

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Tuesday 16 March 2010 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (in the chair), Registrar, Senior Lecturer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr C Laudet, Dr E O'Dell, Dr M Ó Siochrú, Professor J Fitzpatrick, Dr V Kelly, Professor M Radomski, Dr A O'Gara, Ms D Flynn, Professor G Whyte, Mr A Cooke, Ms A Murphy.
<i>Apologies</i>	Provost, Senior Tutor, Dean of Research, Dr J Wickham, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Dr M Lyons, Dr D O'Sullivan, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr D Brennan, Professor M McCarron, Dr H Mannan, Mr N Timmon, Mr F Hughes, Mr A O'Callaghan, Ms M Furlong, Secretary to the Scholars (Mr B Devlin).
<i>In attendance</i>	Librarian, Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Interim Chief Operating Officer.
<i>Observer</i>	Ms M Uppal.

SECTION A

CL/09-10/119 Minutes of the meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010 were approved.

CL/09-10/120 **Matters Arising** Referring to Actum CL/09-10/100, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer clarified in response to a query that discussions with the Higher Education Authority (HEA) were on-going in respect of staff promotions. He confirmed that progression on scale is considered to be normal career progression.

Referring to Actum CL/09-10/104, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer confirmed that 25 new blood positions have been selected, and that a further 15 new blood positions will be announced in due course. He explained that due to workload constraints and financial reasons, some of the 25 new blood appointments will take up their position in September 2010, and others in September 2011. Heads of School in receipt of a new blood position should discuss commencement dates with their Faculty Dean.

CL/09-10/121 **Provost's Report** The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer informed Council that the Report of the Innovation Taskforce was launched on 11th March 2010 by the Taoiseach, Mr. Brian Cowen T. D. The Report highlights the importance that education plays in innovation, and the fostering of innovation skills in our undergraduate student population is an area for consideration by Council at a future date.

**CL/09-10/122 Statutes - Restatement of the Consolidated Statutes (2010)** Dr E O'Dell, Chairman of the Statutes Review Working Party, spoke to this item. He drew Council's attention to the tabled minute of the Joint Consultative meeting of Board and Council of Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010, and to the aide memoire and presentation of the Statutes Review Working Party, 2010 Restatement, to the Joint Consultative Meeting of Board and Council. Dr O'Dell noted that the University Council is the pre-eminent body on academic matters. He circulated the Table of Contents of the draft revised Statutes and noted that following a number of submissions following the Joint Consultative meeting that staff matters have been removed from the Chapter on Community and are now under a separate Chapter on Staff.

Council noted and approved the proposed changes.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer thanked Dr O'Dell and the Registrar for their work on behalf of the College on the Statutes.

**CL/09-10/123 Graduate Studies - Course Proposal in Development Practice leading to Joint University of Dublin and University College Dublin M.Sc. Degree Award** The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced this item. She informed Council that the proposal is being put forward by Trinity College and University College Dublin (UCD) as part of a global MacArthur-funded initiative. Funds were received to develop and deliver a Masters in Development Practice with the collaboration of the National University of Rwanda, the ethical globalization initiative Realising Rights, Trocaire, Kimmage Development Studies Centre, and Earthmind. The National University of Rwanda is a key partner for with whom a strong relationship will be developed over the duration of the programme. The MacArthur Foundation requested as a condition of funding that the University of Rwanda be closely involved in the delivery of the programme. The ultimate goal is that sometime in the future the programme will become a joint degree programme between Trinity College, UCD and the University of Rwanda. It is intended that the Trinity College and UCD programme will be the European Hub for a worldwide consortium of similar masters programmes coordinated by a global secretariat at Columbia University.

The programme combines a range of teaching and learning approaches and will bring to bear expertise from both academics and practitioners. Trinity College and UCD already offer a number of specialist Masters courses in international development. The course proposal was evaluated by Professor Anthony Bebbington, University of Manchester, as part of our quality assurance procedures. The external evaluation was very positive and complementary of the course proposal.

The Registrar spoke to his circulated memorandum dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and to Appendix 1 of the course proposal concerning inter-institutional arrangements for academic administration of the programme. The inter-institutional arrangements are in line with the College policy on Joint Degrees, approved by Council in 2009. He confirmed that he had vetted the arrangements and is satisfied that they comply with College policy and fulfil the academic requirements in all respects. The agreed academic administration arrangements can, in many ways, serve as a model for future agreements where Trinity College is the lead institution in the delivery of programmes leading to joint degree awards.

The Registrar noted the programme fits with College's strategic theme of a sustainable society, but added that the Higher Education Authority has not yet provided a reporting framework for joint degrees.

