Provost’s Council

The Provost’s Council was established in September 2016 as a network of leading global Trinity alumni and supporters to act as advisors to the Provost and the College and help shape Trinity’s future.

This Council is unique in Trinity’s 425-year history – it’s the first time that an official external group has been created to help plan Trinity’s future direction.

Trinity has always benefitted from the support of alumni and friends. We have 75 alumni branches in 33 countries around the world and the number is always growing. The bond of affection between graduates and the University is truly exceptional. In November 2013, building on this level of goodwill, the College convened the Trinity Global Graduate Forum. Over 200 graduates and friends from very diverse spheres and all leaders in their fields came together. Out of this hugely popular forum, the Provost’s Council was born.

There are currently 46 Provost Council members who have achieved exceptionally in their lives and careers and are leaders in finance, manufacturing, retail, investment, property, law, film and new ventures, and are based in Ireland, UK, France, Germany, US, Middle East and Asia. This is a truly global group, of remarkable range and versatility. The Provost, the Board and the whole College have been inspired by their commitment and enthusiasm, their readiness to share their expertise and draw on their networks to help further some of the University’s most ambitious ventures. Plans are underway to expand the membership of this group further.
The creation of the Provost’s Council is a unique, dynamic and inspirational way for Trinity to forge ahead and create opportunities out of the global and national challenges confronting higher education today...
Universities in the 21st century

The Provost’s Council is a 21st century creation addressing the current needs of higher education. We are in a period of expansion and transformation for higher education globally - the way that countries fund and position their universities is changing, and in Ireland today, as elsewhere in the world, the state alone cannot meet a leading university’s needs. Ireland has particular challenges – it boasts the youngest population in Europe and the Department of Education and Skills estimates that the demand for third level places will rise by 25% between 2011 and 2028.

Trinity must draw on its great tradition to make sure that we address these challenges and opportunities with the courage and leadership that we have shown at other crucial junctures through our history.

We need to find innovative solutions if we are to continue to meet our students’ needs and to deliver research and scholarship that make a meaningful and lasting impact on society. In Trinity we are proud of our contribution to building Ireland’s reputation in creativity, scholarship and entrepreneurship over the centuries, and we are conscious of our responsibility as Ireland’s leading university for the world.

The creation of the Provost’s Council is a unique, dynamic and inspirational way for Trinity to forge ahead and create opportunities out of the global and national challenges confronting higher education today.

The Philanthropic Campaign

The first Provost’s Council met in September 2016. This brainstorming session identified the College’s great recent successes in generating non-exchequer revenue from global relations, commercial revenue, industry collaborations, spin-outs and philanthropy. It was agreed that these activities must be accelerated to give the College the revenues it needs to compete globally.

In addition, philanthropy was identified as an area for further growth. Trinity has proven itself as a great research university, a European leader in innovation and entrepreneurship and crucial to Ireland’s growth and global standing. A strong sense emerged at this first Provost’s Council meeting that to support Trinity was also to support Ireland, and agreement was reached to prepare for the University’s first ever Philanthropic Campaign.

At the second Provost’s Council in August 2017, invaluable work was done in preparation for the launch of this Campaign in 2019, with focus on the two ‘umbrella’ areas for which philanthropy is essential: investment in staff and students through a series of transformative professorships and scholarships; and investment in major capital development and research infrastructure projects, including the Trinity St James’s Cancer Institute, the Engineering, Energy and Environment Institute (E3), the Trinity Business School, and the Library and its unique holdings.
The scale of ambition of Trinity’s first philanthropic campaign would not be possible without the support, advice and networks of the Provost’s Council. Already the benefit deriving from the Provost’s Council is tangible, concrete and impactive for the whole Trinity community. This is just the beginning. We look forward to working with the Provost’s Council on into the future.

The Provost’s Council enables the University to continue to be a leader with a determined vision and is recognition that Trinity belongs not only to current staff and students but to all those who have worked and studied and transformed themselves here, for generations past.

→ Trinity has proven itself as a great research university, a European leader in innovation and entrepreneurship and crucial to Ireland’s growth...

ALUMNI ROOM

On 10th October 2017 we opened the Alumni Room in the East Chapel. This is a dedicated space on campus for alumni to call home, a place for individuals and alumni groups to meet and relax when they visit Trinity.

The Alumni Room came about thanks to the Provost’s Council. It has been generously funded in its entirety by philanthropy. Two Provost’s Council members in particular, Fergal Naughton and Alan Dargan, deserve special thanks.

The Alumni Room is recognition of all the great work that alumni do in support of Trinity – through the Trinity Association & Trust, Trinity Women’s Graduates, Trinity Business Alumni, the Provost’s Council and other groups.

The Room has been renovated and outfitted to the highest possible standards – the furniture is exceptional and the walls are adorned with some of the college’s finest paintings. Quite simply, it is one of the most attractive rooms on campus – at once beautiful and cosy and a place you want to spend time in – and for this reason, we know it will be availed of frequently and often by Provost’s Council members and all alumni.

It’s an exceptional addition to the campus and a very concrete benefit of the work of the Provost’s Council.
To read the full publication, please click here