UCD Academic Council
Comhairle Acadúil UCD

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council
Thursday 25 November 2021

2pm

Via Zoom

Present: 5
In Attendance: 69
Apologies: 13

Items are presented in the order in which they were discussed.

The President, Prof. Andrew Deeks, chaired this meeting of Academic Council. The Chair welcomed members, as Gaeilge and in English, to the first Ordinary meeting of the newly constituted Academic Council.

1. Welcome, housekeeping and apologies

Members were reminded that this meeting is being recorded for minuting purposes. The recording will be deleted once the minutes have been drafted. Members were advised that use of the Zoom chat function is not considered a contribution to the meeting and messages/comments provided via the chat function would not be included in the minutes.

The Chair reminded members to raise their virtual hands if they had any comments throughout the meeting.

The Chair advised members that new Academic Council Committee on Honorary Degrees and Major Awards (ACCHDMA) nominations are paused until April 2022 and that Honorary Conferrings are paused for one more cycle.

The Chair advised that Prof. Mark Rogers, Registrar and Secretary to Academic Council had provided his apologies and that Prof. Barbara Dooley, Deputy Registrar, was nominated by the Registrar to act as Secretary to Academic Council for this Academic Council meeting.

The Chair advised the Council that all other apologies received by the University Secretariat had been recorded.

2. Minutes of the meeting held 22 April 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2021 were approved as presented.

The Chair asked if there were any items from Part 2 (Items for Approval) or Part 3 (Items for Noting) on the agenda that members would like to bring forward to Part 1 for discussion. No virtual hands were raised.

Academic Council approved items from Part 2 and noted items from Part 3 of the agenda.

ITEMS FOR DECISION/ DISCUSSION

3. Academic Council Revised Terms of Reference

The Chair provided an overview of this item advising members that as a result of the recent changes to the composition of the Academic Council, its Terms of Reference have been amended accordingly. In addition to the approved composition, some minor amendments have been made to the 'Conduct of Business' section as the majority of the existing provisions no longer apply to the conduct of business of the Academic Council and are now incorporated into the Academic Council Standing Orders.

The revised Terms of Reference will be presented to the Governing Authority for approval in December 2021.

The Chair invited comments from members of the Council. No comments were provided.

Decision	Academic Council recommended the Academic Council Revised Terms of Reference to the Governing Authority for approval.

4. Academic Council Composition – Vacancies Options

The Chair invited Prof. Barbara Dooley to speak to this item.

Following extensive consideration by the Academic Council Composition Working Group, a revised composition of the Academic Council and the principles that were to apply to its composition, were agreed and approved by both the Academic Council and the Governing Authority. The circumstance that not all of the available seats would be filled was not considered and there is no mechanism provided in the Standing Orders to address this eventuality.

The Academic Council currently has 34 unfilled seats in the membership category of 'other' academic staff, comprising Associate/Assistant Professors, Professors/Full Professors, and Heads of Subject. Although this number of unfilled seats represents a significant proportion of the Academic Council, members were advised that the mechanism sought to address this issue should be applicable for use in a future situation where there are only very few unfilled seats.

Academic Council was presented with five options on how the unfilled vacancies on Academic Council could be populated. The five options were as follows:

1. Leaving the seats vacant;
2. Colleges to arrange for the local election of members;
3. Treating the unfilled seats as casual vacancies;
4. Election by the Academic Council; or
5. Full By-Election for all Vacant Seats

The Academic Council was invited to determine a mechanism from the options as outlined for filling seats which have been left vacant following the full electronic election in Summer 2021 and to amend its Standing Orders to ensure that this mechanism is available in the case of future need. If the mechanism chosen conflicts with the mandatory elements inherent in the initial Governing Authority approval, then the Governing Authority will be asked to facilitate the proposed resolution.

Following providing an overview of each of the five options, Prof. Dooley opened the floor for feedback and questions, these included:

- A member advised that following consultation within their own College, Option 2 was the preferred option to fill the vacancies. The member queried if it was possible to select this option, but not proceed with an election as there was a sense within the member's College that an election was deterring colleagues from engaging as it was perceived to be quite overwhelming. It was clarified by Prof. Dooley that a election was optional, should Option 2 be selected by Academic Coucil. The member also commented that their College wished to highlight

the low engagement with the election in Summer 2021 spoke to a disengagement among academics with the Academic Council and there was a need to address this.

