



## MINUTES

Meeting	: SETU Academic Council
Meeting Number	: 20
Date	: 3 March 2026
Duration	: 10.15am – 12.02pm
Attendees	: Prof. Veronica Campbell (Chairperson), Dr. Derek O’Byrne (Secretary), Ms. Amanda Freeman-Gater, Mr. Aubrey Storey, Mr. Brian Power, Dr. Cara Daly, Dr. Cathal Nolan, Dr. Ciara O’Hagan, Mr. Conor Phelan, Dr. Corinne Power O’Mahony, Dr. Daire O’Broin, Mr. Daniel Fagan, Mr. David O’Callaghan, Dr. David Scanlon, Mr. Derek Sheridan, Ms. Eleanor Kent, Ms. Emer McGann, Ms. Erin Foley, Dr. Frances Hardiman, Dr. Geraldine Cleere, Ms. Hannah Polson, Dr. Janette Davies, Prof. John Wells, Dr. Katherine Cagney, Dr. Ken Thomas, Dr. Maeve Doyle, Prof. Marie Claire Van Hout, Mr. Martin Walshe, Mr. Michael Tobin, Dr. Mrinal Chadha, Dr. Paula Rankin, Dr. Pauline Flanagan, Dr. Richard Coady, Ms. Sadhb Reddy, Ms. Siobhan Wall, Dr. Stephen Whelan, Dr. Tony Murphy, Ms. Yvonne Scully
In attendance	: Dr. Chris O’Riordan (item 8) Dr. Colette Moloney (observing) Dr. Paul O’Leary (observing)
Secretariat	: Ms. Margaret Maher
Apologies	: Dr. Anne Graham Cagney, Dr. Claire O’Gorman, Dr. Dean Callaghan, Dr. Eileen Doyle-Walsh, Dr. Eugene Crehan, Mr. Gregg Murphy, Dr. Hazel Farrell, Dr. Helen Murphy, Dr. Karen Hennessy, Dr. Kevin Doolin, Dr. Laurence Fitzhenry, Dr. Paula Lane, Dr. Suzanne Denieffe, Dr. Thomas O’Toole

## 1. Minutes of Academic Council Meeting of 27 January 2026

**AGREED:** Minutes of Academic Council Meeting of 27 January 2026 were approved.

## 2. Matters Arising

### 2.1 Academic Council Review

In relation to item 9 of the Minutes of 27 January 2026, the Chairperson advised members that the Governing Body has requested an external review of Academic Council, to be overseen by the Joint Quality Committee. The self-assessment survey previously completed by members will help inform this process.

At the previous meeting of Academic Council, it was agreed to establish a working group to identify and consider the actions arising from the self-assessment survey. D. O'Byrne has issued an email seeking volunteers to join the working group and expressed thanks to those who have already volunteered. Additional volunteers are still required, and the email will be reissued.

Members welcomed the recent circulation of the *Quality Matters: Academic Council Report* to all staff. The potential to share Academic Council documentation with key stakeholders such as Heads of Department, Librarians etc, was discussed. The Chairperson and the Secretary will review this proposal and consider how it can be supported administratively.

### 2.2 Fitness/Preparedness to Practice Policy

The Fitness/Preparedness to Practice Policy was approved by Governing Body at its meeting 17 February 2026 and the final version of this policy is presented today for noting by Academic Council.

## 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 10 February 2026 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	3

Members noted that the "award sought" for candidate [REDACTED] should be recorded as PhD rather than Sc, as stated in the Minutes.

Members further noted that Minute RPC 99 should state that the ROaD project is piloting a project to recognise time for grant applications/publications/research activity, and not *SETU President's Office* as recorded.

Members also noted that work on the draft framework structure for Research Centres is ongoing. Consultation will conclude at the end of March, after which the Framework will be presented to the Executive Management Team.

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

The Draft Minutes of the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee meeting of the 10 February 2026 were circulated prior to this meeting.

