Undergraduate Admissions for the 21st Century

Conference in the Trinity Long Room Hub

Friday 18 May 2012

9.15 a.m. Opening Address by the Secretary General of the Department of Education, Mr. Seán Ó Foghlú.

Part I

9.25 a.m. Dr. Patrick Prendergast (Provost of Trinity College Dublin), on ‘Undergraduate Admissions for the 21st Century.’

10.00 a.m. Professor Steven Schwartz (Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University), on ‘Fair Admissions for All.’ Professor Schwartz chaired the UK’s government’s working party on fair admissions which produced a groundbreaking report in 2004. The report can be read at: www.admissions-review.org.uk/downloads/finalreport.pdf.

11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Break for tea/coffee.

11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Panel Discussion I - ‘The Challenge of Measuring Potential, Motivation, and Suitability for Course’.

Panellists: Dr. Anna Zimdars (King’s College, London)

Dr. Robert Sternberg (Provost of Oklahoma State University, and author of College Admissions for the 21st Century).

Georgina Smithwick (founder of CourseHub)

1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. Lunch in the Trinity Long Room Hub.
Part II

The afternoon panel sessions will be chaired by Dr. John Bowman (RTE).

2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.  Panel Discussion II – ‘Theory’: How we might admit students in an ideal world.
Panellists:  Professor Áine Hyland (University College Cork)

Stephen McIntyre (Twitter, and member of the Trinity Working Party on Admissions and the Curriculum)

Aengus Ó Maoláin (Union of Students in Ireland)

Brendan Tangney (Trinity College Dublin, and member of the Trinity Working Party on Admissions and the Curriculum)

3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.  Panel Discussion III - ‘Practicalities’: How this might work using existing resources.
Panellists:  Muiris O’Connor (Higher Education Authority)

Joseph O’Grady (Central Applications Office)

Lewis Purser (Irish Universities Association)

Dr. Jim Murray (Institutes of Technology Ireland)

4.00 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.  Closing remarks by Dr. Patrick Geoghegan (Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Trinity College Dublin).

4.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.  Wine reception in the Trinity Long Room Hub.

The conference will be filmed and highlights of the proceedings will be put online on the Trinity website afterwards (see www.tcd.ie/undergraduate-studies/).