**Film and Screen Media**

**Minutes of Staff Meeting held on Thursday, 18th February 2016**

**Windle Auditorium, UCC**

2.00pm

**Attendees:** Professor Laura Rascaroli (LR); Dr Gwenda Young (GY); Mr Dan O’ Connell (DOC); Dr Armida de la Garza (AdlG) – up to Item 6; Dr Abigail Keating (AK)

Deborah Fitzgibbon(DF) **Minutes**

**FSM (Film and Screen Media)**

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| **1. CHAIR’S BUSINESS (LR)**  **Community Engagement Document:**  She reminded/prompted staff to send in any relevant details they might have for its compilation.  **Music module (MU6037) in second year FSM:**  This has been submitted for approval, as an option for 2016-2017. It will take place in semester 1 with a credit weighting of 5.  **CAO:**  LR distributed a printout of CAO statistics to each of those present. The overall application numbers were noted as being slightly lower than last year. However, the first preference level has remained stet and is approx. 2.7 to 1. These numbers indicate the recruitment numbers remain strong and the BA continues to be an oversubscribed programme.  **Health and Safety Report:**  The report for FSM was included this year in the School submission. This will not be the case going forward. A H&S officer for the Discipline will need to be appointed and a separate report submitted each year.  **Extern Examiner for FSM:**  Dr Mark Betz has been in touch regarding his summer visit. DF to send the exam papers for his consideration and update staff on the details of script submission and deadlines. FSM staff/examiners will meet for an internal board on morning of 24th May. (The Schull Film Festival will take place the following weekend). The internal exam board meeting with Mark will take place on 1st of June – a catered lunch at 1pm with the meeting from 2pm. DF will let staff know about dates for submitting essays; marks etc., to the office. LR has followed up with Mr Barry Reilly (BR) regarding the best way to file and retain work online and to make this accessible to the Extern Examiner. She will advise on any updates on this.  **2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, 21st January 2016.**  GY said that the new lecturer position for FSM, mentioned at the last FSM meeting, will be advertised by end of the week via the usual channels and networks. Shortlisting in April.  **Schull Film Festival 2016**  Dr Barry Monahan (on sabbatical leave for this semester) had sent a message that Carmel Winters has indicated that she would like to present the showcase in Schull, depending on her engagements. She will confirm as soon as possible. Showcase will take place on Saturday 28th in Schull.  Re Schull Film Festival: 14 students have indicated their interest to attend the **Schull Film Festival**. GY and DOC will try to ascertain the exact numbers for accommodation. The bus was expensive last year and hardly availed of, so it’s unlikely we will be hiring one this year given current budget constraints. DOC mentioned that Bus Eireann is running buses as well anyway.  **Windle refurbishment and FSM move:**  No news or updates yet to report. LR/GY to update as information becomes available from College Manager  **Gerry’s event:** "The Film Artist in Residence: A Creative Collaboration"  An evening with the UCC/Arts Council Film Artist in Residence, Gerard Stembridge will be held on Tuesday 1 March at 18.15pm, Windle, introduced by the Head of College. Gerry will be presenting excerpts from a screenplay that he has written during his residency here, and also talking about the Film Artist in Residence scheme. | **Action**  **DF** |
| **3. UPDATES FROM COORDINATORS**  **Year One [AK/GY]:**  AK and GY had a meeting with the student group on 28th January. Students were very positive and happy with the access to the labs. A few students wondered whether Berlin could be one of the year abroad destinations. There were only a small few items and they have been relayed to staff concerned. A further meeting will take place at the end of semester  **Year Two [GY/LR]:**  GY met the group with LR on 4th February. The stress the students felt in the first semester has eased and the atmosphere was better.  The feedback was mainly positive and all individual feedback has been conveyed to staff concerned. A further meeting will take place at the end of semester  GY noted that a new module, MU6037, will now be made available for second years. This is most welcome as one option module, available from Chinese Studies, is not running in 2016-7.  **Year Abroad [ AdlG]:**  Four students have confirmed they wish to spend a year abroad: two for Shanghai (Vancouver film school), one for Strasbourg and one for Leeds. AdlG explained that FSM has no partner agreement with Shanghai but UCC does; Shanghai does not currently have students to send to UCC so no reciprocity would be involved this time. Instruction there is in English by Canadian teachers and the focus is on practice. Future incoming students would need an IELTS certificate. AdlG to check that the programme there matches our BA’s blending of theory and practice, and update staff and students accordingly.  **Year Three [LR]:**  LR had a very positive meeting with the representatives with excellent feedback for staff concerned. The issue of the final year showcase was discussed. FSM to be represented on the steering committee and consult with students re dates,, ideas, themes budget, structure; website profiles, media profile etc. Three students and two staff will form the committee; DOC and AK volunteered. The committee will explore whether the event could be held at once at UCC (screening of student films) and in town by hiring a venue at which to show a selection or a trailer, and hold a small reception if possible.  LR reported that some students were experiencing some anxiety about life after graduation from the programme. She suggested organising one or two session talks in areas such as: setting up a production company; financing; management etc. GY and DOC mentioned inviting someone from the Film Board, or James Mullighan of the Cork Film Festival, Rossa Mullin, perhaps Gerry Stembridge himself.  Four of the eighteen students have indicated to DOC that they will be pursuing the MA in the subject. | AK/GY  GY and DOC  AdlG  DOC and AK  Staff |
| **4. RESEARCH SEMINARS [ AdlG]**  AdlG advised that the seminars have been going well. The next one takes place on 29th February – Chris Berry. There will be a Japanese speaker on 14th March next. The venue was discussed briefly and AdlG indicated that the CACSSS might be available. |  |
| **5. MASTERCLASSES [AK]**  AK indicated that as First Year Head she would like to organise a masterclass, possibly in April. A short discussion then followed on possible speakers, including filmmaker Brendan Canty and journalist/filmmaker Tara Flynn. AK mentioned again that she would like to have female speakers in the mix as well for their value as role models to female students. GY asked AK to outline the budget and also note that scheduling it in April may, perhaps, result in relatively small numbers. | AK |
| **6. TEACHING AND LEARNING [LR]**  LR said that she has advised students that all programme information and forms are on the student area of the FSM website. She asked those present to remind their students of that. | Staff FSM |
| **7. INDUSTRY LINKS [GY]**  GY told the group that there were no real updates to report. Talks are ongoing with Mr James Mullighan regarding placements for the MA cohort.  (AdlG departs at this point in the meeting for another commitment).  Developing links with the Schull Film Festival is also in progress. The Festival organisers are interested and enthusiastic to maintain and strengthen associations with FSM, UCC. One of the areas mentioned is to develop student connection with the festival’s guests every year.  There is no update on the Apple initiative, pending decision on the new space and facilities for a lab.  **8. MA:**  LR informed the group that the major changes to the new MA programme for FSM have now been approved. The online portal for applications. PAC, is now open. To promote this new MA, which blends creative practice and theory, a number of promotional activities are required to appeal to students from both UCC and further afield. A discussion then followed on possible avenues for promotion:   * Information session for students of FSM to take place in April * Information sessions for students via SLLC (March) * Information sessions at CIT and WIT. * FSM Open evening on UCC campus.   DOC spoke about the practical assessment element for the MA/PhD: the new MA programme offers a strand that students can opt to take, in the equipment implications. CACSSS has advised raising the fees but FSM is concerned about that impact on recruitment. |  |
| **8. AOB and DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**  CACSSS has set up a committee to review FSM. It was decided at the outset, 3 years ago, to run 1 cycle and then to examine structures. Professors John McCarthy (Chair); William O’Brien, and Dr Maire Leane to consult with all relevant parties and report to College by June.  LR then reported on *U-versity* – a whole-Ireland MA structure who have expressed interest in having FSM on board. It would involve opening some MA modules to their international students. It would generate some income but also some work and supervision. There will be more talks with them.  AK mentioned then that she has been invited to a video essay workshop. GY asked if it could be put on the website.  The meeting came to a close here. The **next meeting** will be held on **Thursday, 14th April, 2pm in the Windle Auditorium.** | AK |