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

#### **New Programmes**

- Certificate in Long Term Conditions Exercise Instruction (Level 7, 20 credits)
- Certificate in Understanding and Supporting Physical Activity for Long-term Conditions (Level 7, 10 credits)
- Certificate in Safe and Effective Exercise for Long -Term Conditions (Level 7, 10 credits)
- Certificate in Mainframe Technologies (Level 9, 30 credits) (Linked to Master of Science in Computer Science (Enterprise Software Systems))
- Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (Level 9, 30 credits) (Linked to Master of Science in Computer Science (Enterprise Software Systems))

#### **Micro-credentials**

- Vet Preceptorship Training
- Additive Manufacturing for Sustainable Innovation

#### **Major Changes**

- CE3 MSc in Computer Science and linked Minor Awards, Certificate in Machine Learning (previously Certificate in Data Mining) and Certificate in Design Patterns.

#### **Minor Changes**

- Project Management & Marketing Module (linked to PG/MSc in Organic and Biological Agriculture, PG/MSc in Organic and Biological Horticulture, Certificate in Project Management and Marketing, MSc in Science by Research, PhD in Science by Research, PhD in Land Science by Research)
- Bachelor of Business (Honours) in International Business

#### **External Examiner Nominations**

##### **Programme Examiners**

Category	Number of External Examiners
New contract Sep 2024 – Sep 2027	11
New contracts Sep 2025 – Sep 2028	10
One-year extension to Sep 2026	1

**Subject Area Examiners**

Category	Number of External Examiners
New contracts Sep 2025 – Sep 2028	8

Academic Council noted that a report on the qualifications and affiliations of External Examiners is currently under review, and that development of an External Examiner framework is included in the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee work plan.

Academic Council also noted that several External Examiner nominations presented for approval today are locally based, with limited international representation. It was suggested that the External Examiner pool should be broadened, potentially through existing consortia such as EU Conexus, Georgia Southern University and other international networks that staff are engaged with.

It was requested that correct Faculty titles be used in all documentation.

**4.3 Student Experience Committee**

There was no meeting of the Student Experience Committee.

**4.4 Joint Quality Committee Meeting**

The Draft Minutes of the Joint Quality Committee meeting of the 17 February 2026 were circulated prior to this meeting.

Members noted that an updated version of the Academic Risk Register was reviewed by the Joint Quality Committee which included the addition of two new risks and mitigating actions relating to (i) inaccurate and incomplete award data potentially leading to university awards being granted when the required standards have not been achieved and (ii) academic activities not reflecting the University's strategic objectives potentially resulting in the University not meeting its commitments to stakeholders. Academic Council also noted an amendment to Risk number 10 to include the possible breach of academic integrity as a result of inappropriate use of AI.

The Professional Services Unit review schedule 2026-2031, as approved by the Joint Quality Committee, was noted.

**4.4 GenAI Steering Group**

The GenAI Steering Committee Report February 2026 was circulated prior to this meeting. Members noted that the AI Risk and Opportunities Register has been requested by Governing Body and is scheduled to be presented to the Audit & Risk Committee in April.

The document "Proposal to Disable AI Detection Features in Turnitin" was circulated prior to this meeting. This followed a previous meeting of Academic Council where members requested further research into sectoral practices before making a final decision. The proposal presented today incorporates that research.

Members acknowledged the work of Dr. Hazel Farrell and the GenAI Steering Committee in developing the proposal.

A substantial discussion took place regarding Turnitin's AI detection capabilities. Members, including the Students' Union, raised concerns about the reliability and evidential limitations of AI detection tools, along with the risk of unfair practice allegations and the potential impact on both students and the University's reputation. It was noted that Turnitin itself acknowledges its limitations and further noted that other universities are questioning the use of its AI detection features.

Members noted HEA Guidelines "Generative AI in Higher Education Teaching & Learning Principles for Ethical AI Adoption" and agreed that University practice should align with these principles.

Members agreed that any AI related infringements must be addressed consistently across the University and were advised that the Student Academic Integrity Policy provides the appropriate framework for doing so.

**AGREED:** Academic Council approved the Proposal to Disable AI Detection Features in Turnitin. The requirement for clear and timely communication, including an explanation of the rationale for this decision, was emphasised. It was further agreed that the AI detection features will be disabled before the final examinations in June.

## **5. Ratification of Examination Results (including amendment to regulations re Embedded Awards)**

### **5.1 Memo to Academic Council re retrospective applications for embedded awards**

A memo regarding retrospective applications for embedded awards was circulated prior to this meeting.

