

Dublin City University Agreed Minute

The HEA acknowledges and appreciates the work undertaken by DCU 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 DCU. 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 DCU 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 DCU 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 10th December 2013. **The following issues are taken from the Strategic Dialogue Meeting held on the 10th 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. DCU agreed and noted the range of efforts underway to support this objective.

Benchmarks

The HEA notes that this is a developmental process and will look forward to further use of national and international benchmarks, as identified by DCU, to inform DCU targets and ensure that they are more outcome oriented.

Institute of Education

The HEA notes the significant work to date in progressing the establishment of a fifth faculty of DCU by means of incorporation of the three teacher education institutions.

Digital campus

The HEA notes the very significant developments by DCU in respect of the Digital Campus and the expectation that this will result in a significantly greater number of mature students in DCU than is projected in the current profile.

Participation, Equal Access and Lifelong Learning

The HEA notes the plans in relation to access and the particular context of the consolidation of the teacher education institutions. While there will be a continued increase in the absolute numbers of Access students entering DCU over the period, the overall percentage participation will drop slightly

when the consolidated DCU is compared to the current position, arising from different participation rates of under-represented groups in the consolidating institutions.

The HEA will follow up separately with DCU, St. Patrick's College and Mater Dei in the management of the comparative data for the institutions separately and collectively.

Excellent Teaching and Learning and Quality of the Student Experience

Clarity is required on how DCU proposes to give effect to agreed national commitments to review and reduce the number of level 8 programmes; to broaden entry routes to higher education; and to improve the transition for learners between second-level and higher education.