

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 14 January 2009 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr C Laudet, Professor J Wickham, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor J Fitzpatrick, Dr V Kelly, Dr D O'Sullivan, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr D Brennan, Professor M McCarron, Professor M Radomski, Dr K Johnson, Dr A O'Gara, Ms D Flynn, Professor G Whyte, Mr F Hughes, Ms A Murphy.
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Research, Dr C MacMaolain, Dr C Morris, Dr M Lyons, Mr H Sullivan, Ms C Ní Dhubhda, Mr D Walsh, Mr D Kavanagh, Ms A Mc Gowan.
<i>In attendance</i>	Librarian, Acting Secretary, Academic Secretary, Chief Operating Officer.
<i>Observer</i>	Secretary to the Scholars (Ms N Cleary).

SECTION A

CL/08-09/065 **Statutory declaration** A new member of Council (Ms D Flynn) made the statutory declaration.

CL/08-09/066 **Minutes of the meeting** of the 3 December 2008 were approved.

CL/08-09/067 **Matters Arising from the Minutes** The Provost referring to Actum CL/08-09/049 noted that it is College's intention to implement the new academic year structure in 2009-10.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, referring to Actum CL/08-09/050, informed Council that the Undergraduate Studies Committee has agreed that Directors of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) will assess the level of undergraduate teaching undertaken by academic staff in their respective Schools. It is expected that a report will come before Council in due course.

CL/08-09/068 **Provost's Report** The Provost, commenting on the continuing deterioration in exchequer figures, noted the adverse impact that this and the global financial crisis is having on College's finances. There is an unprecedented number of skilled and well educated workers becoming unemployed, and Trinity College is in a position to respond to the need to retrain and re-skill this section of the workforce.

On a more positive note, the Provost informed Council that the Minister for Education and Science, Mr O'Keeffe T.D., announced the launch of PRTL Cycle 5 on the 8th January 2009. Call documentation will be issued in due course and Cycle 5 will focus on commercialisation of research outcomes and on the enhancement of PhD programmes.

CL/08-09/069 Social Science Research Review A Review Report of the External Reviewers of Social Science Research at Trinity College dated 21st July 2008 was circulated together with a Response to the Review Report dated 21st November 2008, prepared by Professor R Gilligan (School of Social Work and Social Policy), Professor P Lane (Economics/School of Social Science and Philosophy), Professor J Murray (School of Business), and Professor J Wickham (Sociology/School of Social Science and Philosophy). A memorandum from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Dean of Research dated December 2008 was also circulated.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences spoke to this item, presenting Council with a summary of the main findings of the Review Report and the Response by the Schools involved. He noted that the Report was considered by the Research Committee at its meeting of the 17th December 2008 (Actum RS/08-09/04), and this Committee noted that the recommendations of the Review Report have been accepted in the round by the Social Sciences constituency. The Review Report highlights nodes of excellence in some areas of the social sciences in College, namely, the Institute for International Integration Studies (IIS); parts of the School of Psychology, in particular its focus on cognition and neuroscience; the disciplines of Economics and Politics; a number of longitudinal studies underway. The Report also highlights a clear requirement for College to strengthen the disciplinary base from which inter-disciplinary themes are drawn.

There is considerable physical and administrative fragmentation of the various social science Schools and disciplines and this hinders fruitful intellectual collaboration. The Reviewers recommend the consolidation of existing social science activities into a single physical location to deliver economies of scale in administrative supports, to cross fertilise expertise, and to facilitate the emergence of additional major research themes within Trinity College's social sciences.