Council discussed the course proposal leading to a joint degree award of M.Sc. in Development Practice and the following points were made. It is necessary that the academic appeals process is unambiguous and clearly communicated. The use of student services by overseas students relative to other students is traditionally

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disproportionate. As College is likely to engage more and more in joint degree programmes, it is important that a policy is developed at College level to address this matter. It was agreed that the Student Services Committee should be invited to consider a funding framework to support overseas students and to make recommendations to Council. Council recommended that the language Lecturers be linked to the Centre for Language and Communications Skills.

There was some discussion about the funding of field work and the general finances available for the programme. The Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that the Schools involved addressed these matters with their Faculty Deans.

Council approved the course proposal leading to the award of a joint University of Dublin and UCD award of M.Sc. in Development Practice commencing in September 2010, and approved the inter-institutional arrangements for its academic administration.

The Dean of Graduate studies noted that there were some minor technical arrangements that needed final agreement between the two institutions, and confirmed that the final course outline and the inter-institutional administration arrangements would be brought to Council for noting in due course.

#### CL/09-10/124 Undergraduate Studies - Course Proposals

- (i) *Bachelor in Acting (Honors)*: a course proposal from the School of Drama, Film and Music leading to a new award of Bachelor in Acting (Honors) was circulated with papers for the meeting. The Senior Lecturer introduced this proposal noting it was discussed by the Undergraduate Studies Committee at its meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The Bachelor in Acting degree will form the lead course in the Academy for the Dramatic Arts at Trinity College.

The duration of the course is for three years, with teaching in each year taking place in all three terms. Each year of the programme carries 80 ECTS, and the Senior Lecturer noted that derogations are sought in relation to approved policies concerning the academic year structure and the core and elective curriculum. The course proposal has received a positive evaluation by Mr Peter James, Principal, London Academic of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA).

Council in discussing the proposal noted the importance of registered students having access to the College's support and tutorial services. The promotional literature should highlight the intensive nature of the course in order to prepare students for the stress related to studying acting and to acting as a career. The Senior Lecturer confirmed that the students would be registered students of Trinity College; admissions would not be through the CAO (Central Applications Office) but by audition; and applicants will normally be required to satisfy the University matriculation requirements. It was noted by one Council member that the course will be operating at a loss in first three years. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer commented that the Faculty Dean is aware of the financial costs and that the course has a promising future. He added, however, that the deficit in the first three years would not compromise the delivery or the academic standards of the course.

Council noted and approved the course proposal leading to a Bachelor in Acting (Honors) commencing in the academic year 2011/12 and a derogation in respect of compliance with the core and elective curriculum.

- (ii) *TR071 Moderatorship Option in Functional Biology*: a course proposal from the School of Natural Sciences, with contribution from the School of Genetics and Microbiology, leading to a B.A (Mod) award in Functional Biology: The

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Comparative Physiology of Organisms was circulated with papers for the meeting. The Senior Lecturer introduced this proposal noting the course will integrate both animal and plant physiology and explore the diversity of their functional characteristics in the context of their evolutionary histories. Two new modules will integrate with others already existing in the Botany and Zoology Moderatorships. The proposal was positively reviewed by Professor Ian Montgomery, School of Biological Sciences, Queens University Belfast. The addition of 'The Comparative Physiology of Organisms' to the title resulted from comments made on the title from Professor Montgomery.

A student representative on the Council welcomed the addition of new modules, adding that the absence of new modules in other Moderatorship options in the School was a concern for students. It was commented that the new modules on offer in the Functional Biology option represented the research interest of new members of staff and supported College's policy of a research-led undergraduate curriculum.

Council noted and approved the course proposal leading to a B.A (Mod) award in Functional Biology:

**CL/09-10/125 Mathematics and Education:** a memorandum from the Academic Secretary dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010, together with a report on and recommendations from the National Mathematics Symposium, was circulated with papers for the meeting. Introducing this item, the Academic Secretary informed Council that at its first meeting this academic year on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Council set out a programme of work which included, among other things, a proposal to consider the "issue of weighting higher level mathematics" for admissions purposes. She drew Council's attention to the report on and recommendations from the National Mathematics Symposium organised by Professor Williams and the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, and hosted by the Royal Irish Academy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010. The Symposium addressed a number of fundamental issues in respect of the situation of mathematics at secondary level, including: the lack of incentives to encourage second-level students to continue with higher level mathematics after the Junior Certificate examination; the qualifications' level of second level teachers of mathematics; the distorting effects of the CAO 'points' system on second and third level education; and the role of third level institutions in shaping subject choices in the second level system.