- A member advised of their College's support of Option 2. The member also commented that in order to encourage junior academics to engage in the process of becoming a member of Academic Council that a less public election process, for example, an expression of interest system, may be preferable.
- A member commented that they found the election process in Summer 2021 to be quite cumbersome and that there was a very tight timeline during a peculiar time which proved challenging in terms of canvassing. The member also provided their support of Option 2 and recommended a more local, simpler election process.
- A member commented on the timing of the Summer 2021 election, advising that the timeline was tight and it was a very busy time of year. This discouraged colleagues within their College from seeking nomination. The member advised of their support of Option 2 but stressed the need to consider the timing of any nominations/election process. The need to fully consider the timing of any election process was supported by another member of the Council.
- A member commented that Option 3: Treating the unfilled seats as casual vacancies; may be the most appropriate approach and that the addition of establishing an Academic Council Working Group to this Option that would seek input from College's to find willing nominees could work well. This would ensure that it is Academic Council which is filling the unfilled seats.
- A member commented that while they think Option 3 would be a suitable option if there was a smaller number of vacancies, given the volume of vanancies currently and the significant workload that would be placed again on the University Secretariat, Option 2 is the preferable option.
- A member, who was in the Summer 2021 contested election, commented that Option 2 is their preferred option. The member advised that they appreciated, as a more junior recent addition to the College, the opportunity to go for election and that they would have concerns about possible representation issues under Option 3.
- A member advised of their concern with proceeding with an election at College level as the election process intimiated colleagues previously and that this would continue to be the case if an election is to take place.
- A member commented that in terms of transparency, an election is important. However, the member acknowledged that colleagues may be discouraged by an election. The member advised that Schools have a role to play in engaging with faculty on the election process and explaining the importance of Academic Council. This would encourage involvement and engagement.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Academic Council selected *Option 2: Colleges to arrange for the local election of members* as outlined below:

Summary	Each of the 17 faculty constituencies with current vacancies be asked to undertake its own process to nominate and elect members for the vacant positions.
Indicative Timeline	Recommended by AC: 25 November 2021 Results reported to AC: 21 April 2022
Considerations	**Risk** - Seats will remain vacant if sufficient engagement is not achieved. **Viability** - Individuals will be elected on different bases to those elected in the initial filling of AC and may be elected differently in different Colleges or faculties. - Does a fully populated AC better fulfil the approved principles? **Overall Gender Balance** - If all seats are filled in accordance with specified gender quotas, then the gender balance as per UCD Policy and HEA minimum is assured. **Resourcing** - Colleges would need to provide the resources to source nominations and conduct an election.
GA Approval and AC Standing	- The Governing Authority to acknowledge that different election processes can be used for unfilled seats.

Orders	- If the constituencies are to be altered for these elections, approval of this flexibility. - If approved by the Governing Authority, Standing Orders will be amended to state that in the instance that there are unfilled seats following an election to the Academic Council, Colleges will conduct a local process to nominate and elect members to fill vacant seats.

Academic Council also agreed that as per the existing Governing Authority approval, the voting constituencies remain defined depending on faculty title.

It was also agreed that this chosen mechanism will apply following future Academic Council elections, irrespective of the number of unfilled seats.

The Chair thanked Academic Council for engaging in a wide and deep discussion on this item.

Decision	Academic Council selected Option 2: Colleges to arrange for the local election of members; as outlined in the Academic Council Composition – Vacancies Options item presented. Therefore, Academic Council recommends for approval by the Governing Authority that each of the 17 constituencies with unfilled seats undertake their own process, administered at College level, to nominate and (if nominations exceed the number of vacant positions in any unfilled cohort) elect members to these vacant positions.

5. Academic Council Executive Committee Revised Terms of Reference

The Chair provided an overview of this item.

Members were advised that this item outlines amendments to the composition of the Academic Council Executive Committee as set out in the Committee's Terms of Reference, explaining that amendments to the composition are appropriate in light of the recently constituted revised Academic Council.

The Chair highlighted, as per the paper, that the Academic Council Executive Committee as it is currently constituted has members who are no longer members of the revised Academic Council. The ACEC composition amendments proposed in the paper seek to rectify this and seek to apply the principles of the review of the Academic Council composition, approved the Governing Authority, to its Executive Committee (in so far as possible).

The Chair invited comments from members of the Council. No comments were provided.

Decision	Academic Council approved the Academic Council Executive Committee Revised Terms of Reference as presented for implementation from 1 September 2022.

