EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT OF NEW PROGRAMMES

1.	Title of Programme:	BSc (Hons) in Sustainable Building Technology					
2.	School / Centre:	Mayo Campus					
3.	Duration:	4 years					
4.	NFQ Level:	8					
5.	Type of Review:	New Programme:	Yes:		No:		
		Differential Validation:	Yes:	✓	No:		
6.	Date of Review:	11-01-2016					
7.	Delivery Mode:	Full-time	✓	Part-time		Blended	
8.	Panel Members:	John Murphy (chair) Deirdre Lusby. AC Mary Nestor, AC Finola Deavy, AIT, External Member Jim O Connor, AC Michael Hannon, Registrar / Secretary					
9.	Proposing Staff:	Noel Crean John Scahill Mairead Ludden Anne Wiseman Michael Gill Deirdre Garvey					
10	Programme Rationale:	The rationale for the proposal can be considered under three headings; 1) compliance with programme review, 2) Enhancing viability by increasing programme visibility 3) Institute and campus strategy.					
11.	Potential Demand for Entry:	The underlying rationale for the proposal is to increase the visibility of the Campus offering in Construction on the CAO system and thereby enhance its attractiveness to students. It is part of the Campus response to addressing the challenge of declining student intake numbers in construction, by offering a programme that will prove more attractive to potential students and will enable the Campus to compete with other providers in the region, who all already have a presence in the CAO system at Level 8.					
12.	Stakeholder Engagement:	A panel was formed in response to a condition of the last programmatic review. The stakeholder panel are to be consulted on an annual basis to ensure that the programme is responsive to changes in the industry and remains up to date.					

13.	Graduate Demand:	The construction industry is permanently evolving and is being driven by new energy and sustainability targets that Ireland have committed to meet as part of its European responsibilities. Construction technology itself is also evolving rapidly as more powerful and advanced IT solutions are being made available to the industry. To respond to these developments and ensure that the programme content stayed up to date with the new industry norms, the programme board developed a one year "add-on" level 8 honours degree programme that focuses on Sustainable Building Technology. This programme has successfully been offered on campus since 2012 (currently delivering to the fourth student cohort). Construction activity has started to increase nationally and internationally and uptake by school leavers for construction careers is again increasing as indicated by the CAO application statistics.
14.	Entry Requirements:	As specified in the Institute's Quality Assurance Framework, specifically Code of Practice No. 4
15.	Programme Structure:	In the first three years graduates will gain knowledge and develop skills in surveying, building contracts, sustainable building technology, building legislation, CAD and BIM, applicable to modern building construction with an emphasis on sustainable building technology.

In the final year the programme places emphasis on the core areas of sustainable building technology and construction project management and is centred around the completion of a substantial cross modular year long retrofit project. The project module consists of two complementary elements, a retrofit project and a research topic on an aspect of applied construction technology that relates directly to the retrofit project. |
| 16. | Module syllabi: | N/A |
| 17. | LTA: | **Teaching and Learning**
GMIT is committed to ensure that all graduates have a comprehensive understanding of their relevant discipline and professional knowledge and skills appropriate to their award. The learning outcomes of the programme are designed to achieve this and the teaching and learning strategy is aligned with these learning outcomes.

GMIT is a student centred institute and the development of the student as an autonomous, lifelong learner is embedded in the |

| | | learning outcomes and directs the teaching and learning of this programme.

Assessment Strategies
Formative assessment is essential for student learning and is embedded in the design of the programme. The development of the graduates as autonomous life-long learners requires that students understand the purpose of assessment and take an active part in the process.

The assessment strategy of the programme is guided by GMIT's Code of Academic Policy No. 4, Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy and the Programme Assessment Strategy for the programme. |
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| 18. | ATP: | **Access**
Entry into year 1 of the programme will be through the CAO.

GMIT policies in relation to access, will apply.

Transfer
GMIT policies in relation to transfer, progression and recognition of prior learning will apply.

Progression
GMIT policies will apply |
| 19. | Findings and Recommendations: | Recommendations of the panel in relation to award sought:
1. Develop a Marketing Strategy for this programme and present to executive for support as this is the first time to market.
2. Consider flexible modes of delivery, specifically a blended delivery approach.
3. Consider marketing to non-traditional learning cohorts, such as international students.
4. Produce a plan indicating viable numbers required to make the programme[s] viable.
5. Review and respond to specific module concerns, for example:
    (a) Construction Technology 1: Final exam – check MLO 1 and 3.
    (b) Construction Management 1: All MLOs tested twice. Is this necessary?
    (c) Building Science: Can MLO 5 and 7 be tested at final exam?
    (d) Building Services 2: confirm 2 hours contact per week. |

		(e) CAD 2: confirm 3 hours contact per week. (f) H&S Management: 8 MLOs for 5 credits? / 2 hours contact? / All MLOs assessed twice? (g) Construction and Legal Framework: MLOs 1-4 assessed twice. Workload of module for 5 credits? (h) Construction Informatics 1: Why CAD here? Confirm 3 hours contact per week. (i) Construction Management 2: CA tests MLO No 4, should this be MLO No 3? (j) Placement: All MLOs assessed in all CAs?

		Special conditions attaching to approval (if any):

		1. Student experience in year 4 needs to be addressed asap in relation to having predominantly one lecturer.
		
		2. Documentation must be corrected as per guidance from panel. Specifically the following must be addressed: Access and entry requirements incorrectly stated on P.8 of the overview document.
		
		3. Complete Programme Document for this programme must be submitted along with the response to this report. The response must indicate:
		(a) how the Programme Board intends to satisfy the conditions set out in the Report;
		(b) (i) what consideration was given to the recommendations,
		      (ii) which recommendations were accepted and which rejected,
		      (iii) the rationale for non-acceptance of those rejected.

20.	Resource Implications:	None
21.	Synergies with existing programmes:	None
22.	FAO: Academic Council:	

		Approved:	
		Approved subject to recommended changes:	✓
		Not approved at this time:	
	Signed:		
		Chair	Secretary