The Reviewers were asked to assess the emergence of 'Social Cohesion' as a research theme in the social sciences, and they report that the selection of this theme is premature; a view generally accepted within the social sciences' community. The Dean drew Council's attention to Reviewers' observation that much of the research conducted by Centres is not as rigorous or methodologically sound as is required by the challenges facing Irish society and the international community. They recommend that the analytical quotient of descriptive or 'outreach' research should be augmented to order to achieve international impact and visibility. The Reviewers offer the opinion that the focus on descriptive, short-term and contract funded research can lead to Centres losing sight of the fact that lasting effectiveness can only be built on the basis of solid social-scientific research. This view is not shared by advocates of applied research activity and they point to its relevance to Ireland and the College's social responsibility. The Dean noted, however, that the Research Committee endorses the view of the Reviewers on this matter.

The Reviewers believe that College should recognise and build upon the success of the IIS by establishing it as a Research Institute, and the Research Committee would welcome, without prejudice, an application from IIS to become an official Trinity Research Institute. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

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drew Council's attention to the key recommendations of the Research Committee articulated in the memorandum circulated.

Council commented on the importance of having contiguous space for cognate disciplines to encourage interdisciplinary activity and administrative economies of scale. The high degree of dispersal in the physical locations of the social sciences was noted. Council heard that the newly established Estates Management Team is actively considering the space requirements of Schools. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer commented on the apparent tension between the goals of achieving high quality research on one hand, and contribution to Irish society in the social sciences on the other. The Dean of the Faculty commented that there has always been a healthy debate in the social sciences on research methodologies used in the field. There are different schools of thought on the matter, one promoting a more theoretical scientific-based research methodology and the other promoting an applied research methodology. Other Council members felt that such tensions exist in many science disciplines, and these can often lead to positive outputs. The Reviewers appear to suggest that theoretical research is more useful than applied research, and the Head of the School of Social Science and Philosophy argued that in some areas of the social sciences, applied knowledge can also be a stimulus for good research. He noted, however, that there is a pressing need to raise standards in applied social science research in order to achieve international standards and recognition.

Following some discussion on the suggestion that College should review all its Research Centres, Council agreed that the Research Committee should in the first instance review what constitutes a Research Centre and draw up recommendations for Council's consideration.

Council approved the recommendation that a Social Science Working Group be established by and report to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The Working Group should be chaired by the Faculty Dean and its membership should include the Dean of Research and research active representatives from the Social Sciences in Trinity College. The terms of reference of this working group include:

- a. Scoping the creation of a consolidated Social Sciences Research Institute;
- b. An audit of the other areas and topics of social science research activities (beyond globalisation & social cohesion) in College to assist in thematic identification;
- c. Articulation of generic doctoral training opportunities for the wider Social Sciences;
- d. A roadmap for strengthening graduate education through development of discipline based training.

Council also agreed that the Research Committee should review the existing policy on research centres and groupings to assess the continuing status of "Centres" within the Social Sciences, and their relationship to Schools. These reviews will serve to promote research excellence and societal impact and will work to the principle that centres must demonstrate their relevance to social scientific research as well as social problem solving in order to warrant continued support/designation as 'Centre' from College.

CL/08-09/070 Senior Lecturer's Annual Report The Senior Lecturer's Annual Report 2007-08 with Admissions Data for 2008-09 was circulated with papers for the meeting. The Senior Lecturer in presenting the Report, informed Council that this is the final Senior Lecturer's Report detailing the range of activities related to academic policy

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development. The remit of the Senior Lecturer was redefined and from July 2008 the Senior Lecturer exercised statutory responsibility in relation to the admission, progress and examination of undergraduate students. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer has, as of July 2008, assumed overall responsibility for the development of academic policy and the coordination of education and research.

The Senior Lecturer drew Council's attention to a number of issues in the Report. She noted that of the 15,716 registered students in the academic year 2007-08, 84% were from the Republic of Ireland. In light of the College's stated ambition to increase the number of international students, this data suggest that there is considerable scope for the internationalisation of the student population. Fifty six percent of the student population is female. This represents a slight equalisation on previous years where the percentage was slightly over 60%. The new entrants' survey shows that 91% of respondents consulted the internet when considering course options, and this reinforces the importance of having easy navigable, accessible and up-to-date Trinity web-pages. After the College Prospectus, the internet was rated the second most important source of information on undergraduate programmes. New entrants cited Trinity's reputation for quality teaching (63%) as one of the reasons for choosing to study at Trinity College.

