

University College Cork Agreed Minute

The HEA acknowledges and appreciates the work undertaken by UCC 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 UCC. 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 UCC 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 UCC 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 12th December 2013. **The following issues are taken from the Strategic Dialogue Meeting held on 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. UCC agreed and noted the range of efforts underway to support this objective.

Benchmarking

HEA notes the process of benchmarking being used by UCC and looks forward to seeing how this will inform future compact submissions.

High Quality, Internationally Competitive Research and Innovation

HEA notes UCC will revise the compact to take account of recent successes by UCC in research and to provide a more complete picture of performance in this area.

Participation, Equal Access and Lifelong Learning

HEA notes that the next National Access Plan is in preparation and will be available shortly. The development of the plan will take into account issues raised in the strategic dialogue discussions, including the treatment of international students when assessing participation from under-represented groups.

HEA also notes concerns raised by UCC in respect of difficulties in meeting current mature targets due to declining demand arising from changes in student support arrangements.

Performance-based funding

UCC noted that clarity is required around the process for allocating performance-based funding in future rounds of strategic dialogue. HEA agreed and will work with the sector to agree a process for same.