

UCD Agreed Minute

The HEA acknowledges and appreciates the work undertaken by UCD in preparing the Compact Documentation submission in the context of this the first cycle of Strategic Dialogue. The HEA commends the quality of the submission. Documented feedback on the draft compact has been conveyed to UCD. This feedback has been informed by an extensive HEA exercise of evaluation of the submission, including analysis by an external panel set up to provide an independent assessment of the overall performance of the institution, against the backdrop of its mission.

HEA recognises that this is the first year of strategic dialogue and this is a developmental process. In year 2, HEA will have regard to the agreed outcomes of the dialogue process this year, including not only specific objectives and indicators proposed, but also any feedback to institutions regarding the overall composition of the compact. Institutions are expected to have regard to this feedback and to demonstrate that they have incorporated it into their processes for next year's cycle.

Subject to the above, the HEA and UCD agree that the mission, planned profile and targets, as now set out in the accompanying Compact, are consistent with the national objectives set for the higher education system and are appropriate to the place of UCD within the system. This agreement takes full cognisance of the written responses to HEA feedback and of the strategic dialogue meeting which took place on 13th January 2014. **The following issues are taken from the Strategic Dialogue Meeting held on 13th January 2014. It is recognised that this does not represent a full minute of the meeting but focuses on issues of particular importance.**

General

HEA recognises that UCD is in a process of transition in terms of the recent appointment of a new President and the imminent commencement of new strategic planning cycle and that UCD may wish to alter the compact after the new strategic plan has been agreed.

Meeting Ireland's Human Capital Needs

The HEA noted the central importance of job creation for the Government and the important role Higher Education plays in that domain. UCD agreed and outlined how it is contributing to job creation, skills, job support and graduate employability.

Innovation Alliance and Regional Cluster

HEA noted the original intention of the Innovation Alliance to significantly improve the research and innovation outcomes of UCD and TCD with major economic and other benefits for the system. It was suggested that this alliance should be developed further to form the bedrock of the Dublin I cluster, which would allow for the engagement of IADT, NCAD and MIE in their particular niche areas. It is intended to carry out a review of operation and potential future development of the alliance to ensure that the investment to date continues to deliver impact and that a balance between competition and collaboration is struck between TCD and UCD, which delivers greatest systemic benefit.

Participation, Equal Access and Lifelong Learning

HEA noted some methodological issues raised by UCD relating to use of survey based data for target setting. The HEA will engage with UCD further on this issue and to ensure UCD performance is properly presented.

HEA noted that in respect of pathways, UCD are also reviewing internal policy and practice that may militate against greater progression from FE to HE and will consider this further.

Excellent Teaching and Learning and Quality of the Student Experience

HEA commended the coherence of the innovation reflected in UCD's undergraduate prospectus and its' compatibility with the agreed national commitments to broaden entry routes to higher education and to improve the transition for learners between second level and higher education.

Enhanced Internationalisation

HEA will engage further with UCD to capture a fuller set of information in relation to overseas campuses.

Institutional Consolidation

HEA notes ongoing work between UCD and NCAD to discuss a process of consolidation and will continue to engage with both institutions as this develops further.

HEA notes the work underway to develop a new centre for teacher education including MIE, UCD, TCD and NCAD and will continue to engage with the institutions as this develops further.