6. ACEC Response to AC Subcommittee Annual Reports 2020 – 2021

The Chair invited Prof. Barbara Dooley to speak to this item.

All Subcommittees of the Academic Council are required to report to the Academic Council annually. The 2020-2021 Subcommittees Annual Reports were submitted to the University Secretariat in August 2021. An Academic Council Executive Committee Response to the Annual Reports has been drafted, summarizing areas of good practice across the reports and areas which require further consideration in the upcoming academic year. Academic Council Executive Committee approved the response as presented at its 7 October 2021 meeting.

The Response is presented now for Academic Council approval. The accompanying reports were also submitted to the Academic Council for noting (see Part 3 'For Noting').

Academic Council commended the work of the Academic Council Subcommittees, acknowledging that significant work

was completed through an extremely difficult time. The Council congratulated the Subcommittees and the Subcommittee supports on their impressive performance.

No other comments were received.

Decision	Academic Council approved the ACEC Response to the AC Subcommittee Annual Reports 2020 – 2021 as presented.

7. Amendments to the Assessment Code of Practice (ACOP)

The Chair invited Prof. Alan Baird, Chair of the Academic Council Committee on Examinations (ACCE), to speak to this item.

Prof. Baird firstly acknowledged the significant support provided by UCD Registry and UCD Assessment to the work of the Academic Council Committee on Examinations (ACCE).

Prof. Baird informed members that with the increase of online assessments since 2020, UCD Assessment analysed the Assessment Code of Practice to ensure that the information provided was up to date and complete. This led to all sections of the document being reviewed. UCD Assessment consulted with a number of UCD units such as Teaching and Learning, IT Services, Curriculum Team, UCD Student Engagement, Conduct, Complaints and Appeals (SECCA) and UCD Access and Lifelong Learning (ALL). These units reviewed the Assessment Code of Practice document and reverted with feedback.

The majority of the updates to the Assessment Code of Practice have been developed in response to a Report from the Online Assessment Working Group, approved and endorsed by the Academic Council Executive Committee at its meeting on 3 June 2021. The updates include additional detailed information on online exams, clinical assessments and communication to students regarding assessments.

At its meeting on 22 October 2021, ACCE approved the updates to the Assessment Code of Practice.

Academic Council is asked to approve the amendments to the Assessment Code of Practice. Permission is also requested from Academic Council that the document be linked to resources and guidance as they are updated.

Upon Academic Council approval, the updated Assessment Code of Practice will be available immediately.

Decision	Academic Council approved the amendments to the Assessment Code of Practice (ACOP) as presented.

8. Amendments to the UCD Exam Regulations

The Chair invited Prof. Alan Baird, Chair of the Academic Council Committee on Examinations (ACCE), to speak to this item.

Prof. Baird informed members that with the increase of online assessments since 2020, UCD Assessment analysed the UCD Exam Regulations to ensure that the information provided was up to date and complete. UCD Assessment consulted with a number of UCD units such as Teaching and Learning, IT Services, Curriculum Team, UCD Student Engagement, Conduct, Complaints and Appeals (SECCA) and UCD Access and Lifelong Learning (ALL). These units reviewed the UCD Exam Regulations and reverted with feedback.

The majority of the updates to the UCD Exam Regulations have been developed in response to a Report from the Online Assessment Working Group, approved and endorsed by the Academic Council Executive Committee at its meeting on 3 June 2021. The updates include additional detailed information on online assessments.

At its meeting on 22 October 2021, ACCE approved the updates to the UCD Exam Regulations.

Academic Council is asked to approve the amendments to the UCD Exam Regulations. Permission is also requested

from Academic Council that the document be linked to resources and guidance as they are updated.

Upon Academic Council approval, the updated UCD Exam Regulations will be available immediately.

Decision	Academic Council approved the amendments to the UCD Exam Regulations as presented.

Part 2

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

9. Academic Council Committee on Academic Centres (ACCAC) Report

The Academic Council Committee for Academic Centres (ACCAC) at its meeting of 13 October 2021 agreed to recommend the following items for approval to Academic Council.

1. Recommendation to Establish a new Academic Centre
   - UCD Centre for Global Irish Studies

2. Recommendation to Discontinue an Academic Centre
   - UCD Centre for Sport Studies

Decision	Academic Council approved the recommendations outlined in the Academic Council Committee on Academic Centres (ACCAC) Report as presented.

