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Midlands Midwest**
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:
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**Dámh an hInnealtóireachta agus na Timpeallachta Tógtha
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment**

**Roinn na Timpeallachta Tógtha
Department of the Built Environment**

Report of Differential Validation Panel

Differential Validation Panel, 29th April 2024

for the

Master of Science in Quantity Surveying

& Embedded

Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Quantity Surveying

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report outlines, in summary form, the proceedings of the differential validation visit for the proposed Master of Science in Quantity Surveying and the findings and conclusions of the Panel held on 30th April 2024. The validation was undertaken in accordance with TUS Academic Regulations. A differential validation panel makes an independent impartial judgement on a programme proposal.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Higher Education Provider

Institute: Technological University of the Shannon
Faculty: Engineering and the Built Environment
Department: Built Environment
Date of Visit: 30th April 2024

2.2 Programmes Evaluated

Programme	Master of Science in Quantity Surveying
Award Title	Master of Science
NFQ Level	Level 9
ECTS Credits	90
Format	Masters Degree
Delivery Mode	Full-time/ACCS
Proposed Start Date	September 2024
Duration	1.0 Year

Programme	Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Quantity Surveying
Award Title	Postgraduate Diploma
NFQ Level	Level 9
ECTS Credits	60
Format	Postgraduate Diploma
Delivery Mode	Full-time/ACCS
Proposed Start Date	September 2024
Duration	1.0 Year

2.3 Differential Validation Panel of Expert Assessors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Prof. Marie Parker-Jenkins	University of Limerick.
Dr. Eoin Homan,	SETU (Carlow)
Mr. Michael Hogan	Manor Hill Properties
Mr. Joshua O Rahilly	Student Representative
Dr. Brendan Murphy	Secretary to Panel
Ms Claire Frawley	Quality Officer

2.4 Institute Staff

Dean of Faculty of Business and Humanities	Dr. Maria Kyne
Head of Department of Built Environment	Dr. Pat Gill
Programme Coordinator	Dr. Gus Aherne

Programme Team

Michael Mooring
Jonathan Blackmore
Alan Carr
Redmond Condon
Paul Greaney
NoraAine Ni Nuallain
Rita Scully
Luan Trinh
Paul Vesey
Aidan O' Connor

2.5 Documentation

1. Proposed Programme Document.
2. Summary of Rationale for the Proposal.
3. Summary of Comparative Programme Changes.
4. Report of Original Programme Validation Panel.
5. TUS Policy and Procedures for Differential Validation Policy of a Major Award.

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXTERNAL VALIDATION PANEL

3.1 Main Findings

The Panel of Assessors recommends approval of the proposed *Master of Science in Quantity Surveying* and embedded *Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Quantity Surveying*

3.2 Conditions

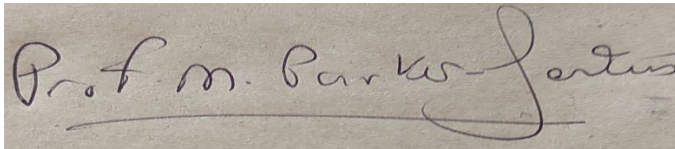
- 1) Review the Module Descriptors for each module and revise to fully reflect the changes to the directed/independent learning hours. Further,
 - (a) there is a particular requirement to revise the Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies to enable delivery of the learning outcomes within the revised hours, and
 - (b) consider where additional asynchronous resources/online learning opportunities could be created to support the particular profile of students including, non-cognate entry and international student backgrounds.
- 2) Ensure adequate and functional class space to facilitate independent learning and that this is provided and resourced appropriately. This is required in line with the renewed emphasis on independent learning in the revised programme.

3.3 Recommendations

- 1) Conduct a review of the impact of the programme changes on student engagement and progression rates, as part of ongoing monitoring.
- 2) Consider how further academic supports can be put in place for the students undertaking dissertation work during the summer period.
- 3) Consider how the communication of the supports available for students, throughout the academic year, can be further enhanced, including academic writing skills and English language supports.

3.4 Commendations and Observations

- 1) The panel thank the programme team for the documentation including the rationale for the programme changes.
- 2) The panel notes the success of the programme, and commend its work-based relevance, links to professional bodies and the professional accreditation opportunities afforded to graduates of the programme.
- 3) The panel appreciated the discussions and clarifications provided by Management and the Programme Team.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored, textured paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Prof. M. Parker-Jentus".

Signature of Chairperson

Date: 20/08/2024