



MINUTES

Meeting	: SETU Academic Council
Meeting Number	: 21
Date	: 21 April 2026
Duration	: 10.15am – 12.12pm
Attendees	: Prof. Veronica Campbell (Chairperson), Dr. Derek O’Byrne (Secretary), Ms. Amanda Freeman-Gater, Dr. Anne Graham Cagney, Mr. Aubrey Storey, 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, Dr. Dean Callaghan, Mr. Derek Sheridan, Dr. Eileen Doyle-Walsh, Ms. Eleanor Kent, Ms. Emer McGann, Dr. Geraldine Cleere, Dr. Hazel Farrell, Dr. Helen Murphy, Dr. Janette Davies, Prof. John Wells, Dr. Karen Hennessy, Dr. Katherine Cagney, Dr. Ken Thomas, Dr. Kevin Doolin, Dr. Laurence Fitzhenry, Dr. Maeve Doyle, Prof. Marie Claire Van Hout, Mr. Martin Walshe, Mr. Michael Tobin, Dr. Mrinal Chadha, Dr. Paula Lane, Dr. Paula Rankin, Dr. Pauline Flanagan, Dr. Richard Coady, Ms. Sadhb Reddy, Ms. Siobhan Wall, Dr. Stephen Whelan, Dr. Suzanne Denieffe, Dr. Thomas O’Toole, Dr. Tony Murphy, Ms. Yvonne Scully
In attendance	: Dr. Chris O’Riordan (items 3,5,6) Dr. TJ McDonald, Dr. Orla O’Donovan, Dr. Séamus Dillon (Item 8) Ms. Andrea Boland (item 8) Dr. Colette Moloney (observing) Dr. Paul O’Leary (observing)
Secretariat	: Ms. Margaret Maher
Apologies	: Mr. Brian Power, Dr. Claire O’Gorman, Ms. Erin Foley, Dr. Eugene Crehan, Dr. Frances Hardiman, Mr. Gregg Murphy, Ms. Hannah Polson

1. Minutes of Academic Council Meeting of 3 March 2026

AGREED: Minutes of Academic Council Meeting of 3 March 2026 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 GenAI Steering Group Proposal to Disable AI Detection Features in Turnitin

With reference to item 4.5 of the Minutes of 3 March 2026, the Chairperson requested an update on the communication regarding the decision of Academic Council to disable AI Detection Features in Turnitin. Dr. Hazel Farrell advised members that the Turnitin licence is due for renewal in June and this feature will not be included in the renewal.

AGREED: Communication plan to be brought to the next meeting of Academic Council.

3. Policies for Noting

3.1 Programme Development & Validation Regulatory Framework

Document “Delegation on the recommendation of minor changes - an application procedure for Faculties” was circulated prior to this meeting. Dr Chris O’Riordan presented the document and advised that the intention is to provide greater autonomy to Faculties in relation to Minor Changes.

Members welcomed the document but raised concerns in relation to supports, resourcing, training requirements, and the need for consistency of approach across Faculties. Members also noted that the policy is currently subject to consultation with the Unions.

Dr. O’Byrne to meet with the TUI in relation to relevant operational matters.

AGREED: The *Delegation on the recommendation of minor changes - an application procedure for Faculties* was approved in principle by Academic Council.

Members from the Waterford campus noted issues with access to documentation for this meeting in the Teams folder following the migration to the SETU domain. Members were requested to report any such issues to D. O’Byrne, who will liaise with Computer Services.

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Research & Research Programmes Committee

The Draft Minutes of the Research & Research Programmes Committee meeting of the 24 March 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	4

Members were advised that the new contract for TU Professorships is close to finalisation and recruitment will commence thereafter.

Members further noted that the third tranche of the TU Rise Sabbatical scheme was launched with short listing of the applicants underway.

Members also noted an update on the SETU Scholarship Scheme for 2025/26. Funding for an initial ten scholarships and an additional five co-fund scholarships was approved. The successful projects are from the faculties of Business, Engineering, Health Science, Humanities and Science.

Documentation relating to Professional Doctorate in Design, including awards standards, will be presented to the next meeting of Academic Council.

4.2 Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee

The Draft Minutes of the Taught Studies Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee meeting of the 24 March 2026 were circulated prior to this meeting.

AGREED: The following were approved by Academic Council:

Programme Validations

- Embedded Award: Embedded Award for the BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Care and Education Programme titled Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Care and Education (Level 7)
- CE2: BSc (H) Software Development and Sports Science

Major Changes

- CE3: BSc (H) Public Health and Health Promotion

Minor Changes

- All Structured PhDs and Research Masters: The addition of two new academic writing modules as Universal Pathway Modules: *Academic Writing: Developing a Critical Practice* and *Academic Writing: Preparing to Publish.*
- BA (H) Social Care Practice: Title of the embedded award for the BA (H) in Social Care Practice to be changed from Bachelor of Arts to *Bachelor of Arts in Applied Social Care.*
- BSc in Healthcare Studies
- BSc in Horticulture (Kildalton College)
BSc in Horticulture (Botanic Gardens)

Academic Unit Review – Department of Nursing and Healthcare

BSc (Honours) in Nursing Studies for Clinical Practice,

BSc in Applied Health Care (Level 7)

BSc (Honours) in Applied Health Care (Level 8).

