

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY Minutes of the Quality Committee 25th May 2016

Chair: Paula Murray.

Also present: Jim Walsh, Fiona Lyddy, Roxanne Paul, Anne Ryan, Marie Griffin Neil Trappe (Secretary).

Apologies: Michael Dunne, Siobhan Harkin, Dillon Grace

Neil Trappe volunteered to take minutes of the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true account of the previous meeting

2. Matters arising

No matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting - related on the current agenda.

3. Maynooth University Framework for Assurance and Enhancement

Prof Jim Walsh, summarised the amendments and updates to the document 'Maynooth University Policy on Quality Assurance and Enhancement' discussed at the last meeting. This document outlines the context for quality assurance and its principles, objectives and implementation in the University. This working document was circulated to members for comment and was also before the three Faculties since the last meeting. The committee formally approved the document which will now go before the next Academic Council and Governing Authority meeting for approval.

4. Update on current Quality Reviews

Prof Jim Walsh summarised the ongoing and near future quality reviews in the University. The Research Development Office review takes take next week, with the Human Resources Office review being complete before the end of June. Three other reviews in the Computer Services Centre, the Finance and Campus Development offices are in preparation. The Reviews of the Registrar's Office and Student Services are near completion and reports will be put on the quality website soon.

5. Progress on Implementation of recommendations from Quality Reviews.

Prof Jim Walsh presented a summary document, which will be published on the quality webpage on the implementation of recommendations received from previous quality reviews of academic departments. In general, all possible recommendations have been implemented (82% of 191) with some not being possible due to resources or practicalities not allowing completion at the moment.

6. Maynooth University component of Irish Survey of Student Engagement 2016 preliminary report.

Prof Jim Walsh circulated a summary document for note on the Maynooth University feedback in the ISSE 2016 survey. In general the feedback is positive with Maynooth students expressing positive views, relative to the average, in their learning experience. Some areas of concern include quantitative reasoning which is lower than the national average. This feedback will be given to the Teaching and Learning Committee to help improve the delivery of programmes where possible.

7. Maynooth University component of Irish Survey of Student Engagement qualitative responses.

The initial response of Maynooth University to two open questions in the ISSE survey were summarised by Prof Jim Walsh. The questions asked students to highlight the best aspects of their programme and how they could be improved. In general the feedback was positive with students identifying a supportive learning environment with friendly approachable staff while on the other hand highlighting the need for smaller classes with perhaps closer interaction with staff.

8. Maynooth University Rankings

Prof Jim Walsh summarised the latest rankings and highlighted its importance in our external profile while recognising its limitations in truly reflecting the University learning environment. Maynooth University achieved a high placing in the latest new University list helped especially by having a high citation index.

9. Report of the expert panel on the quality assurance of research degree programmes in HE institutions 2016

This large report was circulated to members and Prof Jim Walsh summarised the main findings in a summary document. The importance of structured PhD and research MSc programmes were highlighted and this report will frame a policy to be developed with the Graduate Studies Office to ensure high quality programmes are available at Maynooth University.

10. AOB

Two items were raised.

Firstly the chair, Paula Murray, raised the issue of the quality website not being fully up to date with some older material still being present. Prof Jim Walsh will review and update all material.

Secondly Prof Walsh will publish the schedule of planned quality reviews and the framework document once approved by Academic Council.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in September with a final date being sought via a Doodle poll.