



**UCD Academic Council
Comhairle Acadúil UCD**

**Minutes of the meeting of Academic Council
Wednesday 12 February 2025, 2pm
Theatre C007 Health Sciences Centre**

**Present: 64
In Attendance: 3
Apologies: 23**

The meeting of Academic Council was chaired by the President, Professor Orla Feely.

**1 Introduction
Apologies**

The Chair acknowledged that a number of apologies had been received and will be noted into the record.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and advised that Part 3 of the agenda is for decision en bloc and Part 4 is for noting. Members were given the opportunity to indicate if they want any items from these parts moved to Part 1 for discussion, no items were raised.

Decision Academic Council approved items from Part 3 and noted items from Part 4 of the agenda.

2 Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2024

Item 3, Additional Considerations for Assessment Policy – Proposed Amendment

The Chair informed members that a proposed amendment to the minutes had been received from Associate Professor Philip Cottrell; it was requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that the feedback given regarding the proposed Additional Circumstances Policy were not solely from the Head of School, but were expressed on behalf of the entire School of Art History and Cultural Policy.

The minutes were approved subject to the above amendment being made.

Matters Arising

Item 3, Additional Considerations for Assessment Policy – Proposed Amendment

A member queried the current status of, and timelines around, the Additional Considerations Policy. The Registrar confirmed that while the Policy was approved in principle, operational details have not yet been finalised. UCD Assessment is looking at resource capacity requirements alongside IT Services in advance of the establishment of the implementation Working Group.

Declaration of potential conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Decision **Academic Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2024 subject to the agreed amendment to item 3.**

PART 1

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

3 UCD Strategy 2025-2030 – Implementation of Academic-Related Actions

The President introduced this item highlighting that Academic Council has a role to play in identifying important priority items for implementation and action over the next five years that underpin our strategic initiatives. The Registrar gave a presentation outlining the first set of planned priorities related to academic governance which fall under the initiatives 'Learning for Life', 'Student Experience' and 'Research with Ambition'. The following priorities were discussed:

- Curriculum Review
- Flexible and Part Time Learning
- Scholarships and Prizes Review
- Work Integrated Learning
- Academic Advising

The Registrar advised that consultation with Heads of School is already underway. Schools are being asked to think about what core skills are not currently available within their programmes and to consider other modes that can provide students with structured opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in areas such as AI and digital skills, innovation, sustainability, leadership, well-being, and languages. The focus is not to change what schools do but to support what schools want to do and build on the existing platform. As we become more flexible we need to adopt and develop tech to support outlying activity. The key goals must be understood in terms of quality and capacity.

Academic Council was informed that aspects of research activity have an academic governance dimension and the Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact would like an opportunity to raise the visibility of research initiatives with Academic Council at a future meeting. Furthermore, it was agreed that an update on the implementation of academic-related actions under the UCD Strategy should be included as a regular item at AC meetings.

The Chairs of AC Subcommittees were encouraged to bring forward items under development to Academic Council for consideration.

Decision **Academic Council welcomed the implementation plan of academic-related actions under the UCD Strategy 2025-2030.**

PART 2

ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION

4 Head of School Appointments

Heads of School are presented to Academic Council for consultation in accordance with Statute 32, Chapter 17, Paragraph 7.

College	School	Proposed Head of School	Duration
Arts and Humanities	Classics	Dr Joanna Day	Start Date: 1/1/2025 End Date: 31/12/2027
Arts and Humanities	Art History and Cultural Policy	Associate Professor Roisin Kennedy	Start Date: 1/9/2025 End Date: 31/8/2028
Science	Earth Sciences	Associate Professor Kara English	Start Date: 01/09/2025 End Date: 31/08/2030

Decision Academic Council was consulted on three Head of School appointments, no objections were raised.

PART 3

ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

5 Head of Subject Appointments

Head of Subject appointments are presented to Academic Council in accordance with Statute 32. New Heads of Subject are presented for approval, extensions are presented for noting.

School	Subject	Proposed Head of Subject	Duration
Public Health Physiotherapy and Sports Science	Physiotherapy	Assoc. Professor Grainne O'Donoghue	Start Date: 01/03/2025 End Date: 29/02/2028

Decision Academic Council approved the new Head of Subject appointment as presented.