External Examiner Nominations

Programme Examiners

Category	Number of External Examiners
New contracts Sept 2025- 2026	7

Subject Area Examiners

Category	Number of External Examiners
New contracts Sept 2025-Sept 2026	1
New contracts Sept 2026 – Sept 2027	2

Members noted the number of programmes assigned to a named External Examiner and requested that a workload allocation model be considered as part of the development of the External Examiner Framework. Dr Tony Murphy advised that only two of the programmes referenced had been delivered within the past three years and that the assignment of an external examiner largely reflected contingency rather than actual workload. It was noted that those programmes were short courses (modules) embedded within a full degree programme that small numbers of life-long learners may register for and, as such, would be included within the overall external examination process but are segregated for the purpose of the external examiner nomination form. Dr Murphy will bring a detailed overview of External Examiner workload to the next meeting of the Taught Studies Programme, Teaching & Learning Committee.

4.3 Student Experience Committee

The Minutes of the Student Experience Committee meeting of 26 March 2026 and the Draft Minutes of the Student Experience Committee meeting of the 14 April 2026 were circulated prior to this meeting.

Members noted that the Thematic Review on Student Retention is scheduled to commence on 22 April 2026. It was agreed that all associated documentation, including the panel report, will be made available to members of Academic Council in the Teams folder upon receipt of the panel report.

Members also noted that the Working Group on the Student Survey are currently reviewing the initial response to the survey. Full feedback from the survey will be available in the next couple of weeks.

Members further noted the update from Dr Sarah Sartori, Chair of Sanctuary Working Group on the University of Sanctuary Scholarships and it was agreed that Dr. Sartori be invited to a future meeting of Academic Council to present on this matter.

4.4 GenAI Steering Group

The GenAI Steering Committee Report April 2026 was circulated prior to this meeting. Members noted that the AI Risk and Opportunities Register is scheduled to be presented to the Audit & Risk Committee in April. The document is at a very advanced stage and work is ongoing.

5. Update from Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Feedback Strategy Committee (introducing initial draft)

The document entitled “*Memo for Academic Council re Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Feedback (TLAF) Strategy Draft Documents*” along with six documents, developed by the Working Group pertaining to the TLAF Strategy were circulated prior to this meeting. Dr Chris O’Riordan presented an overview of the documents, advising that they include: a statement outlining the vision, mission, values, and strategic objectives of the strategy; a set of guiding principles; and four chapters addressing the core pillars underpinning the TLAF Strategy. The purpose of presenting the draft documents at today’s meeting was to provide members with an opportunity to review the materials in advance of detailed discussion at the May Academic Council meeting.

6. Academic Regulations 2026/27

The document entitled “*Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes and Supporting Documents for 2026–2027 – Summary of Proposed Changes Reflected in Draft Documents*”, together with seven associated draft documents, were circulated prior to this meeting. Dr Chris O’Riordan thanked members who had submitted feedback to date and advised that this feedback had been incorporated into the draft documents presented at this meeting for noting by Academic Council. It was noted that the final version of the documentation would be brought to the May meeting of Academic Council for approval.

7. 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.

8. Programme Portfolio Project Report

The documents entitled “*Academic Portfolio Project – Presentation*” and “*Academic Portfolio Project – Data Presentation (for reference only)*” had been circulated prior to this meeting. The Academic Integration Leads, Dr T J McDonald, Dr Orla O’Donovan and Dr Séamus Dillon, joined the meeting. Dr Richard Coady, Academic Integration Lead and member of Academic Council, presented the documents, which provided an update on the Academic Portfolio Project to date, outlined the SETU Portfolio Design Principles, and detailed the next steps for the project, including the Academic Unit Reviews (AUR).

AGREED: The SETU Portfolio Design Principles Document to be circulated to all members of Academic Council.

Ms Andrea Boland also joined the meeting and presented on the Academic Unit Reviews Policy and the associated next steps. Members were advised that the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Teaching and Learning will commence engagement with faculties, and that the Academic Unit Review schedule will be presented to the Joint Quality Committee for approval. It was noted that preparations are scheduled to commence in September 2026, with reviews to begin in Q3 2027. Members were further advised that briefing and training on the review process and the development of self-evaluation reports

will be scheduled by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Teaching and Learning.

Members thanked the Academic Integration Leads for the presentation and for their work on the project. Heads of Faculty noted that all elements, including the Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Feedback Strategy and the module catalogue must be in place before the Academic Unit Reviews commence. It was also noted that the portfolio of Accounting programmes needs to be amended to reflect the changes in Professional Body exemptions. It was further noted that the AI integration plan must be factored into the Reviews.

AGREED: D.O'Byrne to liaise with the Heads of Faculty in relation to the Academic Unit Reviews. Timelines for the review to be brought to the Executive Management Team and also Academic Council.

