TUS

Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest
Ollscoil Teicneolaiochta na Sionainne:
Lár Tire Iarthar Láir

www.tus.ie

Dámh na hInnealtóireachta agus na Timpeallachta Tógtha
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

Report of Peer Review Panel

Programmatic Review

of the

Department of the Built Environment

4.0 APPENDIX

I. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the External Panel visit to TUS for the Programmatic Review of the Department of the Built Environment, and the findings and conclusions of the External Panel. The Programmatic Review visit was undertaken in accordance with Section 3 of the LIT document 'Academic Council Regulations and Procedures for Taught Programmes (ACRP): Academic Year 2021/2022'. The ACRP is published on the TUS website. An external Panel makes an impartial judgement on the Critical Self Study and programme changes proposed within the Programmatic Review.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Higher Education Provider

Institute: TUS: Midlands Midwest
Faculty/School: Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment
Department: Built Environment
Date of Visit: 9th March 2022

2.2 Programmes Evaluated

Department of the Built Environment

2.3 External Programmatic Review Panel of Expert Assessors

Mr. Vincent McCarthy -Formerly LIT (Chairperson)
Mr. Kieran Clohessy - Director RogersonReddan QS
Mr. Ruairi Driscoll — IT Sligo
Ms. Laura McDonnell — IT Sligo
Mr. Colin McNamara — Modulacc (did not attend)
Mr. Des Walsh Head of Department, Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering MTU
Dr Ken Thomas -Head of School of Engineering WIT
Ms. Ciara Murray - Newmark Architects Dublin
Ms. Maga Bratusa — IT Sigo
Mr. Marinel Popa - Student Representative

2.4 Institute Staff

Prof. Vincent Cunnane, TUS President
Dr Terry Twomey, Vice President Academic Affairs & Registrar
Dr Maria Kyne, Dean of Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

Dr Pat Gill, Head of Department of the Built Environment

Department of the Built Environment — Lecturing Staff

2.5   Selected Stakeholders

2.5.1 Employers/Industry & Alumni Representatives

Mr. Darren Clancy - TLI

Mr. Clive Early - Ward & Burke

Mr. Paul Mitchell — Mitchell McDermott

Mr. David McCarthy — Lisney

Ms. Laura Wood Byrne — JB Barry

Mr. Patrick Sheehy — Turner Townsend

Mr. Michael Davis Carey Dev

Mr. Luke Kinsetla — Shareridge

Mr. Donal Molyneaux — Instalcom

Mr. Niall Fitzgerald -

Mr. Tommy Comerford — Mulcahy, McDonagh & Partners

Ms. Megan Staunton -

Mr. Will Heffernan - Savills

Mr. Ciaran Cadogan — Garland Consultancy

2.5.2 Current Students

Alexandra Von Metzradt (QS2)

Adam Kennedy (QS4)

Owen Bermingham M.Sc. in QS

Sai Priya Jaggumahanthi M.Sc, in QS

PJ Allen (CM4)

Harvey   Wiite   (CM3)

Shane Mc Leish (CM2)

Jake   Kinsella   (CEM4)

Jason Reidy (CEM4)

Eamon Ryan (PVM4)

Daniel Phelan (PVM4)
Lisa Meehan (ID)
Sean Hanley (CE 3)
Olumide Bello (CE2)

2.6   Documentation

2.6.1 Department of the Built Environment, Programmatic Review document

2.62 Critical Self-Study, Faculty of Engineering and Technology

26.3 Lifelong Learning Programme Documents

2.6.4 Programme Documents:

MSc in Quantity Surveying
Postgraduate Diploma in Quantity Surveying

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying
Bachelor of Science in Quantity Surveying
Higher Certificate in Quantity Surveying
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Property Valuation and Management
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Property Valuation and Management -Add On
Bachelor of Science in Property Valuation and Management
Higher Certificate in Science in Property Valuation and Management

Master of Science in Quantity Surveying (Apprenticeship)

Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Apprenticeship- Advanced Quantity Surveying

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management — One Year Add On
Bachelor of Science in Construction Management
Higher Certificate in Construction Management

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Civil Engineering Management
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Civil Engineering Management— One Year Add On
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering Management
Higher Certificate in Civil Engineering Management

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Built Environment (Undenominated)