6 Proposal for Emeritus Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor

The conferment of Emeritus status is subject to Academic Council approval (as per Statute 32 and the *Governing Authority Schedule of Reserved Decision-Making Authority and of Delegated Authority*).

Name	Emeritus Title	School	Retirement Year
Professor Niamh Brennan	Emeritus Full Professor	Business	2025
Associate Professor Patrick Grace	Emeritus Associate Professor	Biosystems & Food Engineering	2025
Professor Crystal Fulton	Emeritus Professor	Information and Communication Studies	2025
Professor Maarten Nieuwenhuis	Emeritus Full Professor	Agriculture and Food Science	2024

Professor Marguerite Clyne	Emeritus Professor	Medicine	2025
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Decision Academic Council approved the proposals for Emeritus titles as presented.

PART 4

ITEMS FOR NOTING BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL

7 Ad Astra Academy Report 2024

Academic Council was asked to note the report from the Ad Astra Academy Board of Management outlining the creation and development of the Academy over the last year. The report discussed each programme in detail and included some highlights from these areas.

Decision Academic Council noted the Ad Astra Academy Report 2024.

8 Faculty Promotions Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

The purpose of the report is to provide Academic Council with an update on the Faculty Promotion process for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. The Report also provides the cumulative statistics for the five year period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2024. The Registrar highlighted that significant improvement has been made with regard to timing for processing applications. All cases are now completed within one year of application (previously 18 months). The target ambition is to reduce timelines to within nine months.

Decision Academic Council noted the Faculty Promotions Committee Annual Report 2023-2024.

9 Academic Council Committee Approved Minutes

Academic Council Subcommittee approved minutes were presented to Academic Council for noting, in line with the Academic Council Standing Orders.

Committee
ACCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 17 September 2024 Minutes of meeting held on 22 October 2024 Minutes of meeting held on 19 November 2024
ACCSCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 24 April 2024
ACEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 30 May 2024
UPB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting held on 8 May 2024 Minutes of meeting held on 10 October 2024

Decision Academic Council noted the Academic Council Subcommittee approved minutes as presented.

Other Business

No other business was raised.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____

Attendees at the meeting of Academic Council on 12 February 2025

Present: 64

In attendance: 3

Apologies: 23

Chaired by: President, Professor Orla Feely

Address Title	First Name	Last Name	In attendance
Assoc Professor	Marguerite	Barry	
	Miranda	Bauer	Apologies
Associate Professor	Alessandro	Benati	
Associate Professor	James Matthews	Blake	
Professor	Paula	Bourke	
Assistant Professor	Martin	Brady	
Professor	Rory	Breathnach	
Full Professor	Don	Bredin	
Professor	Michael	Brophy	Yes
Associate Professor	Conor	Buggy	Yes
Dr	Orla	Byrne	
Dr	Abey	Campbell	Yes
Professor	Deirdre	Campion	Yes
Full Professor	Marie	Clarke	Yes
Associate Professor	Mary	Codd	Yes
Associate Professor	Mark	Coen	Yes
Dr	Sandra	Collins	Yes
Associate Professor	Derval	Conroy	Yes
Professor	Cathryn	Costello	
Dr	Philip	Cottrell	Yes
Professor	Catherine	Cox	Apologies
Professor	Tasman	Crowe	
Full Professor	Mark	Crowe	Yes
	Tia	Cullen	Yes
Associate Professor	Paul	Curran	
Associate Professor	Tara	Cusack	
	Ciara	Donohue	Yes
Associate Professor	Jos	Dornschneider-Elkink	Yes
Professor	Evelyn	Doyle	Apologies
	Aoibhe	Doyle	
Dr	Paul	Dylan-Ennis	Yes
Professor	Benjamin	Elsner	Apologies
Professor	Roland	Erne	Apologies
Full Professor	Alexander	Evans	
	Peter	Falvey	Yes
Full Professor	Paul	Fanning	Yes
Dr	Rachel	Farrell	
Full Professor	Orla	Feely	Yes
	Phillip	Fischer	Yes
Assistant Professor	Kelly	Fitzgerald	Yes
Professor	Damian	Flynn	Yes
Dr	Timothy	Frawley	Apologies
Full Professor	Nial	Friel	
Associate Professor	Helen	Gallagher	Yes

