

University of Limerick Agreed Minute

The HEA acknowledges and appreciates the work undertaken by University of Limerick in preparing the Compact Documentation submission in the context of this the first cycle of Strategic Dialogue. The HEA commends University of Limerick on the quality of their submission. Documented feedback on the draft compact has been conveyed to University of Limerick. 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 University of Limerick 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 University of Limerick within the system. This agreement takes full cognisance of the strategic dialogue meeting which took place on 12th December 2013. **The following issues are taken from the Strategic Dialogue Meeting held on the 12th December 2013. It is recognised that this does not represent a full minute of the meeting but focuses on issues of particular importance.**

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. UL agreed and noted the range of efforts underway to support this objective. The UL compact is very strong on job creation and support throughout most sections of the compact. This is a distinctive feature of UL, with a focus on placement, up-skilling, CPD and bespoke provision for employers, on commercialisation, on knowledge transfer.

Institutional Consolidation/ ITE Review

The HEA will meet in January with UL and MIC to discuss the progress update report on the establishment of the new National Institute for Studies in Education, to ensure that the report substantively meets the recommendations of the international panel report on ITE.

The updated submission on the establishment of the centre of excellence is welcomed. While this submission provides for a new governance structure and for significant collaboration in the planning and delivery of education programmes between MIC and UL, it needs to bring out further a significant collaboration between the primary and post-primary teacher training. This includes, but is not limited to, foundation education elements that are common to primary and post primary teacher education studies, including such areas as Philosophy of Education, Education Psychology, Digital Learning, History of Education etc.

Regional Cluster

A cluster meeting will be held to agree a programme of initiatives, deliverables and timelines in which the two national priority objectives of joint academic planning and student pathways, into and within the cluster, should be brought out more clearly. This should have a greater focus on outcomes, particularly those concrete outcomes related to a single, improved, substantially rationalised BA offering, jointly planned and delivered between UL and MIC, and outcomes related to improved student transitions, pathways and increased participation etc.

Participation, Equal Access and Lifelong Learning

5.1. It is noted that UL has provided a single target that incorporates all under-represented groups, viz, mature students, socio-economically disadvantaged students, and students with a disability. There are a range of programmes directed at under-represented students that are not reflected in current definitions e.g. part-time and blended programmes; Springboard; evening programmes; CPD programmes. .

5.2. Future planning in part dependent on development of new National Access Plan.

5.3. UL, in collaboration with partners, to re-visit the pathways objectives within the cluster with a view to developing measurable KPIs and quantitative targets.

5.4. Include outcomes for the objective to develop a centre of excellence for Assistive Technology

High Quality, Internationally Competitive Research and Innovation

HEA notes UL's plans to establish the Health Research Institute, welcoming the initial scoping work and the resulting differentiation in focus of the Institute in the national context. It was noted that the UL doctoral growth target is a stretch target but that UL will strengthen capacity to deliver on this.