

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 20 April 2011 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Senior Lecturer (in the chair), Registrar, Senior Lecturer, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Acting-Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (Professor H Biehler), Dr M Ó Siocchrú, Dr Z Rodgers, Professor J Wickham, Professor G Watson, Dr D O'Donovan, Dr A McNabola, Professor M McCarron, Professor M Radomski, Dr H Mannan, Dr A O'Gara, Ms J Fox, Ms E Hennessy.
<i>Apologies</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Dr E O'Dell, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Dr J P Labrador, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr D Brennan, Mr S Gannon, Professor G Whyte, Ms M Collins, Mr R Bartlett, Ms C Keating, Ms Cameron-Coen, Secretary to the College.
<i>In attendance</i>	Librarian, Academic Secretary, Chief Operating Officer, Head of Central Academic Administration Services.
<i>Observers</i>	Ms L Quigley (GSU), Secretary to the Scholars (Mr B Roantree).
<i>By invitation</i>	Civic Engagement Officer (Ms R McGrogan) (for CL/10-11/142).

SECTION A

CL/10-11/139 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 11 February 2011 and 16 March 2011 were approved and signed.

CL/10-11/140 Matters Arising:

- (i) *International Foundation Programme:* Referring to Actum CL/10-11/119(ii), Council noted that the College has signed the contract with the International Foundation Programme. In response to a query it was confirmed that there is a provision for annual reviews of performance by all parties.
- (ii) *Internationalisation of Academic Titles.* Referring to Actum CL/10-11/120, the Senior Lecturer advised that wider consultation is ongoing, and the issue will be brought back to Council in due course.

CL/10-11/141 Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report, 2009-10

A copy of the Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report, 2009-10 was circulated. The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced this item drawing Council's attention to key

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aspects of the statistical data in respect of the academic year 2009/10, including provisional postgraduate admissions data in respect of 2010/11.

She noted that there had been a 2.5% increase in the registered postgraduate student body on the previous year (2008/09). The increase was due to the admission of students to the doctoral register which reflected an increased proportion of research students which constituted 42.7% of the postgraduate student body. Conversely the number of students registered on taught postgraduate programmes had declined by 2%, while the number of postgraduate taught courses continued to rise steadily. In 2009/10, there was a total of 183 taught courses representing an increase of nine over 2008/09. Of these, 75 courses (44%) - spread across all three Faculties - had operated below optimal capacity with fewer than ten registered students, and eleven (6%) did not run due to insufficient numbers. Referring to the maintenance of academic quality, the Dean noted that there were 347 external examiners involved in the examination of 336 research theses in 2009/10. She noted that for most students the thesis examination period - from the nomination of examiners to recommendations to the sub-committee for higher degrees - had been eight months in 2009/10 which was deemed to be acceptable. The number of research examinations extending beyond 12 months had decreased from 13.8% in the previous academic year to 6.9% in 2009/10.

The Dean acknowledged the valuable contributions made by the Fellowships Benefaction Funds and the Travel Grant Scheme (which was funded from composite sources including the Trinity Trust) administered by the Graduate Studies Office, which were vital in facilitating students in research and travel.

Other items highlighted by the Dean included recent developments in the use of social networking technologies to reach prospective students globally. The Graduate Studies Office had established a profile on Facebook and Twitter with positive results. In respect of the Innovation Academy, she reported that two course directors had been appointed in 2009/10 to lead the planning and implementation of the postgraduate certificate programme. In addition ten fully funded interdisciplinary PhD studentships had been awarded.

In conclusion the Dean drew Council's attention to the provisional admissions data for 2010/11 including the number of application for research register; the decrease in research students admitted to Year 1 of the register which reflected a trend across the Irish sector; students' nationality; gender breakdown by course and faculty. The application process had been revised recently based on the recommendation of the Task Force on International Student Recruitment.

In welcoming the Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report 2009/10 and the postgraduate admissions data for 2010/11, Council expressed its concern about the significant number of postgraduate courses that are being delivered below the applied quota, which is contrary to the Graduate Education Strategy approved by Council in May 2010. Council agreed that Schools with such courses should review their curriculum, and give consideration to consolidation and/or merging of cognate activities. It was felt that in some areas, taught postgraduate programmes were too specialised and were unable to attract sufficient student numbers. Schools should be encouraged to adopt the strand model when developing new courses, and to avoid over-specialisation. Council was informed that there is low compliance with the recently approved Council policy on making offers to eligible non-EU applicants on a

first-come first-served basis. Following discussion on the impact of this, Council strongly recommended that the policy be applied.

