

Minutes of the 8th Joint Quality Committee Meeting

Date: 09/12/2025

Time: 9.30am

Venue: MS Teams

Chairperson: Pauline Oakes

Attendees: Dr Derek O'Byrne (Secretary)
Andrea Boland
Aubrey Storey
Brian Power
Emer McGann
Richard Lacey

Apologies: Professor Marie Claire Van Hout
Dr Zeta Dooly

In attendance for all Agenda Items:

Dr Chris O'Riordan, Capacity Building Lead – Academic Quality and Governance

In attendance for Agenda Item 4.1.1:

David Denieffe, Senior Vice President- Operations
Dr Fintan Bracken, Chief Information Officer – Centre for Organisational Research, Data and Analysis (CORDA)
Muirghin Brophy, TSAF Capacity Building Lead, Student Experience

Secretariat: Andrea Boland

Item Title	
1.	<u>Welcome, apologies and new member appointments</u> The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the 8th meeting of the Joint Quality Committee.
2.	<u>Minutes of 6th Joint Quality Committee Meeting:</u> AGREED Approve the minutes of 23 September 2025 and publish them to the website.
3.	<u>Matters Arising</u> None.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Data and QA Enhancement

4.1.1 *Data Schedule: Student Survey Presentation*

The Student Survey Presentation was delivered by David Denieffe, Dr Fintan Bracken and Muirghin Brophy.

Following the presentation, queries from members included information on the surveys response rate and its comparability to other Higher Education Institutions, possible strategies for increasing the surveys response rate, the wording of certain survey questions, the presentation of the data, and the communication of the survey findings to students.

The Student Experience Committee is engaging with the Students' Union to develop the key themes for student communication on the outcomes and actions from the survey. It is envisaged that messaging to students will be disseminated via a multimedia plan in quarter 1 of 2026.

4.1.2 *Data Schedule: Grade Distribution & Award Classifications*

Dr Chris O'Riordan delivered the presentation on Grade Distribution & Award Classifications for final awards. The data included in the presentation consisted of fulltime undergraduate Level 7 General and Level 8 Honours Degree awards made over the period of the 2019/20 to 2023/24 academic years. Committee noted the general consistency in findings across disciplines and years.

The possibility of monitoring distributions and possible trends over the coming years was discussed along with variations in some discipline areas and possible reasons for same.

4.2 4.2.1 *Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies' Relationship Register*

The Assistant Registrar Quality and Reviews presented the draft Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies' Relationship Register. The Register, along with the accompanying Governance Protocol for Professional Accreditation and Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Risk Procedure will be presented to the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching and Learning Committee. The Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching and Learning Committee will monitor the University's professional accreditation activity. Any areas of concern will be presented to the Committee and Academic Council, if deemed necessary.

AGREED Approve the Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies' Relationship Register.

ACTION The Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies' Relationship Register, the Governance Protocol for Professional Accreditation, and the Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Risk Procedure to be presented to the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching and Learning Committee on 13 January 2026.

4.3 Professional Service Unit Reviews Schedule

4.3.1 Schedule for Professional Service Unit Reviews (Draft)

The draft Schedule for Professional Service Unit Reviews was presented by the Assistant Registrar Quality and Reviews. The draft Schedule is informed by meetings with the University's Professional Service Unit Vice Presidents and has been presented to the University's Executive Management Team. The draft Schedule is subject to change. However, it is intended that these reviews will commence in 2026.

5. Work Plan

5.1 Academic Risk Register

Standing item on Agenda; no updates to report.

5.2 Quality Reviews Internal

5.2.1. *Academic Unit Reviews Updates: Department of Nursing and Health Care*

The Assistant Registrar Quality and Reviews presented the *Academic Review of the Department of Nursing and Health Care Peer Review Group Report*. The review took place in September 2025. Overall, the findings of the review were positive with some commendations and recommendations included in the report.

The reports recommendations relating to the consideration of introducing a 'technical solution to the Clinical Skills logbook to mitigate against procedural issues' and engagement with 'Registry to identify appropriate derogations and to progress a request for approval of these derogations by Academic Council through the University's normal channels for same' was discussed. Committee was advised that the Departments response to the Report and its recommendations will be considered by the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching and Learning Committee.

AGREED Approve the Academic Review of the Department of Nursing and Health Care Peer Review Report.

ACTION The Academic Review of the Department of Nursing and Health Care Peer Review Group Report, response from the Department, and updated module descriptors, will be presented to the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching and Learning Committee for approval.

5.2.2 *Thematic Review Updates: Thematic Review: Retention – Terms of Reference (Draft)*

The Assistant Registrar Quality and Review presented the draft Terms of Reference for the Thematic Review on Retention. A draft Terms of Reference was previously presented to Committee at its meeting on 23 September 2025. Subsequently, the draft Terms of Reference was amended to include the membership of the Peer Review Panel and to reflect the reviews focus on non-progression from first year. The review is scheduled to take place in April 2026.

AGREED Approve the draft Terms of Reference for the Thematic Review on Retention.

6.	<u>Joint Quality Committee Meetings</u>
6.1	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> Date: Tuesday 17 February 2025 at 9.30am Venue: It was agreed that the meeting will take place in-person on the Carlow Campus, if possible.
7.	<u>AOB</u> None.



Pauline Oakes
Chair of Joint Quality Committee

15 Jun 26

Date