



Summary report from meeting of COTEC (Virtual Meeting using Skype)

21st April 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:

- The probability of students not being able to live continuously on campus due to recurrence of COVID-19 and we need to prepare for that scenario.
- Conferring of GEMS graduates in absentia.
- Dates regarding new academic year and the implications - plan delivery of programmes against waves of restrictions at various levels.
- Postgraduate recruitment and admissions procedures have been reviewed to maximise intake and communicate the correct message - postgraduate research webinars have been very well attended by both national and international students.
- A process for academic visits to students on Cooperative Education is being designed - June '20 – Jan '21 cohort is likely to be severely impacted by the COVID-19 situation.
- ULF to develop fundraising strategy for hardship funds.
- Work underway to map out how to operate a phased return to research activity when possible:
 - Research office is mapping UL research applications to COVID-19 calls from national funders to inform areas of commonality and strength.
 - Further meetings and sub-grouping will take place to progress various inter-related strands of work.
- New national memberships:
 - Research Sub-Group of the Expert Advisory Group on Covid-19 advising the National Public Health Emergency Team.
 - HSE COVID19 Laboratory R&D Product Solutions Group
 - SFI group on Contact Tracing
- Mid May delivery date for Intermediate Care Facility at UL Sport Arena for HSE,
- Appropriate tools to run online events.
- Report on assessment activity indicates that extensive amount of activity is already happening online.
- Expectation is that as a result of COVID-19 international income and PCC income will reduce.
- A number of working groups have been set up to consider future planning.
- Possible conditions under which the University will have to operate to minimise the spread of the virus.

- All funds raised through this year's annual fund to students affected by COVID-19 via the Student Financial Aid Fund.