



**UCD Academic Council
Comhairle Acadúil UCD**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of Academic Council
Friday 20 September 2024, 10am
Lynch Theatre (1.36), Science Hub, O'Brien Centre for Science**

Present: 78

In Attendance: 5

Apologies: 34

In alignment with the Academic Council Standing Orders, a special meeting of Academic Council was called to consult with Academic Council with the intention of progressing the UCD Strategy 2025-2030. The special meeting was chaired by the President, Professor Orla Feely, and was held in hybrid format.

The Chair welcomed new members to the new term of Academic Council and thanked all members for their contribution to this important forum for discussion and decision on academic matters across the University.

ITEM FOR CONSULTATION

UCD Strategy Consultation with Academic Council

The University Leadership, including the President, Registrar, Vice-President for Strategy and External Engagement, and Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, provided the Academic Council with details on the vision, strategic pillars and enabling areas set-out in the draft UCD Strategy. It is anticipated that the vision will be achieved through a number of interconnected strategic initiatives across the organization.

Members were asked to share their thoughts and questions highlighting what they like in the Strategy, areas not yet fully presented, or observations. During discussion members highlighted certain priorities which included simplifying the application process for research funding; investment in infrastructure and lab equipment; the success of the Ad Astra initiative; lack of growth in PhD numbers; and the concept of trust (in the context of increasing checks and balances). Academic Council's contribution was captured using PollEv.com thereby allowing for a detailed thematic analysis.

Once the Strategy is finalised and approved in November, the next phase will be implementation. For implementation to succeed and the ambition of the Strategy to be realised the conversation must be kept going through a variety of different consultation forums.

Members were encouraged to contact the Vice-President for Strategy and External Engagement, Triona Cormack, directly if they wish to input and shape the final stages of the Strategy.

Academic Council welcomed the opportunity to input into the consultation on the UCD Strategy 2025-2030.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____