**AGREED:** Academic Council approved the proposed amendment to the *Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes* as follows:

*"10.7.6 An individual may apply retrospectively for an embedded award for which they are eligible. In such circumstances, the date of the award should be the Academic Council date on which the relevant examination results were originally ratified"*

### **5.2 Ratification of Examination Results**

A list of programmes approved at exam board meetings was presented to Academic Council for ratification.

**AGREED:** Academic Council noted and approved exam results determined at examination boards for the Departments and programmes listed in Appendix A.

## **6. Academic Council Training**

Document "Academic Council Training Proposal" was circulated prior to this meeting. Following the recent Academic Council Review, it is proposed to hold Academic Council training focused on academic risk and academic risk management.

It was further agreed that the Academic Council Review Working Group will prepare a list of broader training topics for Academic Council members.

Members also discussed ways to increase awareness of the work of Academic Council and suggested that wider circulation of Academic Council papers could support this. The Academic Council Review Working Group will consider this suggestion.

### **7. Academic Risk Register Review**

Documents “Academic Risk Register and Explanatory Note on Additions and Amendments to the Academic Risk Register” were circulated prior to this meeting.

**AGREED:** A Workshop or Special Meeting of Academic Council to be arranged to discuss further.

### **8. Grade Distribution & Award Classification Data**

The document “*Grade Distribution and Award Classification Data in SETU*” was circulated prior to this meeting. Dr Chris O’Riordan presented the report and thanked CORDA for compiling the data, which outlines the distribution of grades/award classifications for full-time undergraduate Level 7 (General Degree) and Level 8 (Honours Degree) programmes, along with related trends.

Members noted that data is available to Faculties on the HEA website. It was further noted that there may be scope in future years to include other awards and also part-time learners if required.

### **9. Academic Regulations 2026/27**

The document “*Note on Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes and Supporting Documents for 2026–2027*” was circulated prior to this meeting. Members noted that the *Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes 2025–2026* and the seven associated Supporting Documents, approved by Academic Council in June 2025, are available on the Policies and Documents Downloads webpage.

For 2026–2027, no significant changes to these documents are anticipated. Any proposed amendments will be brought to the next meeting of Academic Council on 21 April 2026 for consideration.

**AGREED:** Members may submit proposals for specific changes to Dr Chris O’Riordan (chris.oriordan@setu.ie), who will collate all submissions for consideration at the April meeting. Proposals should be submitted by close of business on Monday, 16 March 2026.

### **10. A.O.B. and Open Discussion Time**

Members raised concerns regarding the timing of the release of the Semester 2 examination timetables and reiterated the request for a more streamlined and timely publication process across all campuses.

It was noted that holding an in-person meeting, following the previously postponed one, is still the intention.

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

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

Academic Council Meeting 3 March 2026

Item 5 – Ratification of Examination Results

**Academic Council Meeting 3 March 2026**  
**Examination Ratifications**  
**Campus: Carlow & Wexford**



Faculty	Department	Banner Programme Code	Programme Title	Stage	Number of Learners	Exam Board Date
Education and Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRLLW_B	Honours Bachelor of Laws, Legum Baccalaureus	Award	16	26/01/2026
Education and Lifelong Learning	Wexford Lifelong Learning	CW_BXPMC_S	Certificate in Project Management and Communications	Award	1	26/01/2026
Education and Lifelong Learning	Wexford Lifelong Learning	CW_BXLBU_B	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Business	Award	3	26/01/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Extended Campus	CW_BSCIB_S	Certificate in Critical Incident Stress Management	Award	7	12/02/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Extended Campus	CW_ESMEA_W	Certificate in Work Measurement and Methods Engineering	Award	10	12/02/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Extended Campus	CW_BSICM_S	Certificate in Advanced Incident Command Management	Award	2	12/02/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Extended Campus	CW_BSLPB_Y	Certificate in Leadership for Performance and Change Management	Award	13	12/02/2026
Business	Business	CW_BBLAW_C	Higher Certificate in Business with Law	1	1	09/02/2026
Business	Business	CW_BBACT_B	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting	2	1	23/02/2026
Business	Business	CW_BBOPT_B	Bachelor of Business (Honours)	2	1	23/02/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Built Environment	CW_CMHCE_B	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering	Award	1	27/01/2026

