

Dundalk Institute of Technology Agreed Minute

The HEA acknowledges and appreciates the work undertaken by Dundalk Institute of Technology in preparing the Compact Documentation submission in the context of this the first cycle of Strategic Dialogue. Documented feedback on the draft compact has been conveyed to Dundalk Institute of Technology. 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 Dundalk Institute of Technology 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 Dundalk Institute of Technology within the system. This agreement takes full cognisance of the strategic dialogue meeting which took place on 11th December 2013. **The following issues are taken from the Strategic Dialogue Meeting held on 11th 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. DKIT agreed and noted the range of efforts underway to support this objective.

Financial Sustainability

Achieving financial sustainability over the period of the compact has to underpin the compact submission.

Outcomes

HEA noted a key building block is that while the compact should be built on the strategic plan, it should also focus on the particular priority areas that the institute wishes to address in the coming 3 year period. HEA noted that as the process moves forward it would be important that the compacts demonstrate that sense of prioritisation. In this context, HEA understands that the core outcomes which DKIT is focusing on in its strategies relating to teaching & learning; participation & access, and research & engagement include:

- a. enhanced quality of the student experience,
- b. improved student transitions,
- c. enhanced graduate employability skills, including an embedded entrepreneurship education,
- d. improved progression/completion rates.
- e. improved participation opportunities for the unemployed in its hinterland
- f. a focused research strategy, which is well connected to the needs of the region. This will provide for enterprise engagement and commercialisation, improved research outputs and enhanced quality of teaching.

Two key enablers of these outcomes are a return to financial sustainability and effective participation in the regional cluster.