

## PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO CEAD PEER REVIEW

The Centre for Continuing Education (Faculty of Education), would like to acknowledge the contribution of the peer review panel to the strategic quality review, which was chaired by Professor Tom Collins (NUI Maynooth) in November 2009.

The panel acted with integrity and pursued its goals with an independent and rigorous approach to the task. CEAD houses an extensive programme of accredited and non-accredited art and design courses (1,000 students annually) While the panel commended the quality and growth of CEAD in recent years, it also recognised significant challenges facing the Centre as a result of: the McCarthy Report, the strategic review of higher education, as well as internal curriculum changes in response to Bologna and the on-going funding difficulties for part-time education nationally. The panel identified parity and integration as the significant themes for CEAD going forward.

The structural difficulties that are a hallmark of the existence and growth of CEAD, resulting in the isolation of the Centre within college, is an important strategic development issue for NCAD going forward. Planning the integration of part-time adult and continuing education within college systems and structures in the coming months can be undertaken with the support of management and agreement of an Bord.

The SAR report provided an outline of many of the activities of CEAD however details in some areas were not included such as: elearning initiatives, staff development workshops (for full-time, part-time) and additional documentation on assessment procedures. While there is room to enhance areas of work, it would be inaccurate to conclude that CEAD has been inactive in these areas in the past.

The panel acknowledged the scale of activities within CEAD and recognised the implications of administrative, management and academic responsibilities resting on a two person full-time team within the Centre.

The panel were impressed by the overwhelming positive feedback from students taking CEAD courses and the dedicated input of teaching staff to the programme.

NCAD has had a long, vibrant tradition of adult education and provides the most extensive suite of part-time accredited courses nationally. The continued development of a part-time route to degree is acknowledged here and will hopefully take shape in the near future and become part of the ongoing restructuring of a flexible undergraduate curriculum.

Nuala Hunt, Head of CEAD  
25<sup>th</sup> January 2010