10. New and Renewed Head of Subject Appointments

Heads of Subject appointments are subject to Academic Council approval (Statute 25).

School	Subject	Proposed Head of Subject	Duration
Quinn School of Business	Accountancy	Prof. Gerardine Doyle	Start Date: 27/09/2021 End Date: 28/02/2024
Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy	Landscape Architecture	Dr. Michael Heurich	Start Date: 01/10/2021 End Date: 31/09/2024
Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy	Environmental Policy	Dr. Finbarr Brereton	Start Date: 01/09/2021 End Date: 31/08/2023

Decision	Academic Council approved the New and Renewed Head of Subject Appointments as presented.

11. Proposal for Emeritus Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor

The conferment of Emeritus status is subject Academic Council approval.

Name	Emeritus Title	School	Retirement Year
Professor Stephen Daly	Emeritus Full Professor	School of Earth Sciences	2020/2021

Decision	Academic Council approved the Proposal for Emeritus Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor as presented.

12. Agriculture and Food Science Taught Programmes Board - Terms of Reference

Amendments to the Agriculture and Food Science Taught Programmes Board Terms of Reference were approved by the Agriculture and Food Science Programme Board on 9 September 2021 and recommended by the University Programmes Board to Academic Council for approval on 14 October 2021.

The amendments to the Terms of Reference reflect organisational changes i.e., removal of references to 'Programme Office'.

Decision	Academic Council approved the Agriculture and Food Science Taught Programmes Board - Terms of Reference as presented.

13. Proposal to establish ACCSAC Policy Review Group - Student Complaint Policy Review

At its meeting on 3 June 2021, Academic Council Executive Committee approved Academic Council Committee on Student Appeals and Complaints (ACCSAC) proposal to conduct a formal periodic review of the Student Complaint Policy during the 2021/2022 academic session.

In line with the Academic Council Standing Orders, ACCSAC now seeks the approval of Academic Council to establish a policy review group to conduct the Student Complaint Policy Review.

Decision	Academic Council approved the proposal to establish an ACCSAC Policy Review Group - Student Complaint Policy Review as presented.

14. Proposal to establish ACCSCC Working Group to consider items related to plagiarism

Academic Council Committee on Student Conduct and Capacity (ACCSCC) seeks the approval of Academic Council to establish a working group to review items relating to student plagiarism, which had been included in ACCSCC's Work Programme 2021 - 22 as part of its Annual Report 2021 - 22.

The proposal is submitted in accordance with the Academic Council Standing Orders, provision 4.8.

One member queried the lack of a student representative in the proposed composition of the Working Group. Prof. Dooley advised that this is likely an oversight and that the Chair of ACCSCC would be happy to address this.

Decision	Academic Council approved the proposal to establish an ACCSCC Working Group to consider items related to plagiarism as presented, subject to the inclusion of student representation on the Working Group.

15. New Student Fitness to Practice Statement: BSc Mathematics, Science and Education Programme

At its meeting on 20 October 2021, Academic Council Committee on Student Conduct and Capacity (ACCSCC) endorsed the new Student Fitness to Practice Statement: BSc Mathematics, Science and Education programme and

recommended it for approval by Academic Council.

The new Student Fitness to Practice Statement was initially approved by the College of Science Programme Board on 7 October 2021.

Decision	Academic Council approved the New Student Fitness to Practice Statement: BSc Mathematics, Science and Education Programme as presented.

16. UCD Tenure Committee: Amendment to 'Induction and Award of Tenure to the Grades of Lecturer/Assistant Professor/Associate Professor' policy

At its meeting on 11 October 2021, the UCD Tenure Committee agreed on a minor amendment to the Induction and Award of Tenure to the Grades of Lecturer/Assistant Professor/Associate Professor policy. The proposed amendment relates to Section 4.2 and proposes the removal of "In circumstances where".

Decision	Academic Council approved the amendment to 'Induction and Award of Tenure to the Grades of Lecturer/Assistant Professor/Associate Professor' policy as presented.

17. UCD Tenure Committee: Recommendations for the award of tenure

At its meeting on 11 October 2021, the UCD Tenure Committee agreed to recommend to Academic Council for approval a number of Lecturer/Assistant Lecturers and Associate Professors for the award of tenure, effective 1 October 2021.

Decision	Academic Council approved the UCD Tenure Committee recommendations for the award of tenure as presented.

