

## **Committee of Council**

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Committee of Council which took place on Monday, 8 January 2007 in the Boardroom, HETAC Offices, 26/27 Denzille Lane, Dublin 2 at 11:00 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson/Chief Executive: Mr. Séamus Puirseil  
Secretary: Mr. Tadhg Ó hÉalaithe  
Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Des Carolan  
Mr. Joe Cox  
Ms. Caitríona Lawless

### **1. Minutes of Meeting of 27 September 2006**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 27 September 2006 were CONFIRMED and SIGNED subject to the insertation of the following as paragraph 2 in Item 6:

'The Committee, accordingly, DELEGATED authority to the Institute for the following programmes:

Master of Science in Renewable Energy Systems  
Master of Arts in Cultural Innovation for the Arts  
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Midwifery  
Higher Diploma in Science in Neonatal Nursing  
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Care  
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture  
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Food Innovation  
Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering  
Bachelor of Business (Honours) in International Management  
Bachelor of Science in Building  
Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering  
Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Health'

### **2. Matters Arising from Minutes**

#### **Waterford Institute of Technology**

The Committee NOTED that the Executive had met with the Institute regarding the Institute's proposed Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Architecture and NOTED that the Institute's representatives had been advised that if they wished to pursue this issue, they should apply to HETAC in order to establish a new award on the Framework of Qualifications. Any further application received will be referred to the Council for decision.

### **3. Newly Validated Programmes under Delegation of Authority.**

#### **3.1. Institute of Technology, Carlow**

The Committee NOTED the content of the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 3.1. and ORDERED that authority be delegated to the above Institute for the minor award: Diploma in Legal Studies, Level 8 subject to any

decisions Council may make relating to the titles of Minor, Supplemental or Special Purpose Awards.

**3.2. Cork Institute of Technology**

The Committee NOTED the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 3.2. and ORDERED that authority be delegated to the above Institute for the programme specified in the document circulated.

The Committee also NOTED a change in a programme title from:  
Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology to:  
Bachelor of Science in Applied Biosciences and Biotechnology and APPROVED the alternation to the Institute's Order in Council.

**3.3. Dundalk Institute of Technology**

The Committee NOTED the content of the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 3.3. and ORDERED that authority be delegated to the above Institute for the minor award: Certificate in English Language and Western Society, Level 6 subject to any decisions Council may make relating to the titles of Minor, Supplemental or Special Purpose Awards.

**3.4. Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology**

The Committee NOTED the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 3.4. and ORDERED that authority be delegated to the above Institute for the programme specified in the document circulated.

**3.5. Limerick Institute of Technology**

The Committee NOTED the content of the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 3.5. and ORDERED that authority be delegated to the above Institute for the Special Purpose Certificates, Level 6 specified in the document circulated subject to any decisions Council may make relating to the titles of Minor, Supplemental or Special Purpose Awards.

**3.6. Letterkenny Institute of Technology**

The Committee NOTED the content of the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 3.6. and ORDERED that authority be delegated to the above Institute for the minor awards: Certificate in Computing, Level 6 and Certificate in Introductory Studies for Higher Education, Level 6; subject to any decisions Council may make relating to the titles of Minor, Supplemental or Special Purpose Awards.

**3.7. Institute of Technology, Sligo**

The Committee NOTED the content of the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 3.7. and ACCEPTED the explanation furnished by the Institute for validating the Higher Certificate in Business in Marketing with Italian without consulting a full validation panel. The Committee was SATISFIED that the Institute validated the elective module in an appropriate manner and ORDERED that authority be delegated to the above Institute for the programme.

**3.8. Institute of Technology, Tallaght**

The Committee NOTED the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 3.8. and ORDERED that authority be delegated to the above Institute for the programme specified in the document circulated.

#### **4. Programme Approval**

- 4.1. Provider: The Irish Academy of Public Relations**  
Programme: Higher Diploma in Arts in Journalism

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as Item 4.1. The Committee AGREED to the approval of the specified programme.

- 4.2. Provider: National College of Ireland**  
Programme: Higher Certificate in Business

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as Item 4.2. The Committee AGREED to the approval of the specified programme. The Committee also AGREED with the view of the Executive that Section 43 of the Qualifications Act, which makes provision for learners where a provider ceases to provide the programme concerned, does not apply to the National College of Ireland as it is a registered charity.

- 4.3. Provider: National College of Ireland**  
Programme: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Human Resource Management  
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Financial Services  
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as Item 4.3. The Committee AGREED to the approval of the specified programmes. The Committee also AGREED with the view of the Executive that Section 43 of the Qualifications Act, which makes provision for learners where a provider ceases to provide the programme concerned, does not apply to the National College of Ireland as it is a registered charity.

The Committee DISCUSSED in detail with Mr. Joe Cox the issue of the programme's learning outcomes at Level 8 and following that discussion was SATISFIED with the Panel's Recommendations.

#### **5. Institute of Technology, Carlow/An Cosán**

The Committee NOTED the report on the meeting between the Institute of Technology, Carlow and An Cosán which discussed options for a Bachelor of Arts in Community Development and Leadership programme which is being considered for accreditation by the Institute of Technology, Carlow.

#### **6. Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology**

The Committee NOTED the report on a meeting between HETAC Executive and Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology and also NOTED that the Executive is satisfied that the Institute had met, or had plans in place to meet, specific conditions set by the Council as part of its delegation to the Institute, of authority to make awards.

#### **7. Tipperary Institute**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as Item 7 and APPROVED the extension of approval for intakes for the specified programmes of the above provider.

## **8. Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown**

*Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan withdrew from the discussion on this item.*

### **8.1. Programmatic Review**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as Item 8.1.

### **8.2. Programmatic Review – Consortium Programmes**

The Committee NOTED the documentation circulated as Item 8.2.

## **9. Report on Current Programme Validation Procedures in Institutes of Technology**

The Committee NOTED the Explanatory Memorandum circulated as Item 9.

The Committee also NOTED that the one Institute which had failed to reply by the deadline had been contacted on the morning of the meeting and that Institute had confirmed that the Chairperson and all other members of Programme Validation Panels are external to the institute.

The Committee REQUESTED that the Executive place the issue of the division of responsibilities under the Qualifications Act between HETAC and Academic Councils' role relating to quality assurance and other matters on the agenda of the meeting with the Council of Registrars of Institutes of Technology scheduled for 16 January 2007. The Committee ASKED that this matter be clarified to the satisfaction of all parties by the end of this academic year.

## **10. Any Other Business.**

### **Council Meetings**

The Committee NOTED that Council Members including a Chairperson were appointed with effect from 7 December 2006. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 22 January 2007.

The Committee NOTED that the decisions made at the four Committee of Council Meetings which took place since its establishment by Council at its meeting on 29 May 2006 would be presented to the Council at its meeting on 22 January for confirmation.

### **Joint Award Agreement**

The Committee NOTED that the NUI Statute had been amended and this would allow UCC and CIT to make joint awards and also NOTED that an initial text of the joint award agreement between HETAC and UCC had been agreed.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee of Council and on behalf of Council thanked Mr. Des Carolan who has resigned from HETAC with effect from 12 January 2007 and wished him every success in his future career.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_