DCU Academic Framework for Innovation

DCU's Academic Framework for Innovation (AFI) is a large-scale, cross-university initiative with input from academic, administration and learning support areas.

AFI is principally concerned with positioning DCU so that it delivers on the DCU strategic plan, meets the requirements of NFQ and Bologna, and provides an academic structure that facilitates and supports students.

Actions proposed to achieve AFI's objectives include: removing staged annual progression as a universal feature of DCU programmes, the elimination of 'examination only' repeats and flexible times to graduation.

Key objectives:

- meeting the requirements of Bologna and the NFQ;
- enabling inter-institutional collaboration;
- widening student choice (in terms of mode of study);
- fostering flexible approaches to programme development (which will enable opportunities for student choice to be increased);
- accommodating diverse student backgrounds/needs;
- improving academic achievement while supporting retention.

Process

2008-2009 Meeting NFQ and Bologna

RESOURCING
- AFI Fellowships in all schools

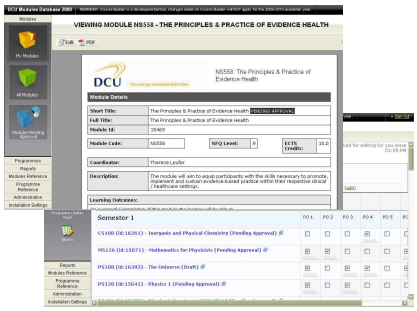
AWARD DESCRIPTORS
- Learning outcomes week
- Award Learning Outcome (LO) information sessions, training and clinics
- External verification

MODULE DESCRIPTORS
- Module LO training/resources
- Procurement/customisation of *Coursebuilder* software

MODULE - AWARD ALIGNMENT
- Alignment of module and award LOs

2008-2010 Developing the foundations for a new academic framework

- Preparation of draft interim Marks & Standards (M&S)
- Consultation period on draft
- Implementation of interim M&S
- Preparation of draft Programme Management Policies and Procedures
- Consultation period on draft
- Implementation of new Programme Management procedures
- Mainstreaming of alignment and review into QA processes



2009-2011 AFI implementation

FUNDING MODEL
- Develop/cost funding scenarios

INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- Integration of Coursebuilder with current university MIS (ITS)
- Online admission, registration and individual academic record system
- Integrated lecture/exam timetabling
- Specification for long-term MIS system

LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE
- Audit of existing learning resources and environment

FINAL MARKS & STANDARDS
- M&S for AFI structure

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