Commenting on academic progress, the Senior Lecturer noted that 91% of the Junior Freshman students who sat annual supplemental and special examinations were eligible to proceed to Senior Freshman. The Examinations Office administered examinations each month of the year, with the exception of July, representing 71,793 sittings. She noted the increase in the number of special examinations, up 36% on the 2006-07 numbers. Three hundred and thirty seven first class degrees were awarded in 2007-08 which mirrors exactly that of 2006-07. Sixty five gold medals were awarded in 2007-08 compared to 61 in the previous year. Commenting on the importance of external examiners to ensure the quality of our undergraduate degrees, the Senior Lecturer expressed her disappointment at the relatively high number of external examiners who do not submit a report - 39% in 2007-08 compared to 35% in 2006-07.

Finally the Senior Lecturer drew Council's attention to the staff:student ratio of 1:16 at College level (1:17 in previous years), and noted in respect of staff appointments in 2007-08 that of the 120 academic appointments made, only 62% held doctoral degrees and a further 34% held at least one postgraduate or professional degree below doctoral level. Of the 48 permanent appointments made, 87% held doctoral degrees and 73% of permanent appointments were male.

The Senior Lecturer thanked the Academic Secretary and her staff for preparing the Report and invited the Academic Secretary to speak to the section on Admissions.

The Academic Secretary drew Council's attention to courses not meeting their quota in 2008-09 and noted that these are largely the same courses as in previous years. She noted that three new courses were offered in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science in 2008-09. The new degree programme in Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology was particularly popular with 118 first preferences. The quota of 25 was filled with a minimum points level of 505 random. The new degree programme in Business and Polish was not so popular and filled two of the five places available. Business Studies and Spanish was, as expected, quite popular filling the ten places available at a minimum points level of 460. The Academic Secretary noted that only 6% of new entrants CAO students presented points at 400 or below, and 52% presented 500+ points.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer, the Academic Secretary and her staff for their contribution to the College and noted the importance of having such detailed analysis and statistics available for planning purposes. He commented on the consistency in the award of first class degrees over a number of years, noting that this suggests that there is no grade inflation in Trinity's assessment of students. The absence of grade inflation serves graduates of the University of Dublin well in a highly competitive national and international marketplace. In relation to staff recruitment, the Provost noted the importance of monitoring the policy that all new academic staff should hold a doctoral level qualification. He also expressed concern about the comparatively low number of women being appointed to permanent appointments. The Secretary (Acting) informed Council that the Equality Officer is investigating reasons why fewer women than men apply for promotion in Trinity College.

The Council welcomed the Senior Lecturer's Report and noted the trends and developments across a range of areas. It was suggested that Schools should review their offerings and ensure that the programmes on offer are attractive not only to national but also to international students. In response to the poor response of external examiners, it was suggested that these examiners should not be remunerated until College receives a full report. The Dean of Graduate Studies felt that the absence of a proper tracking system frustrated efforts to secure external examiner reports and noted the importance of such a tracking system being a functionality of the new student administration system.

It was commented that the demand from mature students is likely to increase as the downturn in the economy continues. It was suggested that part-time course offerings would better facilitate mature students. The Students' Union representatives pointed out that the economic downturn will have an adverse impact on some registered students' ability to continue their studies.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that a report on recruitment of academic staff, including research staff, will be presented to Council at a future meeting. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer informed Council that it was his intention to bring a report to Council in due course covering developments under his remit.

Council noted the Senior Lecturer's Annual Report 2007-08 with Admissions Data for 2008-09.