Bachelor of Engineering Civil Engineering
Higher Certificate in Civil & Environmental Engineering

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Interior Design
Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design
Higher Certificate in Arts in Interior Design

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Architectural Technology
Bachelor of Science in Architectural Technology
Higher Certificate in Science in Architectural Technology

Flexible Learning Programmes:
Bachelor of Science in Construction with Health and Safety — Add On
Special Purpose Award BIM with ReVIT Architecture (Level 6)
Special Purpose Award — BIM with ReVIT MEP (Level 6)
Special Purpose Award Construction Project Management (Level 6)
Special Purpose Award Near Zero Energy Buildings Nzeb (Level 6)

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW PANEL

1.1   Main Findings

The Extemal Validation Panel of Assessors recommends reapproval of the following programmes and associated amendments in the Department of the Built Environment,

Breakout room 1:

MSc in Quantity Surveying
Postgraduate Diploma in Quantity Surveying

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying
Bachelor of Science in Quantity Surveying
Higher Certificate in Quantity Surveying

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Property Valuation and Management
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Property Valuation and Management -Add On
Bachelor of Science in Property Valuation and Management
Higher Certificate in Science in Property Valuation and Management

Master of Science in Quantity Surveying (Apprenticeship)

Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Apprenticeship- Advanced Quantity Surveying

Breakout room 2:

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Management - One Year Add On
Bachelor of Science in Construction Management
Higher Certificate in Construction Management

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Civil Engineering Management
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Civil Engineering Management— One Year Add On
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering Management
Higher Certificate in Civil Engineering Management

Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering
Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering — One Year Add On
Higher Certificate in Civil Engineering

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Built Environment (Stage 1 Only - Undenominated)

Breakout room 3:

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Interior Design
Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design
Higher Certificate in Arts in Interior Design

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Architectural Technology
Bachelor of Science in Architectural Technology
Higher Certificate in Science in Architectural Technology

Flexible Learning Programmes:
Bachelor of Science in Construction with Health and Safety - Add On
Special Purpose Award — BIM with ReVIT Architecture (Level 6)
Special Purpose Award — BIM with ReVIT MEP (Level 6)
Special Purpose Award — Construction Project Management
(Level 6) Special Purpose Award — Near Zero Energy Buildings
Nzeb (Level 6)

subject to the following conditions and recommendations.

2.0 CONDITIONS

1. Address capacity issues relating to staffing particularly for the BSc (Hons) Property Valuation and Management programme. The requirement for Chartered Surveyors for the programme is identified.
2. Address the resourcing of Dissertation across the programmes and provide appropriate staffing allocation to support their adequate supervision with assignment of supervisors in the Stage 3 Module Dissertation Development.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

General

1. Continue to invest in facilities to provide more specialised and purpose-built spaces. The panel noted the opportunities the Coonagh Campus will provide in this context.

2. Conduct a review of the digital skills and software applications that are relevant for industry across the programme suite. Ensure that all software is fully accessible and working from the beginning of the Academic Year in September.

3. Consider the learning benefits of recording computer-based labs and making these available as an additional learning resource,

4. Consider the student requirement for having appropriate access to required software outside of dedicated class time and how this can be facilitated.

5. Consider providing access to cloud-based solutions for software to allow students to remotely connect to TUS IT systems and access sofWare.

6. Include further formal learning content in Stage 1 of programmes to develop fundamental IT skills. Consider adding a related learning outcome to the Stage 1 Module Research & Technical Skills.

7. Integrate Safe Pass into the second-year of the programmes as it is a requirement for many employers.
8. Incorporate further interdisciplinary projects throughout programmes to build awareness of other disciplinary areas in the wider Built Environment and resource these appropriately.
9. Conduct a general review of reading lists in the Modules across the suite of programmes and recommend the most up to date references as appropriate.
10. Align the consistency of specification of independent learning hours (i.e. express as either weekly or per semester across all stages of the Programme Schedules).
11. Formalise an alternative Module/Plan for Work Placement if Students do not secure a placement.
12. Consider how gender balance can be further supported and developed in terms of recruitment of students across the programme suite.
13. Develop further mechanisms to support Students with Career Guidance across the programme suite particularly in Stage 4. Include this within the formal curriculum where appropriate.
14. Consider how [earnings and positive aspects of the experience from the Covid-19 period in teaching, learning and assessment can be mainstreamed in the post pandemic context.
15 Review the resources and time allocation for supervision of students on work placement (explore the options of asking past students with a minimum of three years experience to apply for work placement supervision roles)