Part 3

ITEMS FOR NOTING

18. Academic Regulations Review – Update for the Academic Council

As agreed by Academic Council on the approval of the Academic Regulations in 2018-2019, a detailed review of the Regulations would commence in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Academic Council was advised that at the April 2022 Academic Council meeting, members will be asked to approve the establishment of a Working Group that will complete the Regulations review with any approved changes to take effect from September 2023. Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group will accompany this proposal.

Decision	Academic Council noted the Academic Regulations Review – Update for the Academic Council as presented.

19. Academic Council Subcommittee Approved Minutes

Academic Council Subcommittee Approved Minutes are presented to Academic Council for noting, in line with the Academic Council Standing Orders.

Committee	Reference
ACCE • Minutes of meeting held on 25 February 2021 • Minutes of meeting held on 25 March 2021 • Minutes of meeting held on 22 April 2021 • Minutes of meeting held on 20 May 2021 • Minutes of meeting held on 24 June 2021 • Minutes of meeting held on 22 July 2021 • Minutes of meeting held on 17 September 2021	21.02.N02a
ACCSAC • Minutes of meeting held on 7 December 2020 • Minutes of meeting held on 8 March 2021	21.02.N02b
ACCSCC • Minutes of meeting held on 16 December 2020 • Minutes of meeting held on 24 February 2021 • Minutes of meeting held on 21 April 2021	21.02.N02c
ACQEC • Minutes of meeting held on 8 October 2020 • Minutes of meeting held on 19 November 2020 • Minutes of meeting held on 28 January 2021	21.02.N02d
ACEC • Minutes of meeting held on 11 February 2021 • Minutes of meeting held on 3 June 2021	21.02.N02e
ACCAC • Minutes of meeting held on 18 February 2021	21.02.N02f
UPB • Minutes of meeting held on 4 May 2021	21.02.N02g

Decision	Academic Council noted the Academic Council Subcommittee Approved Minutes as presented.

20. UCD Subject Register

The UCD Subject Register outlines the University's Heads of Subject as of November 2021 and is presented to Academic Council for noting.

Decision	Academic Council noted the UCD Subject Register as presented.

21. Academic Council Subcommittee Annual Reports 2020 – 2021

All Subcommittees of the Academic Council are required to report to the Academic Council annually. The 2020-2021 Subcommittees Annual Reports were submitted to the University Secretariat in August 2021 and are presented now to the Academic Council for noting.

Decision	Academic Council noted the Academic Council Subcommittee Annual Reports 2020 – 2021 as presented.

22. Academic Council Standing Orders

The Academic Council Standing Orders were presented to Academic Council for noting, as per protocol for all committees at the start of the academic year.

Decision	Academic Council noted the Academic Council Standing Orders as presented.

23. Conflict of Interest Policy

The UCD Conflict of Interest Policy was presented to Academic Council for noting, as per protocol for all committees at the start of the academic year.

Decision	Academic Council noted the Conflict of Interest Policy as presented.

24. GDPR Summary for Committees

The GDPR Summary for Committees was presented to Academic Council for noting, as per protocol for all committees at the start of the academic year. The UCD Data Protection Officer developed the summary document providing high-level information relating to UCD's GDPR responsibilities.

Decision	Academic Council noted the GDPR Summary for Committees as presented.

25. Senior Academic Roles 2021 – 2022

A list of Senior Academic Roles 2021 – 2022 was presented to Academic Council for noting, as per protocol for all committees at the start of the academic year.

Decision	Academic Council noted the Senior Academic Roles 2021 – 2022 as presented.

26. Academic Council Subcommittee Membership List 2021 – 2022

The Academic Council Subcommittee Membership List 2021 -2022 was presented to Academic Council for noting, as per protocol for all committees at the start of the academic year.

Decision	Academic Council noted the Academic Council Subcommittee Membership List 2021 - 2022 as presented.

27. Faculty Promotions Committee Annual Report

This report provided Academic Council with an update on the Faculty Promotion process for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The report also provided the cumulative statistics since the introduction of the rolling system in 2016.

Decision	Academic Council noted the Faculty Promotions Committee Annual Report as presented.

28. Proposal to revoke Statute LXXXVI: Mary Ball Washington Professorship of American History

Academic Council was consulted on the proposal to revoke Statute LXXXVI, Chapter I in advance of the Governing Authority meeting on 16 December 2021 as it pertains to the academic affairs of the University. It is proposed that Statute LXXXVI, Chapter I be revoked and not replaced.

