

**EDUCATION COUNCIL**

13/11/2018 // MINUTES

Time: 6pm

Venue: Medicine

* **Welcome and introductions**
  1. *VP Education, Jack O’Neill, introduces Prof. Katie Normington (KN), Deputy Principal (Academic).*
* **Items for discussions**
  1. *Academic Restructure*
     1. *KN referenced the current structure of academic decision making - three faculties (Arts and Social Sciences, Science and Management, Economics and Law) – which are to be dissolved and replaced by six Schools.*
     2. *KN explained that the new structure is designed to bring a closer relationship between all parts of College, reduce the length of decision-making and to make a more effective use of academic administrative resources to provide a better level of service and better consistency of approach to students and staff.*
     3. *The new structure would give the Head of School position powers of decision-making, multi-year planning responsibility and better accountability. It will also provide a greater level of representation on key academic decision-making bodies as it is currently not possible to have all 21 departments (plus professional services) on these bodies as it would make the process less efficient due to the c. 25 staff that would be on each committee.*
     4. *Academic departments would still hold their identity and would exist within the schools. Transcripts will still be from a department, not a school.*
     5. *Some administrative processes would sit at a school-level which will provide a more consistent approach to several key operations. These processes will take place in hubs across campus. The positions of these hubs are currently being decided.*
     6. *The proposed new school structures are as follows:*
        1. *School of Business and Management*
           + *Department of Accounting and Financial Management*
           + *Department of Digital Innovation Management*
           + *Department of Human Resource Management and Organisational Studies*
           + *Department of Marketing*
           + *Department of Strategy, International Business and Entrepreneurship*
        2. *School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences*
           + *Department of Computer Science*
           + *Department of Electronic Engineering*
           + *Department of Information Security*
           + *Department of Mathematics*
           + *Department of Physics*
        3. *School of Humanities*
           + *Department of Classics*
           + *Department of English*
           + *Department of History*
           + *Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures*
        4. *School of Law and Social Sciences*
           + *Department of Economics*
           + *Department of Law and Criminology*
           + *Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy*
           + *Department of Social Work*
        5. *School of Life Sciences and the Environment*
           + *Department of Biological Sciences*
           + *Department of Earth Sciences*
           + *Department of Geography*
           + *Department of Psychology*
        6. *School of Performing and Digital Arts*
           + *Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance*
           + *Department of Media*
           + *Department of Music*
     7. *It is also proposed that a full-service Doctoral School is established which would bring together admissions support, scholarships, student administration, examinations and generic skills training.*
     8. *The benefits that are expected include a greater consistency of delivery of support to students through larger and more consistent school offices and a greater interdisciplinarity between department through gather sharing of good practice and joint initiatives.*
     9. *It was acknowledged that there are some risks with the move. The move from departmental to school-level support offices may make students and staff feel as if the support is less individual, however, it is believed that the positive benefits of better consistency and reliability of the service being delivered will outweigh the risks. It is acknowledged that student may seem departments less as a home base, particularly if the support hubs are not in the same building as their department.*
     10. *Although departments are being maintained, there is a possibility that the identity of each department could be weakened. There will be plans in place to ensure that these individual identities are maintained.*
     11. *The timeframe for the restructure is as follows:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *24 October 18* | *Future academic structure considered at Academic Board* |
| *22 November 18* | *Council approval of academic structure (Council is the highest governing body of the university)* |
| *November - December 18* | *Appointment of key roles, such as Head of School* |
| *December 18 – March 19* | *Working group with Heads of School-elect to detail operational and governance issues* |
| *March 19 – June 19* | *Appointment of school/departmental roles* |
| *August 19* | *New structure to come into effect* |

* 1. *Assessment methods*
     1. *Assessing the diversity and frequency of assessment methods were discussed in groups. Attendees were asked to discuss the following questions:*
        1. *What is the point in assessment?*
        2. *How often do you want to be assessed?*
        3. *How do you want to be assessed?*
     2. *The responses will be collated and academic reps will play a part in gathering further experiences of assessments*
* **Officers report**
  1. *The academic representation review implementation is well under way. This started with the move to online elections for academic representatives – something that was meant to happen in two years but was moved to the first year of implementation. Some areas for refinement include postgraduate representation.*
  2. *Jack is a member of the Assessment Patterns Working Group where the key points for improvement in assessment diversity and timing, as determined by experiences gathered by academic reps (see above), will be discussed. The group is also looking into how assessments can increase skills and employability.*
  3. *Founder’s Reading Room has been reopened creating an additional 96 giving a grand total of 1346 study spaces on campus (that equates to 7.5 students per study space).*
  4. *Jack has been working with VP Societies and Media, Holly Hughes, to create a set of minimum standards for academic societies. There is currently a first draft and consultations with various groups of students will take place.*
* **Motions**
  1. *None submitted.*
* **Elections**
  1. *The election of the Postgraduate Taught Representative took place and Charlotte Gauthier was duly elected.*
* **Any other business**
  1. *None.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Description** | **Responsible** | **Vote** |
| *Was it a discussion topic or motion* | *Describe the discussion or motion, why it is important and should be actioned* | *Does it need to go onto steering committee to be actioned* | *If a vote took place what was the result* |
| Q&A produced | A Q&A sheet produced to answer questions raised during the academic restructure presentation. | VP Education | N/A |