
Meeting Number	: 18
Date	: 9 December 2025
Duration	: 11.00am – 1.00pm
Attendees	: Prof. Veronica Campbell (Chairperson), Ms. Amanda Freeman-Gater, Dr. Anne Graham Cagney, Mr. Aubrey Storey, Dr. Cara Daly, Dr. Cathal Nolan, Dr. Ciara O’Hagan, Dr. Claire O’Gorman, Mr. Conor Phelan, Dr. Corinne Power O’Mahony, Dr. Daire O’Broin, Mr. Daniel Fagan, Mr. David O’Callaghan, Dr. David Scanlon, Dr. Dean Callaghan, Mr. Derek Sheridan, Dr. Eileen Doyle-Walsh, Ms. Eleanor Kent, Ms. Emer McGann, Ms. Erin Foley, Dr. Eugene Crehan, Dr. Geraldine Cleere, Mr. Gregg Murphy, Dr. Helen Murphy, Dr. Janette Davies, Prof. John Wells, Dr. Katherine Cagney, Dr. Ken Thomas, Dr. Kevin Doolin, Dr. Laurence Fitzhenry, Dr. Maeve Doyle, Mr. Martin Walshe, Mr. Michael Tobin, Dr. Mrinal Chadha, Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, Dr. Paula Rankin, Dr. Pauline Flanagan, Dr. Richard Coady, Ms. Sadhb Reddy, Dr. Suzanne Denieffe, Dr. Thomas O’Toole, Dr. Tony Murphy, Ms. Yvonne Scully
In attendance	: Dr. Chris O’Riordan (items 5,6 & 7) Ms. Andrea Boland (observing) Dr. Colette Moloney (observing) Dr. Paul O’Leary (observing)
Secretariat	: Ms. Margaret Maher
Apologies	: Mr. Brian Power, Dr. Derek O’Byrne, Dr. Frances Hardiman, Ms. Hannah Polson, Dr. Hazel Farrell, Dr. Karen Hennessy, Prof. Marie Claire Van Hout, Dr. Paula Lane, Ms. Siobhan Wall, Dr. Stephen Whelan,

Chairperson opened the meeting and apologised that the meeting had to be moved online at short notice and advised we will aim to have an in-person meeting in the new year.

### 1. Minutes of Academic Council Meeting of 18 November 2025

**AGREED:** Minutes of Academic Council Meeting of 18 November 2025 were approved.

### 2. Matters Arising

#### 2.1 Update on the use of GenAI score on Turnitin

A copy of the email issued by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Teaching and Learning to all Heads of Faculty and Heads of Department on 4 December 2025 was circulated prior to this meeting. The email states that a proposal, prepared by the University's GenAI Steering Committee in collaboration with the Quality Office, will be presented to Academic Council recommending the discontinuance of the detector from the next academic term based on the fact that it is not a reliable indicator and will likely give false positives.

A lengthy discussion took place, during which some members noted that following the last Academic Council meeting, they had received feedback from staff expressing opposition to the proposal. It was suggested that more targeted training should be provided for both staff and students. Additionally, members requested that further research be conducted on practices across the sector before any final decision is made on this proposal.

**AGREED:** This item is to be brought back to a future meeting of Academic Council once research has been completed.

### 3. Policies for Noting

There were no policies for noting.

### 4. Committee Reports

#### 4.1 Research & Research Programmes Committee

The Draft Minutes of the Research & Research Programmes Committee meeting of the 25 November 2025 were circulated prior to this meeting.

**AGREED:** As per the Committee Report the following were approved by Academic Council:

Application Type	Number of Applicants
Examiner nominations for research postgraduate candidates submitting for award	2

Members noted that the Finance and Capital Investment Committee has recently approved an increase in the stipend for SETU Scholarship Students, effective from January 2026. The revised amount will be €22,500. A query arose in relation to the timing of the announcement of the new intake SETU PhD Scholarships and the Chairperson advised that the Vice President of Research, Innovation and Impact would communicate that.

#### Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee

The Draft Minutes of the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee meeting of the 25 November 2025 were circulated prior to this meeting.

