



**A meeting of the MIE ACDC was held on 28 February 2022 at 8.30 am via Zoom.**

Present: Professor Neville Cox, Registrar (*Chair*)  
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies  
Professor David Shepherd, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies  
Professor Carmel O Sullivan, Head of School of Education  
Professor Joanne Banks, Second Representative from the School of Education  
Ms. Roisin Smith, Quality Officer

**MIE:**

Professor Teresa O'Doherty, President of Marino Institute of Education  
Dr Seán Delaney, MIE Registrar  
Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha, Further Education  
Dr Joan Kiely, Undergraduate Programmes  
Dr Gene Mehigan, Postgraduate Taught Programmes  
Dr Sandra Austin, International Foundation Programme

In attendance: Ms Ciara Conlon, Academic Affairs; Ms Linda Darbey, Assistant Academic Secretary; Mr Conn McCluskey, School of Education Manager; Ms Shauna Cassidy, MIE Assistant Registrar; Ms Julie O'Donnell, MIE Quality Officer; Mr Brendan White, MIE IFP Programme Manager; Clíodhna Martin, TCD Global Recruitment & Admissions Officer (for item MIE/ACDC/21-22/020).

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**MIE/ACDC/21-22/012 Minutes of the meeting 18 November 2021**

The minutes of the meeting of the 18 November 2021 were approved.

**MIE/ACDC/21-22/013 Matters arising**

- i. **MIE/ACDC/21-22/010:** In response to a query from the MIE Registrar, the MIE ACDC Secretary advised that the approved nominees for external examiner will be submitted to Council following the approval of the outstanding external examiner nominations by MIE ACDC.
- ii. **MIE/ACDC/21-22/008:** The MIE Assistant Registrar confirmed that the ISSE Survey Report has been amended as required.

**MIE/ACDC/21-22/014 MES Primary Maths Education Proposal**

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 25 January 2022, was circulated with the course proposal document and the Registrar invited the MIE Registrar to speak to the item. The MIE Registrar introduced the proposal, stating it was an innovative addition to the MES suite of courses given the online delivery component. He thanked both the School of Education and Academic Affairs for their contributions in developing the proposal.

The Dean of Graduate Studies commended the inclusion of a workshop for teaching staff on delivering online programmes and stated the course should attract considerable interest.

In response to a query from the Dean of Graduate Studies regarding how the delivery will be scheduled, the MIE Registrar explained that the course will be delivered both synchronously and asynchronously, with the synchronous components scheduled for evenings to accommodate students in full-time employment. Those who apply to undertake the course from abroad must commit to participating in the synchronous

lectures. The Dean of Graduate Studies recommended that this is emphasised in the marketing material.

In response to a query from the Dean of Graduate Studies on assessment, the MIE Registrar confirmed that students who fail to meet the passing grade for one and only taught module may re-submit the failed module assignment(s). The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that this is clarified in the proposal.

**Action/Decision**

**21/22.014(i):** The MIE Registrar to amend the course proposal to make the scheduling of the course and the assessment regulations clearer.

**21/22.014 (ii)** MIE ACDC recommended the proposal for a one-year, 90 ECTS, online programme leading to the award of Masters in Education in Primary Maths to GSC, subject to revisions to the assessment regulations and information on scheduling.

**MIE/ACDC/21-22/015 Proposed Amendments to Modules on B.Sc Education Studies and B. Ed Primary (through Irish)**

Memorandums from the MIE Registrar, dated January 2022, were circulated with the module descriptor documents. The MIE Registrar stated that amendments to Work Placement II (B.Sc. Education Studies) is in response to changes made to the PATH funded Community Mentoring programme. The amendments to the Introduction to Psychology modules (B.Sc. Education Studies) will provide greater variety in assessments and are being proposed in response to a review of the module content. Amendments to the assessments to the Communicative Competence in Irish and English for School and Community module (B. Ed Primary through Irish) are also being proposed.

**Action/Decision**

**21/22.015:** MIE ACDC approved the amendments to the Work Placement II (B.Sc. Education Studies), Introduction to Psychology modules (B.Sc. Education Studies) and the Communicative Competence in Irish and English for School and Community module (B. Ed Primary through Irish).

**MIE/ACDC/21-22/016 Proposed Elective Modules for B.Sc. Early Childhood Education**

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 21 December 2021, was circulated along with the module descriptor documents. He advised that the modules were developed as part of the THRIECE Erasmus+ project which involved three countries, Poland, Portugal and Ireland, sharing ideas on best practice in Early Childhood Education with a focus on social inclusion. The Head of the School of Education congratulated MIE in developing the elective modules.