In light of the recommendations of the National Mathematics Symposium and the recent recommendation of the Innovation Taskforce to award bonus points to Leaving Certificate higher level mathematics, the Academic Secretary commented that it was now timely for College to consider this matter as well as the implications for Irish education of a culture of maximising 'points' for competitive entry to undergraduate courses in third level education.

Council in discussing this topic, noted that the awarding of bonus points was only one of many interventions needed to address the low uptake of higher level mathematics at second level.

Council recommended that the Undergraduate Studies Committee consider the implications of awarding bonus points for higher leaving certificate mathematics and the broader implications of maximising points for entry to higher education and to make recommendations for consideration at a future meeting of Council.

**CL/09-10/126 Quality Assurance - Progress Reports**

(i) *Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences:* Progress reports on the implementation of recommendations from the external quality reviews of the

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Schools of English, and Social Work and Social Policy were circulated. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences informed Council that where possible, and subject to the availability of key resources, the outstanding recommendations for both Schools will be implemented.

- (ii) *Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science*: Progress reports on the implementation of recommendations from the external quality reviews of the Schools of Chemistry; Computer Science and Statistics; and Mathematics were circulated with papers. As the Faculty Dean was not present, discussion on this item was deferred until the next meeting of Council.

CL/09-10/127 **Any other business**: there was no other business

## SECTION B

CL/09-10/128 **Graduate Studies Committee** The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Graduate Studies Committee from its meeting of 21 January 2010, which had been circulated.

CL/09-10/129 **Undergraduate Studies Committee** The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Undergraduate Studies Committee from its meeting of 16 February 2010 which had been circulated, subject to the following:

Referring to Actum UGS/09-10/024, External Examiners, the Senior Lecturer in response to a query, noted that the intention of the proposal discussed was to streamline and not to minimise the role of the external examiner, and confirmed that the role was not to second mark an examination script. In response to a concern expressed about the difficulty of securing external examiners and in particular in getting external examiners to be physically present, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer asserted the importance of the role of the external examiner in the quality assurance process and added that unless external examiners can be present, they should not be appointed.

CL/09-10/130 **Information Policy Committee** The Council noted and approved the recommendations of the Information Policy Committee as set out in the minutes of the meetings of 8 October 2009 and 26 November 2009, which had been circulated, subject to the following:

Referring to Actum IPC/09-10/03 (26 November 2009), one Council member commented that in general overly detailed procurement rules can be both difficult and resource intensive to implement.

CL/09-10/131 **Quality Committee** The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Quality Committee from its meeting of 10 February 2010 which had been circulated, subject to the following:

Referring to Actum QC/09-10/009, the Academic Secretary, in response to a query confirmed that a final report on student evaluation of programme modules would be brought to Council for consideration and approval.

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## SECTION C

**CL/09-10/132 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 17 February 2010 and noted by Board on 3 March 2010.

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

**MD** Eimear Brannigan; James Christopher Forde.

**DDentCh** Peter Harrison.

**MCh** John Michael Guerin.

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

**PhD** Chiara Buldorini; Diarmuid Byrne; Suzanne Cloonan; Zhu Diao; Tim Downing; Niall Foy; Kenneth Germaine; Joanne Hellowell; Ann Hoag; Eva Johnsson; Michael Kelly; Christopher Kufazvinei; David Landy; Séamas Mc Gettrick; Nicholas Conal Anthony Nash; Colm Eric O Boyle; Leanne Kim O'Leary; Nikolaos Peltekis; Nicola Therese Rooney; Desmond James Ryan; Paul Sargent; Jane Suiter; Jill Elizabeth Unkel; Wilhelmina Johanna Verbruggen.

**MSc** Andrew Allen; Ciara Cassidy.

**CL/09-10/133 Examinations held outside the Academic Year Structure** The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Examinations and Timetables Officer, circulated, dated 10 March 2010.

**CL/09-10/134 Graduate Studies - Business requiring approval of the University Council - MSc Psychology (Applied Behaviour Analysis and Master in Education (MEd)** The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, circulated, dated 8 March 2010.

**CL/09-10/135 Consolidated List of External Examiners** The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Senior Lecturer, circulated, dated 9 March 2010.

**CL/09-10/136 Paediatrics - Acting Headship** The Council noted and approved the nomination of Dr E Roche as Acting Head in Paediatrics from the date of the retirement of Professor H Hoey (29 April 2010) pending an appointment to the Chair.

**CL/09-10/137 Co-ordinating Committee for the Bachelor in Science (Human Nutrition and Dietetics) Degree Course** The Council noted that Dr N Kennedy has been appointed as Deputy Programme Director for three years and that the Associate Professor of Endocrinology, TCD will continue to chair the Co-ordinating Committee until July 2010.

## SECTION D

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

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Signed .....

Date .....