DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Recommendation (or group of recommendations) in Peer Review Group Report	Department Response/Action to recommendation	Faculty Response/Action to recommendation	Responsibility	Timeframe/ Status (from – to)	Issues for Decision by An Bord (if applicable)
1. a. Review Title of Course. *The PRG raises the question as to whether "Industrial Design" is in fact the best title for this field of endeavour: does the term "industrial" limit its horizons too much? The PRG does not recommend a name change but rather suggests that this be kept under review by the Faculty and Department in the light of international professional practice.*	a. The Department will be reviewing the title on an ongoing basis. Student and graduate opinion will be actively sought, however, at present the Department and Faculty do not see the need for a change of name.	Review in 2007.	Head of Faculty of Design	2007	None at present.
b. Monitor Revised ID Course. *The PRG found the long-term curricular strategy for the restructured undergraduate course questionable and recommends a thorough, careful and constant monitoring and evaluation of the course both internally and externally.*	b. The Department will develop criteria for evaluation of the course which will be monitored through regular meetings, discussion with industry contacts, external examiners and research into other similar courses in Europe and Ireland	Findings of the first review to be reported to Faculty Board by March 2007.	I.D. Q.I. Group.	October 2006 – March 2007	None at present.
c. Technical skills. *The PRG recommends that the positive experiences from Limerick should not be lost but rather built into the course. In particular the PRG is not convinced that sufficient provision has been made for the necessary technical skills that the course demands.*	c. As in a. and b. there is a continuous review of the technology content by the ID QI Group being undertaken. At this time it is apparent that technology is under-resourced.	I.D. Q.I. Group to report to Faculty.	I.D. Q.I. Group.	October 2005 - ongoing	None at present. There may be a need for future accommodation and resources based on findings of the evaluations and subsequent reports.
2. Post Graduate Course Development. *The PRG is worried by the almost complete identification of the Department with its undergraduate course. While the undergraduate course is central to the work of the Department, it is not sufficient for a Department to be defined by a course. Instead, the PRG would like to see the Department take on a more proactive advocacy of Industrial Design across the Design Faculty, across College, at postgraduate level and among the wider public. Elements of what is essential to ID should also be available to students on other NCAD courses - for example, a module in ergonomics should have a wide appeal and application among students.*	ID and the Faculty of Design are engaged with the Design Faculty Post Graduate Development Committee. An intra-faculty post graduate taught course is being discussed. A wide range of seminars/workshops has been introduced for Academic Year 2005-06 and will be enhanced for Academic Year 2006-07 to include Ergonomics and Design For All, etc. An action plan for PG courses in design will be discussed with the Head of Research and Postgraduate Development.	Design Faculty Post Graduate Committee to oversee strategy and development. A working group will be established to forward this proposal and a draft document will be presented to Faculty Board by June 2006	Heads of Department/ Faculty Head of Department in consultation with Head of Research & Postgraduate Development	In progress – for report by June 2006. June 2006	A sum of €40,000 will be required to engage staff to co-ordinate a post graduate course document.

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3. Review visible structures for debate. *The PRG noted the need to incorporate visible structures for debate – this includes assignments and arrangements with a clear responsibility and timing. Targets can and should be discussed, allocated and reviewed. The PRG recommends distributing teaching and research - core competences and specialization – carefully and consciously to the undergraduate and graduate programmes. It is evident that several members of the staff have specialist topics that can become attractive in the long-term development.*	Roles and responsibilities of the staff in ID will be reviewed and agreed by the Head of Department. Every staff member involved will produce a plan related to their specific responsibility in terms of their core competences and specialisations for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and Research Developments.	The Head of Faculty will review the plans with the Head of Department	Head of Department & Head of Faculty.	May 2006	None at present.
4. Modularisation and Bologna Process. *The PRG recommends that the implications of The Bologna Declaration need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Topics such as modularisation, credit transfer, equivalencies need to be addressed. Is the Department ready if these issues were to be implemented in September 2005?*	The Department is interested in considering the 5 year Bologna track and the route of entry to Year 2 of its undergraduate course.	This is a College-wide issue and there must be equivalency across all faculties. There is an urgent need for the College to address the development of a modular and GPA system that takes account of ECTS, the Bologna Process and NUI grade descriptors.	Head of Faculty.	June 2006	Policy decisions will be forwarded to An Bord for approval, through Academic Council.
5. Improve inter-departmental communications. *Possible solutions and modifications should not only be discussed but also recorded and should be the basis for further development. Correspondence with the external examiner and with partner institutions across Europe could be very useful here.*	Regular time-tabled Staff and Staff/Student (Departmental) meetings are scheduled throughout the year. The structured use of email will also keep ID staff informed. There is regular contact with colleges abroad through the Erasmus and CUMULUS structures. A new External Examiner has been appointed.	Review and develop through Faculty Forum.	Head of Faculty.	In progress and on an ongoing basis – for completion by June 2006.	None at present.

