



Summary report from meeting of COTEC

12th March 2020

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced a closure of all schools and higher education institutions as Ireland has entered into a new phase in dealing with the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic

University of Limerick campus will close from end of business on 12th March to all staff and students. In the first instance, the University will close until March 29.

A message has been issued to all staff and students to alert them to the campus closure and to reiterate HSE physical distancing advice.

Standing Items Reviewed:

HSE, HEA and DFA advice; Student Residences; UL Community Virus Status Check; International Students at UL and UL Students Abroad; Cooperative Education Students; Online Learning Provision.

The meeting dealt with the following considerations:

- Full list of communications to staff and student communities to keep them informed of all decisions and contingency plans
- Review of ITD Educational Technologists tutorials on online learning for course leaders – began in person will continue online
- Progress report on alternatives for closed book sit down assessments
- Contingencies for students with limited internet access and for disability students
- Clinical placements for medical, nursing and allied health students
- Online PhD submission and virtual Viva examinations
- Travel restrictions for international students in returning to their home countries
- Update on space allocation for self-isolation on UL campus accommodation
- Review of research activity in light of campus closure
- Crisis management chain of command in each faculty and division
- Review of student health services in light of campus closure
- Protocols developed for any UL community member who test positive for COVID 19 particular reference to on campus residents
- Estimates for financial costs of closure to be established.