



Summary report from meeting of COTEC (Virtual Meeting)

5th May 2020

Standing Items Reviewed:

Monitoring of the situation across key areas, including: Faculties, IED, CECD, Health & Safety, Buildings and Estates, ITD, Student Affairs, Research, Student Health Centre, HR, Residencies and UL Hospital. The meeting dealt with the following considerations:

- Considerations of Covid-19 Return to Research Laboratories Protocol, detailing procedures to enable a phased and gradually increased access by UL researchers to the University research laboratories and experimental facilities in line with governmental advice. The Protocol will be continuously reviewed for risk of unsafe practices and will be adapted to eliminate or mitigate such practices. Each division to produce a plan to detail how a phased return to research can operate.
- Consideration was given to ensure equal access to opportunities to return to research.
- Bernal return to work preparations and process to re-open research laboratories associated with SFI Research Centres were presented.
- Evidence-based approach to be adopted in plans for return to campus.
- Ongoing work by B&E on exploration of opportunities for teaching and lab spaces in the light of social distancing. Planned work on impact assessment of office occupancies.
- Explorations of available measures to monitor staff health, in order to keep campus safe. Stringent social distancing measures will need to be in place when campus reopens.
- Recognition of the need for significant shift in teaching practices to transition to online teaching, training for staff to transition pedagogy online.
- With a range of blended modes for different programs and modules and some fully online a nuanced approach to the induction will be needed.
- UL approach will be guided by assessment of health risk to our staff and students.
- An update to Erasmus/study abroad partners and agents regarding recent governmental announcements.
- Plans foresee shifting international mobility for spring.
- Considerations of induction arrangements for international students.
- High level indicative plans of next 3 year of IT Capital and Resource revised plans in the context of Covid-19.
- The University work on UL Arena Intermediate Care Facility to be completed on 6th May.
- Working to adapt TG-021 in Nexus for the purposes of research on COVID-19 samples.
- Exploring possibilities of acquisition of PPE.
- Considerations of viability of catering service if less people are present on campus.
- Considerations of various modes of operation regarding occupancy periods and cleaning regimes to ensure safety of residents.

- Considerations of financial viability and occupancy levels of residencies due to social distancing rules.
- Considerations of risks related to running residencies as long term facilities.
- An updated operational dashboard presented to COTEC.