In discussing the decline in postgraduate applications, it was suggested that in the current economic climate the cost of pursuing postgraduate education may be prohibitive. The quality of education provision in an environment of reduced resources was discussed. It was noted that the Library could not continue to deliver the same level of services with reduced budgets. The overall quality of teaching and student life was discussed, and it was felt that unless students were aware that measures were taken to improve the quality of provision, it is unlikely that there would be a good response rate to student evaluations of course modules. The practice in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy was highlighted as a positive example of providing information on the process to students.

CL/10-11/142 Report on Civic Engagement

A covering memorandum dated 12th April 2011 from the Registrar together with a draft Report on Civic Engagement had been circulated. The Senior Lecturer welcomed Ms Roisin McGrogan, Civic Engagement Officer, to the meeting of Council for this item. In introducing this item the Registrar advised that the draft report represented the first comprehensive overview of volunteering and civic engagement activities across College. The report had been considered by the Engagement with Society Advisory Group, which had endorsed all seven recommendations. The Registrar noted the need to develop appropriate mechanisms to recognise and incentivise members of the College community who are committed to engaged research, teaching, and service activity of mutual benefit to the College and the Community. The importance of raising awareness of the value and opportunities for service-learning was stressed. There is a need to develop a mechanism to enable community organisations with research questions to link in with the College in a more structured way. It is also important to facilitate and promote once-off volunteering opportunities to enable increased participation such as those facilitated for the National Day of Volunteering, Positive Ageing Week, etc.

The Advisory Group had raised some questions that the Registrar highlighted to Council in his covering memorandum, namely; how to define civic engagement?; how to recognise and incentivise volunteering?; how the interest of alumni community be better harnessed?

The Civic Engagement Officer highlighted a number of key points in the report, and reported that four mini-grants had been established to facilitate the development and implementation of service-learning modules.

In considering the report, Council noted that civic engagement activities across the College occur at an individual and professional level - the boundaries of which were very fluid. It was proposed that consideration should be given to developing a strategy to communicate the College's civic engagement activities while being cognisant of the individual's right to privacy. It was noted that civic engagement activities with the wider alumni community could provide an opportunity to foster and enhance alumni relations. Similarly, retired College staff also offered an opportunity for engagement.

Council endorsed the draft report, agreeing that the definition of civic engagement should be inclusive rather than exclusive, and that further consideration be given to the development of appropriate mechanisms to recognise and incentivise volunteering. In the meantime, it was agreed that the report should be forwarded to the three Faculties for consideration by their Executive Committees.

The Senior Lecturer thanked the Civic Engagement Officer on behalf of the Council and the latter retired from the meeting.

CL/10-11/143 Diplomates Upgrading to Degree of Master

A memorandum dated April 7, 2011 from the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Registrar had been circulated. In introducing this item, the Dean of Graduate Studies invited Council's consideration of a proposed revision of the commonly applied course regulation, restricting students who exit with a Postgraduate Diploma from proceeding to a Masters award within the same course at a future date. Following consideration by the Graduate Studies Committee, and in recognition of lifelong learning, it was proposed to permit diplomates to return to College to pursue the Masters qualification.

Council welcomed the recommendations, and following discussion approved the following recommendations:

- (i) To avoid double counting of credits, students who exit with the Postgraduate Diploma returning at a later date to complete the credit leading to the Masters degree, will be required to rescind the Postgraduate Diploma before graduating with the Masters degree.
- (ii) The time limit for re-registering to complete the credits required for the Masters degree will normally be up to 5 years following completion of the Postgraduate Diploma. In exceptional circumstances, a longer time limit may be considered by the Dean of Graduate Studies.
- (iii) Graduates of some Postgraduate Diplomas may require additional modules to prepare them for the research dissertation leading to a Masters. Such diplomates may undertake the specified additional modules of up to 30 ECTS credits, in addition to the research dissertation, to accrue up to an additional 60 ECTS credits. For those students, the Masters will therefore be awarded on the basis of up to 120 ECTS in total which is consistent with the credit range (90-120 ECTS credits) associated with the Masters degree in the National Framework of Qualifications .
- (iv) Students who exit with a postgraduate Diploma as a consequence of failing to attain the pass requirements of the Masters will not be permitted to re-enter to pursue the Masters at a later date.
- (v) Students who re-enter to complete the Masters will register for the year on a full-time basis if the student is availing of 60 credits or on a part-time basis if the student is availing of less than 60 credits. The usual full-time or part-time course fee will apply.
- (vi) A Postgraduate Diploma awarded by another institution will not be considered as an entry qualification for upgrading to a Masters.