CL/08-09/071 Provost's Report on the Review of the School of Education The Provost's Report to Council on the Review of the School of Education dated 6th January 2009 was circulated. The Provost highlighted the key issues arising from the review of the School of Education. Referring to the research culture in the School, the Provost noted that the Reviewers found that good progress has been made in the last few years, but in terms of international comparison, the School's research record is not outstanding. The Reviewers note, however, that the Anti-Bullying Centre is nationally and internationally known for the quality of its research and contribution to society. They also commend the Centre for Research in Information Technology in Education for its excellence in cross-faculty collaboration and for developing a strong relationship between teaching and research in information technology and education. The Reviewers believe that for a small School with a relatively small number of staff, the research interests of staff are very wide and diverse. They highlight the urgency of securing contiguous space for the activities of the School.

The Provost noted the comments in respect of the seemingly poor relations between the School and the Associated Colleges in areas of teaching and research. The

Reviewers spoke favourably of the B.Ed. Music, but were more critical of the management and curriculum of the B.Ed. in Education. They questioned the methodology of teaching and highlighted the need for the School to reconsider the 'theory-practice' divide in initial teacher training. The B.Ed. (Primary) curriculum was seen by students and staff in the Associated Schools as in need of radical overhaul both in terms of content and teaching methods. The comments on postgraduate programmes, however, were more favourable.

Referring to the Reviewers' comments on the organisation of the School, the Provost noted that this School did not experience the same level of disruption as many other Schools did during the restructuring programme, and he expressed surprise at the relatively negative observations on the organisation and governance of the School. He noted the central role that the recently appointed Chair in Education will play in addressing many of the issues raised in the review report, one of which is the very high staff:student ratio.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences responded that the School of Education was disappointed with the review report, and feel that the description of the relationship between the School and the Associated Colleges was biased towards the latter. The School feels that the Reviewers did not acknowledge sufficiently the adverse impact of the high staff:student ratio and the high teaching and placement supervision workload on the capacity of staff to conduct research. The Dean feels that the options available to the School are to either reduce the teaching load or increase the number of staff. In the current financial climate, the latter option may not be realistic. He noted the need for the School to plan and prioritise its objectives.

Dr O'Gara, President of Marino Institute of Education, one of the Associated Colleges of Education, welcomed the review report and acknowledged some of the difficulties that the School is facing, in particular those relating to space constraints. She felt that the review report highlights the salient issues and welcomed the Provost's recommendation that a working group be established to develop a clear policy on the strategic relevance and operating principles of the partnership between Trinity College and the Associated Colleges. She also welcomed the appointment of the Chair of Education.

The Dean of Graduate Studies supported the recommendation that the School should consider a policy of encouraging masters and doctoral students to co-author papers, noting that this is a practice in other disciplines. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science commented that co-authoring may not be possible in the Arts and Social Sciences areas as graduates usually seek to publish their thesis. One Council member queried why the review report overlooked the very positive views of past students, especially those who completed postgraduate programmes, and it was confirmed that alumni are not included in the review process.

Council noted the review report on the School of Education and approved the following recommendations of the review report:

- 1 *Teaching*
 - Undergraduate Education*
 - i) *Sustain the highly successful B.Ed.Mus and seek to improve accommodation for the programme;*
 - ii) *Establish a working party to review Trinity's continuing commitment to the B.Ed Primary. This working party should consider a number of options including:*

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- *Withdrawal from the programme;*
 - *Resource allocation;*
 - *Governance mechanisms at programme and strategic levels if the programme continues;*
 - *The match between the espoused aims of the programme and the reality of the curriculum content and teaching methods;*
 - *Assessment patterns and forms;*
 - *Ways of developing more authentic partnerships between Trinity and the Associated Colleges;*
 - *Staffing so that staff with experience of and a passion for primary education are recruited to the Trinity components of the programme;*
 - iii) *Explore the possibility of aligning student theses in the honor year with staff research interests and the accompanying feasibility of small group supervision;*
 - iv) *Review research methods course;*
 - v) *Explore ways of bridging theory-practice divide in the curriculum;*
 - vi) *Appoint more external examiners from overseas;*
- Postgraduate Education and Continuing Professional Development***
- vii) *Continue to explore innovative ways of bridging the theory-practice divide in initial teacher education programmes;*
 - viii) *Support and encourage a review of the role of partnership schools in ITE;*
 - ix) *Speed up progress of modularisation in Masters programmes;*
 - x) *Explore the provision of social space for masters and doctoral students to encourage a sense of group cohesion and joint endeavour;*
 - xi) *Build in conference attendance and co-authorship as part of doctoral and masters programmes as appropriate;*