**AGREED:** The following were approved by Academic Council:

**New Programmes**

- BA (Honours) in Home Economics, BA (Honours) in Home Economics (International)

**Micro-credentials**

- Academic Podcasting
- Digital Storytelling

**Major Changes**

- BA (Honours) in Psychology, BA (Honours) in Psychology International
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Bachelor of Arts (Honours) International

**Minor Changes**

- BSc in Fashion Buying & Retail Management
- Postgraduate Diploma/ MSc in Organic and Biological Horticulture
- Certificate in Management Practice for Landscape Biodiversity
- BEng (Honours) in Sustainable Energy Engineering
- Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
- Bachelor of Business (Honours), Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Business Information Systems.

**External Examiner Nominations****Programme Examiners**

Category	Number of External Examiners
New contracts Sept 2025 – Sept 2028	4
Three-year extension to Sept 2028	5
Two-year extension to Sept 2007	1

**Subject Area Examiners**

Category	Number of External Examiners
New contracts Sept 2025-Sept 2028	10
One-year extension to Sept 2026	1

Members were informed the deadline date for feedback on the QQI Papers on Micro-credentials and the policy on qualifications at NFQ levels 5 & 6 has been extended to January 2026. SETU response will be considered at the next meeting of the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee.

Members were also advised on the number of amendments to results following examination boards for the 2024/25 academic year. Concern was expressed regarding the volume of amendments, as this raises issues of quality and governance. It was noted that the Chairperson of the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee will discuss this matter with the Heads of Faculty to raise awareness of the issue. It was further agreed that this matter

would be brought to the attention of the Executive Management Team (EMT) at the next available opportunity.

**AGREED:** The proposal to re-adopt Duolingo as an acceptable test of English language competency for international and domestic applicants was approved by Academic Council.

#### **4.3 Student Experience Committee**

The Draft Minutes of the Student Experience Committee meeting of 2 December 2025 was circulated prior to this meeting and was noted by Academic Council.

#### **4.4 GenAI Steering Group**

The Document “*Responsible Use of Grammarly in Assessed Work*” was circulated prior to this meeting and was noted by Academic Council.

The Document “*Proposal to Disable AI Detection Features in Turnitin*” was circulated prior to this meeting but was discussed under Matters Arising and a decision on this document was deferred pending further information.

#### **5. CAO/Registration Update**

Document “SETU Enrolment Initial Review of SRS October 2025” was circulated prior to this meeting. Dr. Chris O’Riordan presented the document firstly thanking the Centre for Organisational Research, Data and Analysis (CORDA) for preparing the data. The presentation included data on SETU Full-Time Undergraduate New Entrants and SETU Full-Time Undergraduates. Dr. O’Riordan advised members this is very much interim data which will be finalised in 2026.

Members were advised that the Retention Review was discussed at the Joint Quality Committee (JQC) meeting held earlier today. The site visit for this Review is due to be held the week of 20 April 2026. A Steering Group has been established and the Terms of Reference agreed, a number of working groups have also been established.

#### **6. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Feedback Strategy**

Document “Update on Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Feedback Strategy (TLAFS) Working Group for Academic Council” was circulated prior to this meeting. Dr. Chris O’Riordan spoke to the document and provided members with a brief update on the progress made since the last report to Academic Council.

#### **7. Programme Development and Validation Regulatory Framework**

Documents “Programme Development and Validation Policy – Draft Only, Programme Development and Validation Procedure – Draft Only” were circulated prior to this meeting. Dr. Chris O’Riordan presented on these documents outlining the Introduction and Rationale, the Policy’s Purpose, Scope and Principles as well as key provisions in the policy & key points in the procedures.

Members welcomed both documents but requested that the involvement of Finance be clearly noted in the procedure document and that the procedure document addresses cross-faculty programmes and the need for agreement on these at the programme resourcing stage by the

relevant Faculties. Academic Council also asked for Terms of Reference for the Faculty Programmes Sub-Committee and were advised that these can be developed once the Policy is approved and the implementation plan finalised. In addition, members raised questions regarding the timing of minor changes and suggested that specified times within the academic year be included, with requests for minor changes permitted twice yearly.

**AGREED:** Feedback from today's meeting will be incorporated into the documents and brought back to the next meeting of Academic Council for approval. It was also agreed that the Programme Development and Validation Policy and Procedures can be piloted in selected areas while the approval process is underway.

**8. A.O.B**

Members expressed concern regarding the timing of the release of examination timetables for the upcoming Semester 1 examination session and requested a more streamlined and timely publication of timetables across all campuses.

The Chairperson thanked all members for their contribution to Academic Council during 2025 and wished all a happy Christmas.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_