It was noted that the Calendar Part 2 would be amended to incorporate the revised regulation.

- CL/10-11/144 Any other urgent business**
There was no other business.

SECTION B

- CL/10-11/145 Graduate Studies Committee** *draft* minutes of the meeting of 7 April, 2011 as circulated were noted and approved by Council.

- CL/10-11/146 Undergraduate Studies Committee** *draft* minutes of the meeting of 8 March, 2011 were noted and approved by Council.

SECTION C

- CL/10-11/147 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 16 March 2011 and noted by Board on 30 March 2011:

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

MD Richard John Flavin; John Philip O'Dwyer; David James Robinson.

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

DEd Declan McDaid.

PhD Akinlolu Akande; Emma Allott; Jemimah Anne Hepzbah Bailey; Ralph Hugh Borland; Jessica Davis Breen; Sarah Lett Condell; Colin Corcoran; Darragh Crotty; Orla Dempsey; Peter Dunne; James Dwan; Catherine Ennis; David John Farrell; Pavel Galibarov; William Peter Gilks; Lynne Kelly; Darren Lee; Niamh Lynam-Lennon; Lynn Martin; Kathy Mary McIlvenny; Paul Mathew O'Byrne; David O'Dwyer; Clelia Pagano; Nathalie Payraudeau; Ciaran Phelan; Sean Reed; Tatsiana Rakovich; Anne Rietz; Paula Russell-Hill; Alon Schab; Linda Grace Shine; Christina Seibke; Matthew Thomas Wall.

MSc Jessica Rosanne Elliott; Peadar Golden; Deirdre Lynch; Alan James Purvis; Dorota Skupinska.

MLitt Marion Durnin; Thomas Hodson; Michael Daniel Terbush.

- CL/10-11/148 Head of Discipline - Zoology**

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Dr N Marples as head of the discipline of Zoology for 2011-14.

CL/10-11/149 Engagement with Society Advisory Group to Council

The Council noted minutes of meetings of:

- (i) 14 February 2011;
- (ii) 9 March 2011.

CL/10-11/150 Graduate Studies Business

The Council noted a memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, circulated, dated 11 April 2011 and approved the following recommendations:

- (i) amendment to the M.Sc. in Nursing to introduce a new strand from September 2011 entitled: Child Health and Wellbeing;
- (ii) introduction from September 2011 of three stand-alone modules in children's palliative care within the School of Nursing and Midwifery;
- (iii) closure of the M.Phil. in Musicology and Music Theory (code 779) from September 2011/12 for academic and resource-related reasons;
- (iv) closure of the M.Phil. in Irish Film, Music and Theatre (code 780) from September 2011/12 for academic and resource-related reasons.

CL/10-11/151 Admissions - Non-traditional Students - alternative entry routes

The Council noted a memorandum from the Admissions Officer, circulated, dated 14 April 2011 and approved three additional progression routes for under-represented students:

- (i) admittance of HEAR/DARE students into Engineering and Engineering with Management on 350+ points, provided they meet the subject requirements;
- (ii) a FETAC entry route to the Nursing and Midwifery programmes based in the following requirements.

TR091, TR093, TR095, TR097 - Nursing
TR913 - Midwifery

DCHSN Nursing Studies
DCHSX Community and Health Services
DHSXX Health Care Support

applicants must achieve Distinctions (80% or better) in at least five modules in a single sitting. Distinctions achieved must include the following modules:

D20001 Anatomy & Physiology
D20012 Introduction to Nursing
D20032 Human Growth & Development
C20006 Biology

- (iii) in April 2004, Council approved an admissions route to Trinity for mature and socio-economically disadvantaged students from a pre-university 'Liberal Arts' course delivered in three CDVEC colleges: Pearse College, Plunkett College

and Liberties College - Council approved a fourth provider - CDVEC Rathmines College which offers the same course.

CL/10-11/152 Proposed Term Dates for Bachelor in Acting (Hons) Course 2011-12

The Council noted a memorandum from the Academic Director of the Lir as circulated. The Senior Lecturer referred to a correction to the teaching schedule, noting that there will be no Reading Week in Hilary Term. The term dates were approved.

CL/10-11/153 Consolidated List of External Examiners 2011-2012

The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Senior Lecturer, circulated, dated 13 April 2011.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date