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Research

- xii) Develop a strong and sustainable research infrastructure which includes clearer definitions of roles for the Research Director with allocated time in the workload and a research support post or office;
- xiii) Create and foster a research culture. This might include the following:
 - Regular research seminars and research days;
 - Study leave entitlement for all academic staff together with clear expectations for publications and funded research applications which will be achieved during this period;
 - An academic travel fund to support the presentations of papers at conferences;
 - The creation of collaborative research networks within the School to which every member of academic staff is expected to belong and contribute;
- xiv) Support the centres of excellence that exist, particularly the Anti-Bullying Centre, with a funded research fellowship so that they can expand and develop appropriately, attracting more research funds and research students;
- xv) Move towards the development of a further research centre;
- xvi) Develop a smaller number of coherent and manageable research themes which integrate the work of all academic staff and are in line with the College's research mission;
- xvii) Develop a stronger focus on post-graduate teaching and research rather than on under-graduate teaching;

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- xviii) Take steps to integrate research students into the academic community by involvement of students in the research seminars, research days, networks and centres as outlined above;
- 3 **Resources**
- xix) Implement a workload planning system prior to a review of current staff needs in relation to demand;
- xx) Appoint a professor who is able take on the Head of School role (if not already achieved in the recent interviews);
- xxi) Refurbish existing infrastructure immediately;
- xxii) Upgrade amount and quality of teaching space;
- 4 **Organisational structures and planning**
- xxiii) *Institute a programme of weekly or fortnightly meetings of the Executive Committee of the School;*
- xxiv) *Implement a coordinated approach at College level to the issue of intake numbers to the B.Ed. and its consequences on the ARAM, and in turn on the workload management systems of the School. (Currently there is no transparency concerning the articulation of these various strata of management and budget allocation);*
- xxv) *Review all communications with students and mechanisms by which student comments are heard and acted upon;*
- xxvi) *Subsequent strategic planning must be geared less to description of what is currently done, and more to an appraisal of the current and projected international, national and local environments, and the means for responding to changes in these.*

Council also approved the Provost's recommendations in respect of the School of Education that:

- 5 *The School of Education working closely with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and other relevant Academic Officers, should consider the detailed recommendations of the Review Report and draw up an implementation plan¹ for Council approval;*
- 6 *As part of this exercise (Recommendation 5), a Working Group should be established by Council, chaired by the Vice-Provost (or designate), to establish a clear policy on the strategic relevance and operating principles of the partnership between Trinity College and the Associated Colleges of Education. This Group should include representatives of the various stakeholders and one external member, but its size should not exceed ten. It should report by the end of the academic year 2008-09.*

CL/08-09/072 **New Course Proposal: M.Sc in International Management** A proposal for the establishment of a postgraduate taught degree programme leading to the award of Masters in International Management was circulated in a supplementary circulation to Council. The Dean of Graduate Studies referring to the late circulation noted the importance of having the proposal considered at this Council meeting as the School of Business wishes to promote the course, subject to Council approval, at the postgraduate Open Day scheduled for the 5th February 2009. The proposed course is designed to develop managerial capacity by offering students a specialised,

¹ See *Procedures and Protocol for Quality Review of Schools 2008/09* at <http://www.tcd.ie/vp-cao/qu/qopdf/adrpack2.pdf>

structured, research-led taught Masters degree that addresses major themes in International Management. Ireland is the most global nation of the 62 countries according to the AT Kearney/Foreign Policy globalisation index, and to build on this success it is necessary to produce graduates who are well versed in the complexities of international business. The School of Business is confident that there is both a national and international market for the course and that the proposed course quota of 30 (full-time) and 60 (part-time) is achievable. The course will be offered on a one- year full-time basis as well as a two-year part-time basis. It complies with College's policy on Learning Outcomes and the allocation of ECTS.

