CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA CHORCAÍ

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

Date of Meeting: 21/5/'18

2018

Named Award: Certificate

Programme Title: **Lean Sigma Master Black Belt**

Award Type: Special Purpose Award

NFQ Level: 9

Intakes Commencing: September 2018

ECTS/ACCS Credits: 30

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Chair: Dr Joe Harrington, Head f School of Building and Civil Engineering, CIT
Grace Reidy, Senior Process Improvement Advisor, RCSI Quality & Process Improvement Centre
Carol-Anne Sheehy, GSK Production System Site Lead, LeanSigma Master Blackbelt
Kieran Ruane, Lecturer Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, CIT

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Mark Stockil, CAMMS
Daithi Fallon, CAMMS and Extended Campus
Mike McGrath, CAMMS
Michael P. O' Mahony, CAMMS

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The CAMMS Centre has a long and successful history of delivering Lean/Six Sigma Programmes.

This programme proposal is to deliver a 30 credit Master Black Belt (Level 9) for 'go to' personnel in organisations responsible for deployment of Lean Sigma systems. The aim of this Lean Sigma Master Black Belt is to produce change leaders capable of leading the lean transformation of organisations.

The programme enables learners to critically analyse and measure the performance of the organisation, to support its lean transformation and to carry out work-based learning project work to verify the effectiveness of this organisational change. The learner will be able to support the organisation in the development of a Lean Sigma environment. A Master Black Belt will learn to adapt and modify approaches to difficult areas of deployment and solve technically challenging problems within the workplace.

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

*NOTE: In this report, the term "**Requirement**" is used to indicate an action or amendment which in the view of the Panel **must** be undertaken prior to validation and commencement of the Programme. The term "**Recommendation**" indicates an item which the Course Board (or other relevant Institute unit) should implement at the earliest stage possible, and appropriate implementation of which should be the subject of ongoing monitoring.*

1. Validation Criteria

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

Overall Finding: Yes
Finding(s): Yes there is a clearly identified need for the programme with a viable level of applications. The programme is likely to run on an annual basis.

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

Overall Finding: Yes
Finding(s): The panel find that the level and type of the programme is appropriate to the intended target student cohort and to the graduate skills being developed.

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

Overall Finding: Yes
Finding(s): The panel find that the programme and the individual modules are at the appropriate level, standard and quality

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

Overall Finding: Yes
Finding(s): The panel is satisfied that the structure of the programme is logical, well designed and is targeted to meet the needs of learners.

1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes
Finding(s): The programme will operate and will be managed by the CAMMS Centre within the School of Mechanical, Process and Electrical Engineering. CAMMS has long standing and significant experience of successfully delivering such programmes.

1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes
Finding(s): The resource requirements are currently in place; no additional resources are required.

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

Overall Finding: Yes

2. Other Findings

The Panel welcomes this proposal which is timely and relevant. It will add significantly to the suite of Lean Six Sigma Programme offered by CAMMS and also provides a valuable Level 9 programme for local and regional industry. It will be particularly valuable to the cohort of learners who take the programme; these will be individuals at a high level within their organisations with an ability to think critically and work independently.

The Panel discussed the programme and the constituent modules in detail with the programme proposers. The Panel made a series of suggestions to the programme proposers related to the programme and its description and the some of the individual modules. The Panel is satisfied that these suggestions have now been integrated into the Programme Descriptor and the relevant individual programme modules.

This 30-credit programme consists of four individual modules – two 10 credit and two 5 credit modules. These modules were not approved prior to the validation panel review. Each module was reviewed in detail and the Panel are satisfied that each module is appropriate for the proposed programme.

The modules are as follows:

Lean Sigma Environment (10 Credits, Expert Level)

MBB Research Project (5 Credits, Expert Level)

Lean Sigma Analytics Mgt. (5 Credits, Expert Level)

MBB Deployment Project (10 Credits, Expert Level)

The Panel is satisfied with the content and the quality of each of the four modules. Furthermore the Panel is satisfied that there is strong justification for the delivery of 10 credit modules within this programme and indeed that such 10 credit modules are a necessary and key feature of the proposed programme. The Panel **recommends** that all four modules, as listed above, are approved as part of this overall programme validation process.

The Panel also **recommends** that the Programme Team review the current programme after its first delivery and particularly in the context of ensuring that the MBB Deployment Project module credit weighting is appropriate and representative of the learner effort involved in the module.

CONCLUSION

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

That the four individual modules (as listed above) be approved and that the programme be validated for five academic years, or until the next programmatic review, whichever is sooner and subject to the recommendation made.