



MINUTES

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| Meeting | : Standing Committee of SETU Academic Council |
| Meeting Number | : 1 |
| Date | : 19 August 2025 |
| Duration | : 10.00am – 11.26am |
| Attendees | : Dr. Derek O’Byrne (Chairperson), Dr. Colette Moloney, Dr. Suzanne Denieffe, Ms Andrea Boland, Mr Conor Phelan, Ms Eleanor Kent, Dr Frances Hardiman, Mr Michael Tobin, Dr Mrinal Chadha, Dr Patricia Mulcahy, Dr Paul O’Leary, Dr Peter McLoughlin, Ms Siobhan Wall, Prof Marie Claire Van Hout, Ms Yvonne Scully, Ms Erin Foley SU President SETU, Mr Daniel Fagan, SU Education SETU |
| Secretariat | : Ms Jane McIntyre |
| Apologies | : Dr. Janette Davies, Dr Chris O’Riordan, Dr Helen Murphy, Ms Hannah Polson |

NOTED: The chair welcomed Erin Foley, incoming president of the Students Union and Daniel Fagan, Students Union VP Education

1. Ratification of Semester 2 Examination Results

NOTED: Examination results require approval by the full Academic Council

2. Programme Development

2.1 Programme Reviews:

BA (H) Sport Management & Coaching (GAELIC GAMES), BA (H) Sport Business & Coaching

AGREED: Approved.

2.2 Programme Evaluations

2.2 BA Custodial Care CE2

2.3 BA (H) in Community Education & Development CE3

2.4 Cert in Business Systems Analysis CE2

2.5 Higher Diploma in Science in Computer Science

2.6 Certificate in Computer Science (30ECTS)

2.7 Certificate in Software Engineering (30ECTS)

2.8 Certificate in Cybersecurity and Forensics (30ECTS)

2.9 Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Engineering (30ECTS)

AGREED: Approved

2.3 MVB in Veterinary Medicine –

School Response to CE2 Panel

NOTED: There were inconsistencies noted between the School Response and CE2 revised document e.g. the award classification is indicated as 70% of Year 5 in the programme schedule but this proposal had been removed from the School Response.

AGREED: The programme document to be revised to reflect the School Response document and to be submitted for review to the Taught Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee (TPC).

NOTED: Concern was raised that the detailed portfolio requirement for entry could prevent students from urban and lower socio-economic backgrounds from entering the programme.

NOTED: The proposed structure of the Final Year is not clear from the programme schedule and reference to de-semesterisation is ambiguous.

AGREED: The School should discuss the proposed operation of the Final Year of the programme with the Registry and revise the programme schedule to ensure that there is clarity on the number of credits required in each semester.

NOTED: The assessment and marking structure is overly complicated.

- The pass mark is proposed as 50% with compensation allowed at 45% in some instances and 40% for 15 credit modules. The multiple compensation cut-off levels are not in line with SETU Academic Regulations and would be non-operational.
- The Observed Clinical Practice (OSCE) assessments are proposed as Pass/Fail but it is also proposed to allocate 30% of the marks in multiple modules to same. The allocation of 30% in the individual modules to students on passing the OSCE would skew the grades in the modules. The remediation attempt proposed and the blanket allocation of 30% for a pass would mean that students who initial failed that section of the module would be allowed to repeat multiple times without penalty on their module grade but students who fail other elements of the module are not allowed a non-penalised attempt to repeat assessments and improve their grade. In other programmes in the University with similar OSCE elements, the final mark in the relevant module is based on the written exam with the OSCE as a pass/fail essential component. There is a complication graded marking scheme, with a pass mark of 70, included in an Appendix to the document; it is unclear how this relates to the marking criteria requested by the panel for the p/f OSCE element.
- Concern was expressed as to how an OSCE can be a failed component if the Learning Outcomes it addresses are also met by other learning outcomes in the module.

NOTED: The proposal to disallow progression from year 3 onwards for students who are carrying 10 credits or less is not in line with the SETU Academic Regulations. The rationale given for same is due to workload, which would apply to all degree programmes, rather than being a specific requirement of professional accreditation.

AGREED: The OSCE assessment should be revised across modules; it should remain as pass/fail, a failed component (if required by professional accreditation), but attract 0% of the graded marks for the module. The percentage of the grade allocated for other elements of the relevant modules should be revised to total to 100%. The module learning outcomes assigned to the OSCE elements in the module descriptors should be reviewed to ensure that the outcome is specific to the OSCE skills, if it is to be proposed as a failed component. As per panel request, the assessment criteria for the OSCEs, i.e. what defines a pass or fail, should be included in the relevant module descriptors.

AGREED: The proposal to reduce the compensation mark to 40% for 15-credit modules, and the proposal to prevent a student carrying 10 credits or less from progressing post year 3 are not approved as these are not in line with SETU Academic Regulations and a subject-specific, or professional-accreditation rationale was not evident.

NOTED: The allocation of credits per year as outlined does not align with the Academic Regulations.

NOTED: There were a number of policy documents included in the submission.

AGREED: It is not within the remit of the Standing Committee to approve policy documents hence these will require consideration by Taught Programmes, Teaching & Learning Committee (TPC) and presentation to Academic Council. Debate at Council would be particularly important for the 'Use of Animals for Research and Teaching Policy'.

2.2 Minor Changes

2.2.1 Module – Generating Evidence for Health Care Practice

AGREED: Approved

2.2.2 Module KSVSE.

NOTED: There appeared to be a tacit change in award calculation included in the programme schedule, which was not articulated in the application. Currently, the Award classification appears to be calculated from 70% Year 4 and 30% Year 3 for the nursing programmes, but the calculation included in the application was indicated as Semesters 6, 7 and part of Semester 8. The proposed module split did not appear to require a change from the current award calculation.

AGREED: The application should be reviewed for clarity and resubmitted.

2.2.3 BEng (H) Electrical & Automation Engineering (International)

NOTED: Needs to be presented to, and considered by, TPC committee with other NUIST programme Minor Change Applications referred from June meeting.

AGREED: Application will be considered as part of the requested presentation from relevant Departments to TPC re NUIST issues and Minor Change requests.

2.2.4 BEng (Hons) in Information Engineering (I); BSc (H) IOT (International); BSc (H) in Applied Computing (International); MEng in Electronic Information Systems

AGREED: Approved

2.3 School of Engineering Review

NOTED: The SETU Joint Quality Committee (JQC) established an external panel review of all major awards in the Faculty of Engineering – Waterford campus. A major goal of this JQC review was to evaluate and enhance the Faculty’s application to Engineers Ireland (EI) for multiple individual programme accreditations, across the portfolio of major programme awards offered. EI Accreditation Review will take place in early December 2025,

The changes are primarily:

1. Addressing Mathematic provision and Mathematic Entry Requirements with extra contact hours in first year.
2. Additions of new or amending existing module learning outcomes, especially to reflect attainment of EI’s Professional and Ethical Responsibilities

AGREED: APPROVED, subject to

1. liaising with Registry to ensure action verbs meet Academic Regulations
2. updated Programme Schedules, Module Descriptors and Learning Outcomes.

3 External Examiner Nominations

| Category | Number of External Examiners |
|---|------------------------------|
| Programme External Examiners | 6 |
| Replacement External Examiner for Research Postgraduate Candidate | 1 |

4 A.O.B.

There was no other business and Committee concluded at 11.20am.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Dr. Derek O’Byrne