

**The University of Dublin**

**Trinity College**

**A meeting of the International Committee was held on Monday 18 May 2009 at 3.00pm in the office of the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer**

<i>Present</i>	Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (in the Chair), Registrar, Director of International Affairs, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Sciences, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Health Sciences, Academic Secretary, Dr. Claire Laudet, Cónán Ó Broin, Alexandra Murphy
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Research, Dean of Graduate Studies
<i>In attendance</i>	Chief Operating Officer; Professor G. Whyte; Dr Helen Kelly, Committee Secretary

**Section A**

**IC/00-109/001 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting of 18 May 2009 were approved with the following amendments:

- **IC/08-09/022** The teaching post in the School of Histories and Humanities is a lectureship in Indian Studies.
- **IC/08-09/023** Strategic Partnerships will be re-visited at a later committee
- **IC/08-09/026** It was noted that the establishment of a Trinity campus abroad is still under discussion and that Moscow continues to register an interest in hosting a working party from Trinity College.

**IC/09-10/002 Matters Arising:** No matters arising were noted

**IC/09-10/003 EU and Non-EU Student Intake:** In introducing the item, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that Non-EU students substantially contribute to the non-exchequer revenue stream. In presenting the student intake numbers for 2009/10, the Academic Secretary explained that at the time of running the report not all students had registered. In this regard, comparative figures for 2007/08 and 2008/09 were more reliable and demonstrated a downward trend with the exception of medicine, which continued to attract high numbers of applications. North America remained the biggest market followed by India and China, with Non-EU students accounting for approximately 3% of the overall student body.

In explaining the downward trend, the Director of International Affairs stated that the figures were expected and that other Irish institutions were either remaining stable or declining – in one case by 50 %. He pointed to the economic crisis, the fee increase and the four-year degree programme as contributing factors. The forthcoming Foundation Programme was identified as a pathway for undergraduate students and it was suggested that it may be necessary to open discussions on a three-year degree programme at Trinity College in order to remain internationally competitive. Although the postgraduate market from India and China was stronger than other markets outside of North America, the Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Sciences remarked that the overall decrease could raise questions as to the continuance of current funding levels to the International Office. The Director of International Affairs suggested that

individual members of Faculty should be appointed to oversee the recruitment of international students in an effort to increase student numbers, and pointed to the low figures in engineering as a case in point.

**ACTION:** The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer invited the Director of International Affairs to draw up a response to the data, which will be discussed at the next International Committee.

**IC/09-10/004 Update on Foundation Programme** The Director of International Affairs reported that the first round of the tender process had been completed. A total of nine applications were received; short listed to five all of which were invited to present to the nominating committee on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009. They were:

**Navitas  
Kaplan  
Study Group  
INTO  
Education Ireland**

From these five companies, Kaplan, Study Group and Navitas have been invited to submit second-phase tenders. Although not legally required, the Director of International affairs recommended that all three be invited to present to the nominating committee a second time. It is envisaged that the successful tender would commence the Foundation Programme in September 2010 with the potential to double the number of Non-EU undergraduate students. The location of the programme was still to be agreed and the royalties received from the provider would vary depending on whether it was located on campus or off site. A number of locations are currently under consideration including Foster Place, Phoenix House, Trinity Point and Pearse Street. Whilst it was expected that Student Services would be housed in Phoenix House thus limiting potential space for the Foundation Programme at this location, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer commented that no final decision had been made in this regard.

In relation to curriculum quality it was stated that the syllabus would be part of the second-phase of tendering and that once operational, a board comprising of members from TCD and UCD would oversee academic quality control. Students would be registered on the Foundation Programme and not in either TCD or UCD, and the provision of student services for the duration of the programme was still under discussion.

**ACTION:** Second-phase of tender process to be progressed before Christmas 2009

**IC/09-10/005 International Agreements** In presenting a draft document of current agreements the Director of International Affairs raised the issue of whether such agreements were serving the current international agenda and strategy. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences responded by asking how many were reciprocal. He pointed to the Schools of Business and Law where agreements were reciprocal and incur no cost to college essentially, but he suggested that more information was needed with regard to incoming and outgoing student numbers.

In addition, more information was requested in relation to current University led agreements, but it was noted that the landscape was a complex one whereby, at times, University agreements were in essence School agreements. The financial and fee waiver arrangements were also identified as complex. However, the priority was to identify and manage agreements and establish which institutions we should engage with. To this end, it was proposed that a working party be established to identify a set of criteria along the lines of the Erasmus protocol on agreements already established. This should, in turn, be linked to the development of the International Office strategic plan.

**ACTION 1.** Draft document of current agreements to be further developed including information on student traffic and academic contacts, to be presented at the next International Committee.

**ACTION 2.** A working party to be established comprising of the Registrar, Director of International Affairs, Dean of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies to establish criteria for agreements.

**IC/09-10/006 Provision of Asian Languages** The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer raised the issue of re-establishing Asian languages as part of the curriculum in order to further develop our commitment to the Indian and Chinese markets. It was noted that business Chinese and Japanese was previously offered in College, but closed due to cost constraints. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences commented that the provision of European languages was resource intensive and that it was not financially viable to offer Asian languages. Instead he suggested that an international curriculum such as that of Indian Studies in History was more desirable. The Register noted that Chinese is taught in both UCD and DIT and although any such provision in Trinity would not be cost neutral, it should be considered as part of a degree/strategic Asian programme and not as a language in isolation. Given the current dominance of Asian students in international education it was commented that such a provision may become necessary in the future.

**ACTION:** Whilst it was agreed that there was insufficient interest to progress this further currently, it should be reflected upon and be discussed in the forthcoming International Office strategic plan.

**IC/09-10/007 Perception and Awareness of Internationalisation:** The Director of International affairs presented the main findings of the market research recently conducted on behalf of the International Office. It concluded that there was limited understanding across College of the role of the International Office or indeed, of internationalisation in the more general sense. It further identified communication as an issue between the International Office and College in general.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted two points in the report: first, fragmentation, which he considered somewhat disappointing given the recent re-structuring; and second, communication. It was suggested, however, that the student experience can be fragmented in relation to the provision of student services, in particular for international students with visa and banking

issues to navigate. This could potentially be solved by the introduction of a 'one stop shop', which was welcomed by the Graduate Students' Union.

It was noted that the report was based on only 19 respondents out of a potential 36 and that insufficient reference was made to Faculty. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences suggested that the Director of International Affairs should attend Faculty meetings at least once a year in order to improve channels of communication. Commenting on the report in general, the Chief Operating Officer stated that it needed to be considered in a broader context. Dated September 2009 it was clearly compiled post restructuring and so certain points raised should be re-visited. He suggested that the International Office strategy incorporate elements of the report's findings.

**ACTION:** The Chief Operating Officer, Director of International Affairs, Student Union President and Graduate Students' Union Vice-President to convene and further assess report.

**IC/09-10/008 AOB** The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer brought to the attention of the committee the 'Scholars at Risk' programme based in New York. This identifies academics and scholars in countries where they are persecuted. He informed the committee that all institutions in Ireland had agreed to join the programme and that Trinity had offered financial assistance to bring a scholar at risk to College. Typically, target countries were in Africa or the Middle East and the programme was aimed at academic staff and not students.

**ACTION:** The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer will circulate a list of potential scholars to all Schools and to members of the International Committee

## Section B

**IC/08-09/09 Reports on Regional Initiatives** Reports were circulated to the Committee by the International Office on visits and activity in key strategic markets:

- U.S. Report by Sarah Coyle