The course proposal has been approved by the Graduate Studies and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. A positive review report by the external assessor has been received just recently, and only a few minor changes have been recommended. Subject to these changes being made, the Dean of Graduate Studies sought Council approval for the course proposal leading to the award of M.Sc in International Management.

Council welcomed the proposal and commended its design that promises to be attractive to international as well as national students. In response to a query, the Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that the course is part of a suite of postgraduate courses in the School of Business and will complement the existing MSc in International Finance and draw on a range of capabilities and research expertise from within the School, including the Centre for Global Business Systems and the Institute for International Integration Studies. She confirmed that the course does not involve the Irish Management Institute in its delivery.

Subject to the changes recommended by the external course assessor being adopted, Council approved the establishment of the postgraduate taught course leading to the award of M.Sc in International Management.

CL/08-09/073 Any other business

- (i) *Chairs - External Assessors* The Council approved external assessors for the following Chairs:
- (a) Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature
 - (b) Chair of Theology (re-advertised)
 - (c) Professor of Population Health Medicine

- (ii) *Chair in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:* Council noted and approved the creation of a Chair in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Search Committee as proposed in the tabled memorandum dated 8th January 2009 from the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The membership of the committee to be as follows:

Provost
 Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences
 Head of the School of Medicine
 Professor M Gill
 Health Services Executive representatives (2)
 AMINCH representative (1)
 Professor M McCarron
 External assessors (2).

- (iii) *Deferred Courses:* In response to a query on the role of Council in sanctioning the deferral of a course, the Provost confirmed that it is only necessary to seek Council's approval if it is proposed that a course be deferred for an indefinite period of time.
- (iv) *Sub-group on Research Careers:* In response to a query, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer informed Council that the sub-group on research careers is due to present a report to the Personnel and Appointments Committee at its meeting of on the 18th February 2009.

SECTION B

CL/08-09/074 **Undergraduate Studies Committee** The minutes of the meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) 10th December 2008 were circulated.

- (i) *Terms of reference of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (Actum UGS/08-09/010):* Council noted and approved the terms of reference of the Undergraduate Studies Committee as follows:
 - i. To consider and make recommendations on matters of academic policy relating to undergraduate teaching and learning including matters referred to it by Council and other College committees.
 - ii. To advise the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer in her/his role in coordinating education and research across College.
 - iii. To advise the Senior Lecturer in her/his role in reporting to the University Council on undergraduate student admissions, progression and examinations and applying Council regulations.
 - iv. To consider and advise on the Bologna process (ECTS, learning outcomes, modularisation, duration of undergraduate programmes, research-led teaching, transfer and progression) and to make recommendations to Council.
 - v. To monitor and review quality assurance and improvement measures in respect of undergraduate programmes, teaching and learning.
 - vi. To assess new undergraduate course proposals and proposals to discontinue undergraduate courses and to make recommendations to Council.
 - vii. To consider on an annual basis proposed changes to the University Calendar in respect of undergraduate education and to make recommendations to Council.
- (ii) *Broad Curriculum (Actum UGS/08-09/014):* Council noted and approved the recommendation that:
 - i Schools in receipt of Broad Curriculum (BC) funding to deliver a cross-Faculty BC module should either continue to make the broad curriculum module available or provide an option from within the curriculum as an elective for students from outside that discipline. Such electives should also carry 5 ECTS as is the case for all BC modules.
 - ii All courses should make provision within their curriculum to allow students who wish to take a Broad Curriculum or elective module to do so.