9. Academic Risk Training

The document entitled "Memo for Academic Council re Academic Risk and Academic Risk Management Training" was circulated prior to this meeting. Members were advised that an internal training session on Academic Risk and Academic Risk Management will take place in late May or early June. It is proposed that the session will address risk and risk management from a University perspective (including the University Risk Management Policy).

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

The meeting scheduled for 19 May 2026 will be an in-person meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Academic Council Meeting 21 April 2026

Item 7 – Ratification of Examination Results

**Academic Council Meeting
Examination Ratifications
Campus: Carlow & Wexford
21 April 2026**



Faculty	Department	Banner Programme Code	Programme Title	Stage	Number of Learners	Exam Board Date
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wexford Lifelong Learning	CW_EXMMC_D	Bachelor of Science in Management (Multicraft Technology)	Award	2	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wicklow Lifelong Learning	CW_CKENG_D	Bachelor of Science in Energy Management (Buildings)	Award	1	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_ERESU_R	Certificate in Energy Sustainability	Award	2	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_BRLBM_H	Higher Diploma in Business in Management	Award	5	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow College, St. Patrick's	CW_ATPOL_H	Higher Diploma in Arts in Politics and Society	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRDAL_W	Certificate in Data Protection Law	Award	6	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_BRLEF_Y	Certificate in Leadership Effectiveness	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_BRBUS_M	Master of Business	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_SRPRM_M	Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wicklow Lifelong Learning	CW_HKLEA_M	Master of Arts in Leadership in Early Years Education and Care	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_BRWTM_Q	Certificate in Warehouse and Transport Management	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_BRSDL_C	Higher Certificate in Business in Sustainable Supply Chains, Digitalisation and Logistics	1	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRMOA_Q	Certificate in Introduction to Counselling and Motivational Interviewing	Award	1	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wicklow Lifelong Learning	CW_HKGWA_Q	Certificate in Group Work and Facilitation Skills	Award	8	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wicklow Lifelong Learning	CW_HKEOC_S	Certificate in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Origins and Context	Award	2	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRSTP_V	Certificate in Supervision Theory and Practice	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wexford Lifelong Learning	CW_BXSDL_C	Higher Certificate in Business in Sustainable Supply Chains, Digitalisation and Logistics	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_BRSDL_C	Higher Certificate in Business in Sustainable Supply Chains, Digitalisation and Logistics	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRCYF_M	Master of Arts in Child, Youth and Family Studies	Award	1	26/02/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wicklow Lifelong Learning	CW_HKECA_B	Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Early Childhood Education	Award	3	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRCUD_A	Certificate in Curriculum Design	Award	1	09/04/2026

Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRSRP_Q	Certificate in Social Pedagogy in Relationship-Centred Practice	Award	20	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRGES_M	Master of Arts in Gestalt Psychotherapy	Award	4	18/03/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_BRCCF_U	Certificate in Customs Compliance and Trade Facilitation	Award	13	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wexford Lifelong Learning	CW_HXADV_U	Certificate in Advocacy	Award	10	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Wexford Lifelong Learning	CW_BXCDM_W	Certificate in Digital Marketing	Award	1	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRVIO_W	Certificate in Facilitating Domestic Violence Intervention Programmes with Men	Award	1	09/04/2026
Education & Lifelong Learning	Carlow Lifelong Learning	CW_HRTLFL_A	Certificate in Teaching and Learning 1 (Foundation)	Award	1	26/02/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Built Environment	CW_CGQSU_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying	Award	4	27/03/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Built Environment	CW_CMHCE_B	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering	3	1	01/04/2026
Wexford Campus	Wexford Campus	CW_AWART_B	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Art	3	1	13/04/2026
Wexford Campus	Wexford Campus	CW_AWART_BX7	Bachelor of Arts in Art	Award	1	13/04/2026
Wexford Campus	Wexford Campus	CW_HWPSC_BX7	Bachelor of Arts in Applied Social Studies in Professional Social Care	Award	1	13/04/2026
Wexford Campus	Wexford Campus	CW_HWECE_BXM	Certificate in Education in Introduction to Early Childhood Studies	Award	1	13/04/2026
Science	Computing	CW_KCDAR_M	Master of Science in Data Science	5	1	19/03/2026
Engineering and Built Environment	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	CW_EMMEC_B	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering	Award	1	14/04/2026
Wexford	Wexford	CW_HWVCC_D	Bachelor of Arts In Visual Communications and Design	3	93	25/03/2026

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

Academic Council Meeting 21 April 2026
Examination Ratifications
Campus: Waterford



Faculty	Department	Banner Programme Code	Programme Title	Stage	Number of Students	Exam Session	Exam Board Date
Engineering	Engineering Technology	WD_EAUTO_MA	Certificate in Introduction to Automation	1	25	Jan 202500	18/03/2026

Presented By: Dr. Derek O'Byrne
Vice President for Academic Affairs, Teaching & Learning