**Action/Decision**

**21/22.016:** MIE ACDC approved the Elective Modules for the B.Sc. Early Childhood Education 'Holistic Education for Early Childhood Settings', 'A Rights Based Approach to Early Childhood' and 'Relational Reflexivity for Educators'.

**MIE/ACDC/21-22/017 External Examiners Nominations**

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 11 January 2022, was circulated. The Registrar noted that ACDC had recommended that MIE Academic Council reconsider the external examiner nominations for the Professional Master of Education (Primary) and the Bachelor in Science (Early Childhood Education) programmes at the last meeting. Speaking to the nomination for the Early Childhood Education programme, the MIE Registrar confirmed that MIE Academic Council was happy to reconfirm the nomination. The Dean of Graduate Studies and the Head of School of Education

reiterated the concerns expressed at the last meeting, however acknowledged that other factors may need consideration, such as a shortage of candidates.

The Registrar recommended that discussions on External Examiner nominations take place between MIE and the relevant Academic Officers offline, and that the nominations are brought back to the next ACDC meeting for noting. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Head of School of Education and the MIE Registrar agreed that this would be more efficient and in line with current practice at the School level in Trinity.

#### **Action/Decision**

**21/22.017(i):** MIE to discuss external examiner nominations for the Professional Master of Education (Primary) and the Bachelor in Science (Early Childhood Education) with the relevant Academic Officer and bring nominations to the next ACDC on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for noting.

**21/22.017(ii):** Future external examiner nominations to be submitted by MIE to either the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies or the Dean of Graduate Studies for consideration and approval and then presented to ACDC for noting.

#### **MIE/ACDC/21-22/018 MIE Response to External Examiners' Reports**

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 19 January 2022, was circulated along with the MIE response to External Examiner Reports for 2020-21. The MIE Registrar spoke to the item, explaining that the programme boards had considered the recommendations put forward and would be implementing the recommendations. The Dean of Graduate Studies and the Head of School of Education congratulated MIE on the comprehensive response to the reports.

#### **MIE/ACDC/21-22/019 MIE Proposed New Courses 2022/23**

A memorandum from the MIE Registrar, dated 22 February 2022, was circulated and the MIE Registrar spoke to the item, explaining that MIE intends to bring two Professional Masters of Education courses to ACDC for approval next year, one in Primary Teaching and one in Post-Primary Teaching, both of which would be taught through the medium of Irish.

The Registrar noted that one of the strategic objectives of the Trinity Strategic Plan 2020-25 relates to deepening the relationship with MIE and following discussions with the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, proposed that a curricular sub-committee be established to consider future curricular developments. The proposed committee will involve MIE, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies and the School of Education. The Dean of Graduate Studies stated the committee will synergise and exploit the strengths of both institutions and enable further exploration of suitable curricular plans. The Quality Officer advised that an introduction of a level 10 programme would necessitate the implementation of the relevant QQI Quality Assurance Frameworks in advance of any proposed level 10 courses.

In response to a query on how the sub-committee would fit in with the overall governance structure, the Registrar stated that this committee would be semi-formal and enable collaboration on curricular development prior to proposals being submitted to ACDC for approval.

The Registrar proposed to draft Terms of Reference for a curriculum review committee in conjunction with the Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer and circulate to the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Head of School of Education, the MIE Registrar and the MIE President for their

consideration. He suggested the first meeting should take place within two weeks, to which members agreed.

The Head of School of Education queried if the PME through the medium of Irish (Post Primary) proposal raised by the MIE President relates to an initiative involving the School of Education, MIE and NUI Galway. If yes, she noted that a proposal to develop the course over the coming academic year may be premature due to the Department of Education and Skills only seeking expressions of interest from interested parties at this time. In response, the MIE President confirmed it was and stated that a decision had not been made as to whether a proposal for a PME through the medium of Irish (Post Primary) would be proposed as part of the aforementioned collaboration or independently by MIE. The Head of School of Education stated that in the instance of this proposal stemming from the collaboration with NUIG and the SOE, a course proposal would be premature as work is ongoing on that collaborative initiative and would be proposed to GSC and noted at ACDC by the School of Education as a partnership programme involving MIE and NUIG and led by Trinity. She stated that the area of Post Primary is of specific interest to the School of Education and asked that it be formally noted that any proposals in this area would be of serious concern to the School of Education due to significant overlap and duplication according to the agreement observed by both institutions.