The Provost confirmed College's commitment to opening the undergraduate curriculum and stressed the importance of implementing the core and elective curriculum already approved by Council and Board in 2008.

- (iii) *Trinity Access Programmes (Actum UGS/08-09/015)*: Council noted and approved the recommendation, subject to the TCD Foundation Course Grade 2.2 being split to cover the 325-480 points range, that College eliminate the interview procedure as part of the undergraduate admissions selection process for mature students graduating from the *TAP Foundation Course* and mature disadvantaged students graduating from the *CDVEC Liberal Arts Courses*, effective from 2009-10, and subject to there being an appropriate mechanism for the involvement of representatives from professional courses in the admission process. Successful graduates of the *TAP Foundation Course* and the *CDVEC Liberal Arts Courses* should be considered for entry to undergraduate programmes at Trinity College on academic merit only and subject to a place being available. The minimum grade achievement, along with subject specific grades, where required, to be considered eligible for admission is as follows:

Minimum Grade - TCD Foundation Course	Minimum Grade CDVEC Liberal Arts (eligible for access to courses in Arts and Social Science only)	Competitive for courses within the Points Bands
1	Distinction (80%+)	550-570+
2.1	Merit (65-79%)	485-545
2.2	Merit	325-480

In response to a query, the Senior Lecturer confirmed that the removal of the interview process was to bring College in line with the sector and that College complies with the national policy on access and progression.

- (iv) *Foundation Scholarship Examination (Actum UGS/08-09/011)*: In response to a query, it was confirmed that students should not sit more than nine hours of examination for the Foundation Scholarship. Council members were advised to liaise directly with the Senior Lecturer on the details of this recommendation and its implementation.

CL/08-09/075 Research Committee Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Research Committee from its meeting of the 17th December 2008.

CL/08-09/076 International Committee The minutes of the meeting of the International Committee of 21st November 2008 were circulated. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer drew Council's attention to Actum IC/08-09/006 concerning a proposal to develop a joint foundation programme for international fee-paying students with University College Dublin and the Dublin Institute of Technology. It is expected that a detailed proposal for joint foundation programme will be presented to a future meeting of Council.

Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the International Committee from its meeting of the 21st November 2008.

CL/08-09/077 Information Policy Committee The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Information Policy Committee from its meeting of 21 October 2008, which had been circulated.

SECTION C

CL/08-09/078 Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 25 November 2008 and noted by Board on 9 December 2008.

(i) **Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

MD Carol Goulding; Chie Wei Fan.

(ii) **Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

PhD Johanna Bruneau; Susan Carpenter; Niamh Curtin; Petrina Delivani; Senan Doyle; Tara Patricia Hurst; Gillian Jein; Haris Karnezi; Patrick Kirwan; Charles James Larkin; Anna Malgorzata Kuczynska; Simona Magnini; Holly Anne Marshall Maples; Mary Isobelle Mullaney; Nathan James O'Connor; Lughaidh O'Neill; Kevin O'Sullivan.

DChDent Maire Bridget Brennan.

MCh Charles Keeling; Arun Thomas.

MSc Mary Kerins; Louis Gavin Kerr; Bairbre Ní Laoi; Tigran Tchrakian.

CL/08-09/079 School of Computer Science and Statistics The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) **Statistics - Head of Discipline** Dr F Bannister, 2008-2001;
- (ii) **Acting Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning** Dr C Vogel, until 12 July 2009.

CL/08-09/080 School of English - Head of Discipline The Council noted and approved the nomination of Dr E Patten as Head of Discipline 2008-2011.

CL/08-09/081 School of Natural Sciences - Course Directorships The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) **MSc in Environmental Sciences (2009-2012)** Dr C Rocha;
- (ii) **MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation (2009-2012)** Dr S Waldren.

CL/08-09/082 School of Social Work and Social Policy - Director of Research 2008-2010 The Council noted and approved the nomination of Dr V Timonen as Director of Research to 12 July 2010.

SECTION D

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts this information is restricted.

Signed

Date