Proaramme Suite: Breakout Room 1
1. Ensure the recruitment process for the resourcing of programmes with appropriately qualified staff ties in with the programme requirements.
2. Provide further guidance and direction on the route to Chartered status for Students in relevant programmes.
3. Develop further opportunities for practical experience in 'Specialist Valuation' in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Property Valuation & Management programme.
4. Review the 'Undenominated' Stage 1 to ensure that the students receive all the prerequisite learning required for progression to Stage 2 of their chosen programme on an equal basis with Stage 1 of other programmes,
5 Enhance the learning content on Measurement in the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Quantity Surveying.
6. Consider investing in 'Argus' software for the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Property Valuation & Management Programme and including associated learning in Stages 2 and 4 of the programme (in the modules Development Valuation Sectors and Investment Valuations).

Programme Suite: Breakout Room 2

1. Adjust the programme documentation to reflect the new title of Higher Certificate in Civil Engineering.
2. Include Programme Level documentation for a Level 7 Add-on Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering in the final suite of programmes.
3. Consider further opportunities for Students to share their Posters for the Stage 4 Dissertation modules with other students and staff for the programme suite.
4. Consider how learning on Sustainability can be incorporated throughout the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Civil Engineering Management programme and not just as an elective.
5. Review the total ECTS Credits assigned to Maths in the Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering programme and consider increasing the credited Maths learning (the panel considers 10 credits of Maths out of the 180 total to be too low).
6. Add explicit learning content for CAD for Stage 1 of the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Civil Engineering Management Programme. The panel strongly recommend developing a stand-alone module for this learning in Stage 1.
7. Consider the incorporation of bridging studies to ensure that those students transferring to Yr2 of the level 8 programme from the undenominated entry cohort are not disadvantaged
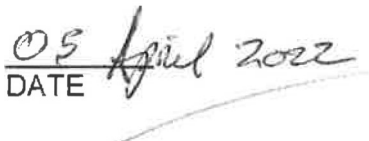
Programme Suite: Breakout Room 3

1. Provide a dedicated studio space and associated resources for the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Interior Design particularly as Students are now progressing to Stage 4 increasing further the demands on the existing shared spaces.
2. Incorporate the term Studio Design into the title of some modules in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Interior Design as this is core learning for this programme. This would also support the case for the additional required resources including the provision of adequate studio space.
3. Consider cross-faculty projects in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Interior Design utilising the expertise and resources of the School of Art and Design.
4. Inclusion of professionals from Interior Design field should be considered in HPAL role or Visiting Lecturer role to support the Interior Design programme in terms of staff resourcing, specific requirements and learning outcomes in the field of Interior Design. In addition to provision of general expertise in the ID, links to professional practice can be enhanced or established.
5. Encourage Students to invest in a good Graphics Card to aid them in their studies and this will also benefit them as graduates and in the workplace Investment in hardware and software for graphics is considerable but students should be given a recommended specification for adequate personal equipment.

6. Life Long Learning programme(s) to consider provision of a pathway into level 7 or level 8 qualifications via RPL and stronger links to industry requirements.

4.0 Commendations and Observations

1. The Panel commends the programme teams on the impressive programmes with excellent structure and progression. The panel commends the introduction of embedded awards across the portfolio of programmes.
2. The Panel commends the programme teams on the quality of the programme documentation which has been developed to a high standard.
3. The Panel notes and commends the degree of work conducted by the Department during the Programmatic Review and notes the extensive stakeholder consultation in particular.
4. The Panel commends the Stage long Work Placement which is beneficial to both Students and Employers.
5. The panel commends the extensive Industry engagement and contacts of the Faculty/Department and notes the collaboration with the Explore Engineering Group, Industry and Skills Fora.
6. The Panel commends the programme team for their enthusiastic and positive engagement during the course of the revalidation visit.
7. The Panel commended the use of the Undenominated entry route which provides students with time to select an appropriate progression pathway.
8. The Panel commended the pastoral care afforded to TUS Students and noted how valuable this was during Covid-19.

Signature of Chairperson

DATE 05 April 2022