#### **Action/Decision**

**21/22.019:** The Registrar to draft Terms of Reference for a curricular sub-committee to discuss curricular matters and circulate the TOR to ACDC for approval.

#### **MIE/ACDC/21-22/020 Standing update on International Foundation Programme by Recruitment Manager Global Relations & MIE IFP Manager**

The Registrar invited the Recruitment and Admissions Manager of the International Foundation Programme to provide an update. The Admissions and Recruitment Manager stated that ongoing COVID concerns are affecting recruitment of potential students from China and that requests for an online version of the programme have been received. However, the success of the programme is in large part due to the cultural immersion students benefit from by being located in Ireland. She reported that an MOU with Chin Wen High School in Taiwan is currently being established. Marketing activities in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine have been paused due to geopolitical reasons. She also informed members that students currently on the programme visited Trinity in December 2021 to record video testimonials for marketing purposes.

The Recruitment and Admissions Manager highlighted that Trinity Joint Honours have been approved at School level as a further destination option for IFP students, and the proposal will be submitted to USC for approval in March. A new E3 and IFP joint scholarship has been approved for the Engineering and Environmental Engineering programmes. The Registrar thanked the Recruitment and Admissions Manager for her update and she withdrew from the meeting.

#### **MIE/ACDC/21-22/021 Standing update on Quality Assurance of Linked Providers by Quality Officer**

The Registrar invited the Quality Officer to provide an update on the following items:

- i. Trinity's Institutional Quality Review  
The Quality Officer reported that this is to proceed the week of 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. A briefing session with the MIE President will be held later in the week to discuss the meeting of MIE with the Review Panel, which will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- ii. QQI Strategy 2022-2025

The Quality Officer advised that QQI released its statement of Strategy in December 2021, and this referred to plans to implement the International Education Mark in 2023. The Quality Officer advised that an institutional review of MIE will be initiated by Trinity, and she will discuss this with MIE after the Trinity Institutional Review is concluded.

iii. Procedure for Linked Provider Reviews

A draft procedure was circulated and the Quality Officer invited feedback on this, which she advised will be incorporated into the procedure before it is presented to the Quality Committee in April and submitted for approval to Council in May 2022.

The Quality Officer advised that there is a cost associated with External Reviews and efforts are underway to update costs from 2019 (last calculated) and that she will be in touch to discuss this matter.

The Quality Officer highlighted that a strategic dialogue meeting with MIE takes place annually and she will be in touch with the Registrar to set a date on this in the coming weeks.

### **MIE/ACDC/21-22/022 Standing update on Communication**

a) Inter-institutional collaboration including research – Head of School of Education

The Head of School of Education highlighted a number of upcoming events which the SOE and MIE are collaborating on, including:

- A symposium on the theme of a hundred years of Irish Education which is organised by the Cultures, Academic Values and Education Research (CAVE) Centre in the SOE and MIE, to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- The Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE) Spring Conference which is hosted by MIE on the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- The Educational Studies Association of Ireland (ESAI) annual conference, hosted by MIE which will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> April 2022, and the work of Dr Elizabeth Oldham will be honoured at this event.

The Head of School of Education informed members that a doctoral student is currently being recruited for the MIE led TOBAR project in September 2022.

b) Policies and procedures relevant to MIE – Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Graduate Studies

The Senior Lecturer reported that work is underway on the establishment of a working group on integrity in an academic context with a proposal going to Council on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 on this.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that Trinity's Postgraduate Renewal project has concluded the first consultation process, the outputs of which will be made available by the end of the academic year.

### **MIE/ACDC/21-22/023 Any Other Business**

- i. The MIE Registrar advised that a new elective module proposal for the B.Ed in Irish will be submitted to the next ACDC meeting in April.
- ii. In response to a query regarding the publication of the Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education, the MIE President stated that MIE are well placed to meet the

revised standards and will not be submitting any proposals for programme modifications. Some amendments were brought through last year in anticipation of Céim, and an extensive review of the relevant programmes, including a mapping exercise of the Céim standards on the B.Ed., B.Oid, and PME programmes was conducted. She highlighted that the external examiner for the B.Ed. programme commented that this programme is in a good position to meet the requirements. The MIE President stated that a Teaching Council review is scheduled for 2022/23.

- iii. Members agreed to hold the next ACDC meeting in person on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- iv. The Registrar thanked MIE colleagues for attending the Graduation ceremonies held for Trinity and MIE students who had deferred their commencements. The MIE President and the Registrar will discuss moving future ceremonies to a Saturday, as this suits members of the teaching profession.