Engineering and Built Environment	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	CW_EEACS_D	Bachelor of Engineering in Aircraft Systems	Award	1	11/02/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Built Environment	CW_CMARC_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Architectural Technology	Award	1	05/02/2026
Science	Computing	CW_KCDAR_M	Master of Science in Data Science	Award	2	05/02/2026
Science	Computing	CW_KCSOF_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Development	2	35	05/02/2026
Science	Computing	CW_KCSOF_D	Bachelor of Science in Software Development	2	6	05/02/2026
Science	Computing	CW_KCCOM_C	Higher Certificate in Science in Computing in Programming	Award	2	05/02/2026
Science	Computing	CW_KCSOE_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Development	1	4	21/01/2026
Science	Computing	CW_KCIAD_D	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing in Interactive Digital Art and Design	2	1	21/01/2026
Science	Computing	CW_KCCIT_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information Technology Management	1	5	21/01/2026
Science	Health and Sport Sciences	CW_SASAC_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours)	2	1	12/02/2026
Science	Health and Sport Sciences	CW_SAPHS_C	Higher Certificate in Science in Physiology and Health Science	Award	1	12/02/2026
Science	Health and Sport Sciences	CW_SASRA_B	Bachelor of Science Honours in Sport Rehabilitation and Athletic Therapy	1	1	28/11/2025
Science	Health and Sport Sciences	CW_SASRA_B	Bachelor of Science Honours in Sport Rehabilitation and Athletic Therapy	1	1	29/01/2026

Science	Health and Sport Sciences	CW_SASAC_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Strength and Conditioning	Award	4	20/01/2026
Science	Applied Sciences	CW_SAPHP_D	Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Technician Studies	Award	1	20/01/2026
Science	Applied Sciences	CW_SASCI_C	Higher Certificate in Science in Applied Biology	Award	1	20/01/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Extended Campus	CW_BSAVT_B	Bachelor of Business (Honours) in Aviation Management	1	19	12/02/2026

**Presented for approval by**

**Dr Derek O'Byrne**  
**Vice President for Academic Affairs, Teaching and Learning**

**3 March 2026**

## Academic Council Meeting 3 March 2026

### Examination Ratifications

#### Waterford Campus



Faculty	Department	Banner Programme Code	Programme Title	Stage	Number of Students	Exam Session	Exam Board Date
Business	Accounting & Economics	WD_BBUSI_C	Higher Certificate in Business	2	7 (1 additional)	Sep 202400	17/09/2025
Science & Computing	Land Science	WD_SOBIA_G	PgDip in Science in Organic & Biological Agriculture	6	1	Jan 202500	12/02/2026
Engineering	Architecture & the Built Environ	WD_EBUIL_PS	Doctor of Philosophy	0	1	Jan 202500	11/02/2026
Engineering	Engineering Technology	WD_EENGR_PJ	Doctor of Philosophy	0	2	Jan 202500	11/02/2026
Engineering	Engineering Technology	WD_EENGR_PS	Doctor of Philosophy	0	3	Jan 202500	11/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning		WD_BMAED_PJ	Doctor of Philosophy	0	1	Jan 202500	02/03/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning		WD_BMAED_PS	Doctor of Philosophy	0	3	Jan 202500	02/03/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning		WD_BMAED_PS	Doctor of Philosophy	0	1	Jan 202500	02/03/2026

**Presented by:** **Dr. Derek O'Byrne**  
**Vice President for Academic Affairs, Teaching & Learning**  
**SETU Waterford**

**Academic Council Meeting 3 March 2026**  
**Retrospective Examination Ratifications**  
**Campus: Carlow , Wexford & Waterford**

Faculty	Department	Banner Programme Code	Programme Title	Stage	Number of Learners	Exam Board Date	Exam Ratification Date
Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Wexford	CW_HWECE_BXM	Certificate in Introduction to Early Childhood Studies (linked to the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care)	1	1	11/06/2020 (Note: Minor Award from Year one of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Early Childhood Education and Care. Parchment to be issued using an Institute of Technology, Carlow parchment with the ratification date of 18 June 2020)	18-Jun-20
Faculty of Science & Computing	Land Science	WD_SAGRI_EC	Higher Certificate in Science in Agricultural Science	2	1	04/06/2024	18-Jun-24

**Presented by:**      **Dr. Derek O'Byrne**  
**Vice President for Academic Affairs, Teaching & Learning**  
**SETU Waterford**