Response to Report of Validation Panel
for a Special Purpose, Minor or Supplemental Award

Date of Meeting: 22nd June 2017

Named Award:	Certificate
Programme Title:	**Certificate in Biopharmaceutical Supply Chain Management**
Award Type:	Special Purpose Award
NFQ Level:	8
Intakes Commencing:	1st September 2017
ECTS/ACCS Credits:	20 credits

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Declan Allen, Assistant Head of School, School of Management, DIT
Ian O' Reilly,   Biomarin
Brian McGrath, Head of School, School of of Business
Dr Stephen Cassidy, Dean of Academic Quality Enhancement & Acting Dean of Graduate Studies

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Dr. Michael J. O'Mahony, Head of Department of Process Energy & Transport Engineering
Jane O'Keeffe, Lecturer, National Maritime College of Ireland

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

On consideration of the documentation provided and discussion of the programme with the proposers, the Panel has arrived at the following Findings, Requirements and Recommendations:

1.   Validation Criteria

1.1   Is there a convincing need for the programme with a viable level of applications?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s):   The Department has a cohort of graduates from the level 7 Bachelor of Business in Supply Chain Management which has run for 10 years. From its annual surveys of graduates, the Department expects, in the region of, 100 of these graduates to be interested in taking this programme. It had clear indications of demand from the Faculty's interactions with industry stakeholders.

Recommendation(s): The Department should market this programme to a number of industrial sectors given the generic nature of the modules.

Response: 25 students have been selected for the Semester 1 2017/2018 delivery under springboard funding.

1.2   Are the level and type of the proposed award appropriate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s):   As this programme is primarily a progression route for graduates of a level 7 degree it is appropriate that it is a level 8 programme. The level 8 generic modules in this programme should be of benefit to graduates who do not wish to engage in a full degree but who wish to deepen their knowledge of this area. The Panel was happy in general with the modules included in the programme but has made some recommendations which are referred to later in this report.

Response: Welcomed by proposers.

1.3   Is the learning experience of an appropriate level, standard and quality?

Overall Finding: Yes, subject to certain Requirements and/or Recommendations.

Finding(s):   The Panel commends the blended learning approach being adopted and considers the modules to be at an appropriate level.

Requirement(s):   The modules in this Programme need to be reviewed and approved by the Module Moderator and comply with the Institute Quality Assurance requirements. Careful attention is required for the coding of the modules, given their generic management nature.

Recommendation(s):

- Learning Outcomes: Learning outcomes should be edited and expressed within four to five Learning outcomes.

Response: Implemented in all modules

- Assessment Methods; The description of assessments should, where appropriate, indicate that assessments draw upon the students work experience. In the case of the module International Supply Chain in the Customs Environment, the open-book examination should be replaced by an applied assignment.

Response: in the case of the module International Supply Chain in the Customs Environment, a Written Report has replaced the open-book examination where students are encouraged to draw from their own experience and apply new learning and International policy developments. In Strategic Procurement Management the student must submit student essay to demonstrate understanding of strategic frameworks, the theory of procurement management and to draw from own work experience.

- Prior Knowledge: It is acknowledged that there are limitations to the matters that can be addressed in a 20 ECTS credit SPA. An example of this would be Service Level Agreements which would have been covered on a cognate level 7 programme. Where critical prior knowledge is required or assumed by any particular module, this fact should be stated under the relevant Module Recommendations.

Response: Appropriate Module Recommendations have been added to the three new modules; viz. Strategic Procurement Managmt., Int'l SC in the Customs Envir, Global Supply Chain Management.

The following Module Requirement has been inserted in the case of Strategic Procurement Management.

Students may either have completed CIT modules (MGMT7055 Procurement in Supply Networks,

MGMT7057 Business and Supply Chain Strategy and MGMT7051 Management Accounting and

Managerial Finance) or an equivalent certification, or have recognised prior learning (RPL) or work
based learning (WBL) in the area of supply management.

The following Module Requirement has been inserted in the case of Int'l SC in the Customs Envir.

Students may either have completed CIT modules (MGMT7050 Global Trade and Customs Law,
MGMT7054 Transport and the Supply Chain) or an equivalent certification, or have recognised
prior learning (RPL) or work based learning (WBL) in the area of supply management.

The following Module Requirement has been inserted in the case of Global Supply Chain
Management

It is desirable to have studied the content or achieved prior experiential learning in the work place
in relation to these modules.

- Teaching Methods: Where specific teaching strategies, such as industry specific case studies or guest lecturers, are employed they should be referred to in the module descriptor.

Response

Global Supply Chain Management refers to the following Workload item:
    Class Lectures and guest lecturer presentations on biopharmaceutical or other industry
    sector global supply chains.

Int'l SC in the Customs Envir and Strategic Procurement Managmt refers to the following
Workload item:
    On-line lectures and discussions on industry case studies

Module Content: Critical standards, such as those of the FDA and the NHRA, should be referenced in the
content of the Module Global Supply Chain Management.

Response

    The following "Indicative content" has been added to the Global Supply Chain
Management Module

Customer Service and Order Fulfillment
Market-driven supply chains; customer and supplier relationship management (downstream and
upstream). How effective supply chain or supply network management can deliver competitive
advantage.
The role of critical standards such as FDA and NHRA in the biopharmaceutical sector or equivalent
standards in other industries. Supply chain optimisation. The role of performance measurement

- In the module International Supply Chain in the Customs Environment the content should include, Duties and Taxes, Classification of Products, License requirements, documentation required by different countries, Tariff Codes, Import Permits and Incoterms.

Response

The following "Indicative content" has been added to the International Supply Chain in the Customs Environment Module

Customs Management and Risk Management

The Modern standards of customs management and risk management. The importance of Duties and Taxes, Classification of Products, License requirements, documentation required by different countries, Tariff Codes, Import Permits and Incoterms.

- Guidance to students; A Course Handbook should be prepared providing the necessary guidance to those undertaking this programme including both course delivery schedules and assessment timings.

Response: In Preparation.

1.4 Is the programme structure logical and well designed (including procedures for access, transfer and progression)?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The SPA consists of generic modules which are considered appropriate. The programme provides a progression route from a level 7 degree in this field and may in time contribute to the preparation of students who wish to undertake a level 8 degree in this area. We cannot be more specific on this matter as the degree in question is being developed at the moment.

Response: Welcomed by proposers.

1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): The programme will be overseen by the Head of Department and a Course Coordinator will be allocated.

Response: Welcomed by proposers.

1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Funding has been approved under Springboard. Subsequent running of the programme will require the application of a commercial fee.

Response: Welcomed by proposers. 25 successful Springboard applicants for semester 1 2017/2018.

1.7   Will the impact of the programme on the Institute be positive?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): This SPA will be a valuable addition to the Institute's portfolio of programmes.

Response: Welcomed by proposers

2.   Other Findings

Three of the modules are new and must be processed in the normal manner through the QA process.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above findings, the Panel recommends to Academic Council:

That the Programme be validated for five academic years, or until the next programmatic review, whichever is soonest, subject to implementation of the Requirements above, and with due regard to the Recommendations made.

Response: Welcomed by proposers. All of the recommended module changes have been implemented by the proposers.