Full Professor	William	Gallagher	
Dr	Marco	Garcia-Vaquero	Yes
Full Professor	Susi	Geiger	
Professor	Martin	Grunewald	Yes
Professor	Suzanne	Guerin	
Dr	Vincent	Hargaden	Yes
Full Professor	Peter	Haughton	Yes
Associate Professor	Ciaran	Heavey	
Associate Professor	Maeve	Houlihan	
Associate Professor	Neil	Hurley	
Associate Professor	Georgina	Ifrim	Yes
	Noah	Johnson	
Professor	Lisa	Katz	Yes
Full Professor	Michael	Keane	
Dr	Karen	Keaveney	
Full Professor	Anne	Keegan	
Professor	Mary	Kelly-Quinn	Yes
Associate Professor	Oliver	Kinnane	
Professor	Jason	Last	Yes
	Kate	Lawlor	
Professor	Madeleine	Lowery	Apologies
	Laura	Lysaght	Apologies
	Aisling	Maloney	
Associate Professor	James	Matthews	
Assistant Professor	Tomás	McAuley	Yes
	Kylie	McCardel	Yes
	Saskia	McCormack Eiffe	Apologies
Dr	Emma	McDaid	
Professor	Louise	McHugh	
Associate Professor	Tara	McMorrow	Apologies
Professor	Jonathan	McNulty	Yes
Associate Professor	Maria	Meehan	Apologies
Professor	Pauline	Mellon	Yes
Associate Professor	Julien	Mercille	
Full Professor	Bettina	Migge	Yes
Dr	Jennifer	Mitchell	
Full Professor	Frank	Monahan	Apologies
Full Professor	Cal	Muckley	Yes
Dr	Aogan	Mulcahy	Yes
	Stephen	Mullen	Yes
Professor	Cormac	Murphy	Yes
Dr	Neal	Murphy	Yes
Professor	Enda	Murphy	Apologies
Dr	Ross	Neville	
Full Professor	Niamh	Nowlan	Apologies
Dr	Harvey	O'Brien	Apologies
Professor	Brian	O'Connor	Yes
Associate Professor	James	O'Donnell	Yes
Dr	Barry	O'Donnell	Apologies
Associate Professor	Emma	O'Neill	Yes

Full Professor	Michael	O'Neill	Yes
Associate Professor	Sharleen	O'Reilly	Apologies
Professor	Dolores	O'Riordan	Yes
Associate Professor	Patrick	Orr	Yes
Associate Professor	John	O'Sullivan	Yes
Full Professor	Aidan	O'Sullivan	
Associate Professor	Niamh	Pattwell	Yes
Full Professor	Federica	Pazzaglia	Yes
Full Professor	Laurent	Pech	
Associate Professor	Siofra	Pierse	Yes
Associate Professor	Gillian	Pye	Yes
Associate Professor	Fangzhe	Qiu	Yes
Associate Professor	Aideen	Quilty	Yes
Professor	Susan	Quinn	Yes
Professor	Kate	Robson Brown	Yes
Dr	Marina	Rubini	Yes
Associate Professor	Amalia	Scannell	Apologies
Professor	Colin	Scott	Yes
Full Professor	Mark	Scott	
Full Professor	Jeremy	Simpson	Apologies
Dr	Keith	Smart	Apologies
Associate Professor	Veronica	Sofianos	Yes
Professor	Emma	Sokell	Yes
Full Professor	Rowland	Stout	Yes
Professor	James	Sullivan	Apologies
	Siobhan	Surban Black	
Associate Professor	Alexander	Thein	Yes
Full Professor	Fiona	Timmins	Yes
Professor	Ben	Tonra	
	Pearce	Wang	
Associate Professor	Barry	Wardell	Yes
Assistant Professor	Jessica	Whelan	
Dr	Elaine	Wilson	Yes
Dr	Jon	Yearsley	Apologies
Professor	Dominic	Zerulla	Apologies

Non-members in attendance

Siobhan Curran, University Secretariat

Jean Keating, University Secretariat

Philip Hanrahan, University Secretariat