Institute of Technology Sligo
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA SLIGEACH

PROGRAMME VALIDATION REPORT

DATE OF EVALUATION   25th May 2016

PROGRAMME EVALUATED   PG Diploma/MA in Social Care and Social Justice L9

Unique Programme reference Number PRN: SG_WSOCI_O09

Panel of Assessors

Chair: Dr Marian O'Sullivan, *Director General, Institute of Public Administration*

Panel members: Gerry Hone, *Office of the Area Manager, Child and Family Agency, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan*

Mary Kelly, *Programme Director, Primary Education, Hibernia College*

Dr Fiona Dukelow, *School of Applied Social Studies, UCC*

Dr Dan Rogers, *The Innovation Academy, Trinity College Dublin*

Declaration regarding any conflicts of interest:

The members of the Panel signed a form confirming that they did not have any conflict of interest.

Meeting with School Management and the Programme Development Team

Attendees:

Dr Breda McTaggart   Kate Brown
Mary Clarke   Jessica Mannion
Susan O'Donnell   Majella Mulkeen
Dr Karin White

Programme design, modifications and title and rationale
Panel: Clarification on the rationale for the Programme was sought.
Staff: The programme is developed for there to be opportunities for students to progress this level in the CUA (Connaught Ulster Alliance) area and for Social Care graduates employed in the region. There is a current cohort of students to bring to the L9.

Panel: What is demand for the programme in the sector?
Staff: Stakeholders were surveyed, of 100 surveyed, 75 replied. Some have completed Post Graduate courses. Feedback from employers and academics outside the Institute was sought.

Panel: Social Justice is important and there is emphasis on community development, social policy and governance, is this apparent in the modules?
Staff: The panel was informed that the Head of School has reviewed it and it was believed that there was sufficient content on Policy. Throughout the syllabi, Policy is covered in the modules.
Panel: In the programme description, it would need to be clear which 60 credits are included in the first year.

The Panel recommended a scoring matrix for the admissions interview. The panel stated that Minor awards will not be included in this validation process. The Institute will need to organise a separate validation panel. Therefore these awards should be removed from the documentation presented

Panel: Was there a debate to have Social Justice in the title of the programme?
Staff: We are trying to be more broad-based.

Panel: What will a graduate be able to do after this programme, is the focus of the programme theoretical?
Staff: It is important to have the theoretical level. It will ensure that people are included and to take it to higher policy levels.
Panel commented that as an employer, Progressive Social change or Advocacy would be attractive modules.

Delivery Methodologies and Assessment Strategies
Panel: On Moodle - Discuss student reading material and who is going to assign marks.
Staff: Lecturers will available for online interaction with students. Instructional Design and Voice Training is given to staff and it is very beneficial. Best teaching advice is from peers - 2 lecturers started teaching on line and are now involved in train the trainers programme.

Discussion on the modules
Introduction to Social Justice and Theory - There were no queries.

Social Transformation –this is an introduction to social movement and then leads students to the practice on the ground, and promoting social justice. The panel felt perhaps there should be more of an Irish focus. The Institute can draw on local campaigns and transformations.

Research Project and Design Module – Students will reflect on their own experience. The panel commented that the title could be called a Portfolio of work.

Critical Theory and Practice based. The panel asked was as much detail needed in the specialised options, it is likely people will do field work anyway. Why not have 25,000 words for all. It would be beneficial if all students write a paper, present at a conference or perhaps a community engagement. The panel asked if the production of a paper by students could be mandatory. The panel recommended that it could be called a Conference paper. There is a great opportunity on this course to gain learning in presenting at a conference, for example they could present to a CRiSP seminar. Staff explained that the student gets one hour supervision, a teaching team supervise students.

Social inclusion and Adversity – There were no queries.

Summary of Findings
The Panel recommend the programme for approval to the Academic Council.

Panel Conditions

1. None

Panel Recommendations

1. The Panel recommends a scoring matrix for the admissions interview.
2. Minor awards will not be included in this validation process. Therefore these awards should be removed from the documentation.
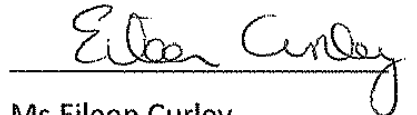

Signed on behalf of programme validation Panel

Marian O'Sullivan

Chairperson

Date: 25th May 2016

Ms Eileen Curley

Recording Secretary

Date: 25th May 2016