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6. Improve course information. *50% dissatisfaction of students to the clarity of information relating to the course that is admitted in report is considered alarming by the PRG.*	A course handbook will be devised to include all pertinent information regarding key dates, department meetings, course aims and objectives, student responsibilities, student support services, staff information and assessment system/explanation. The handbook will be updated each year and given to all students at the beginning of each academic year. Student's email and notice boards will be used more and urgent information circulated by email and noticeboard.	A standard format for Design handbooks will be provided by the Head of Faculty.	Format – Head of Faculty. Implementation – Head of Department.	September 2006	None at present.
7. Review Mission Statement, visibility and understanding. *The PRG recommends that the Mission statement of the Department and the aims of the course need to be clearly understood and visible in the long and short-term. These should be publicised to the whole Department. They should also be visible in the student work areas.*	The Mission Statement and Aims and Objectives of the Department will be revisited in light of the many changes occurring and taking the postgraduate element into account. A half-day focus session will take place to agree the above. The revised versions will be displayed prominently on notice boards, course documents and website, etc.	The Mission Statement & Aims and Objectives should also take the Design Faculty aims and objectives into account.	All I.D. Staff, Head of Department and Head of Design Faculty.	Dates allocated to this task are 13 – 16 March 2006.	None at present.
8. Schedule more strategic meetings. *The PRG noted that there are too few meetings, albeit well scheduled, structured and documented, and these appear to be mostly operational and not strategic in nature.*	Strategic & development meetings will be scheduled for June and September each year, the year will be reviewed, a calendar of forthcoming events/meetings agreed and subsequent changes monitored throughout the forthcoming academic year.	This will be adopted throughout the Faculty as part of the PMDS next June and will form part of the Faculty Forum agenda for discussion on 10th April 2006.	Heads of Department and Faculty.	June and September 2006 and on an annual basis thereafter.	None at present.
9. Availability of students e-mail addresses. *The PRG recommends that students be made aware of the availability of email NCAD addresses in the interests of improving communication in general.*	The Department has been using e-mail for student contact for several years. All students have e-mail addresses from 2005/06. Years 3 & 4 have been issued with NCAD e-mail addresses since October 2004 but are reluctant to use them as they are inconvenient to access.	Review difficulties with NCAD e-mail addresses with IT Support Unit. The College is recognising the importance of IT support and more resources have been allocated to iron out difficulties, however issues may not be resolved with regard to e-mail access for students until the next academic year 2006/07.	IT Support Unit and College Computer committee.	September 2006	None at present.

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10. Improve Staff Development. *The PRG recommends that staff development be emphasised, structured, and facilitated more. The PRG recommends that annual plans with tangible targets for staff development, research activity and professional practice be agreed and reviewed between Faculty Head, Department Head and staff.*	Staff regularly attend, present and organise conferences both at home and abroad. They also attend specialist courses organised by the Training for Trainers programme, curate exhibitions and visit other Colleges as part of Erasmus exchanges and the CUMULUS network. Staff have been asked to prepare new proposals for the forthcoming academic year. The plans to be agreed with the Head of Department and Head of Faculty and updated on an annual basis.	This will be adopted throughout the Faculty on an annual basis.	I.D. staff, Head of Department and Head of Faculty.	In progress and on a yearly basis.	None at present.
11. Enhance Department profile. *The PRG believes that the Department should exploit its position to enhance its profile. The students on graduation have high employment skills: this should be emphasised. Outside visibility at industry, political and educational levels are required. Industrial Design is an attractive but relatively unknown discipline. This is more than a public relation job but is a projection of work and aims for which wider and lasting support at all levels must be gained. The PRG recommends that resources be made available and that this become a dedicated task in the future. The PRG recommends a more concerted effort to draw in industry sponsorship, visiting lecturers, money, equipment, talented students and tap into external resources and programmes.*	A lecturer has been appointed to maintain an up-to-date Department showcase for use on the website and other publicity purposes. External resources/relationships with industry and sponsorship income will be reviewed in line with strategic initiatives.	Review and prepare plan for Design Faculty PR enhancement and recruitment strategies with Registrar's Office.	All staff. Faculty Forum with Registrar	In progress	Possible requirement for approval of PR strategy.