This Academic Council consultation is in line with the provisions set out in Statute 25, Ch. 5 (8) and Statute 25, Ch. 6 (2)(c).

Decision	Academic Council noted the proposal to revoke Statute LXXXVI, Chapter I: Mary Ball Washington Professorship of American History as presented.

ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

29. Covid 19 Autumn 2021 Assessment Options

The Chair invited Prof. Dooley to speak to this item which was circulated to members two days ahead of the Academic Council meeting.

Academic Coucil was advised that following an Academic Council Executive Committee Special Meeting that took place on 22 November 2021, the Academic Council Executive Committee recommends that all modules with terminal assessments scheduled between 17 November 2021 and 23 December 2021 are required to be ready to put in place and deliver an alternative online assessment opportunity to accommodate any certified student who is unable to attend or undertake their terminal assessment as originally scheduled.

ACEC recommends that this is facilitated through a temporary addition to the Academic Regulations, set out in the paper, noting that if such measures are required to apply to spring trimester assessments, the Academic Council or the ACEC may approve the application of the above regulation with dates to be amended as necessary.

Academic Council is therefore asked to approve, on the recommendation of the ACEC, the addition of the following temporary academic regulation to apply to terminal assessments scheduled between 17th November 2021 and 23rd December 2021:

"Where a student cannot attend a terminal assessment opportunity due to Covid-19, they will be provided with an alternative assessment opportunity prior to the final release of grades on 28th January 2022. In this instance, there will be an exemption from regulations 3.5 and 4.8. Arrangements for the implementation of this temporary regulation can be determined by the Registrar."

If such measures are required to apply to spring trimester assessments, the Academic Council or the ACEC may approve the application of the above regulation with dates to be amended as necessary.

Prof. Dooley invited comments from members. These included:

- A member commented that it appears that students are becoming very uneasy at the prospect of attending in-person exams in locations such as the RDS and that it seems students would appreciate the moving of in-person assessments to online. If the decision is to ahead with in-person assessments, there may be a very large volume of students who cannot appear for various reasons. This would create a large volume of work in January for module coordinators.

Prof. Dooley clarified that the option to move in-person assessments to online assessments exists currently and is available via UCD Assessment until Monday 29 November.

- Contrary to the previous members comment, a member commented that students are concerned that other students will not self-isolate because they do not wish to have to take assessments or exams after Christmas. Therefore, there is a concern among students that there will be other students who attend their in-person assessment who should not.

- A UCDSU member supported the comment that students are concerned about the risk associated with attending in-person assessments. The UCDSU member advised of their support to move in-person exams to online. They also highlighted that the SU are receiving a number of concerns from students who are living with immune-compromised family members and that while the details associated with providing alternative assessment settings for such students may not be for decision today, such students should be considered. It also needs be acknowledged that while the RDS may be well-ventilated and considered safe, many students need to use public transport etc. in order to get to their exam and this is causing concern among some students.
- A member queried the wording of the proposed amendment. The member sought to confirm that the additional provision of a January assessment only applies to students who cannot attend in-person assessment. If it includes online assessment, the wording of ''attend'' is unclear and should be updated.
- A member queried if grades are expected to be entered by the first deadline in January as this would be extremely difficult. Another member supported the point raised regarding the challenge of the tight timeline.

Prof. Dooley advised that it is not the expectation that grades would be ready for the Grade Approval Process, the intention is that staff, to the best of their ability and capacity, would have grades visible, i.e., not fully validated, to students ahead of commencing the second trimester. The validaton process in such cases would be at a later date.

The Academic Council engaged in a lengthy discussion which included the following:

- A member raised a point regarding professional assessments and the in-person requirement of such assessments. It is important it is possible to have in-person assessments in January in such cases as it is critical for accreditation purposes.
- A number of points were raised by members regarding the increasing presence of covid anxiety among students.
- A number of members expressed an appetite for parity and equality in implementing the temporary academic regulation.
- A number of members highlighted the need for a liberal approach to be taken regarding extenuating circumstances and self-certification.

Decision	Academic Council approved the addition of the following temporary academic regulation to apply to all terminal assessments scheduled between 17th November 2021 and 23rd December 2021 subject to amendments to the wording of the proposed regulation, specifically "attend" and "due to COVID".

Signed:_____   **Date:**_____
       Chairperson