UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.15 a.m. on Thursday 21st March 2013
Boardroom, Provost's House

Present:  Professor Veronica Campbell, Dean of Graduate Studies (Chair),

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Professor Martin Fellenz, School of Business
Professor Isabel Rozas, School of Chemistry
Professor Simon Wilson, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Ebrahim Al Awadi, School of Dental Science
Professor Stephen Wilmer, School of Drama, Film & Music
Professor Martine Cuypers, School of Histories & Humanities
Professor Jurgen Uhlich, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Professor Christer Gobl, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Professor John Stalker, School of Mathematics
Professor Anne-Marie Brady, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Andrew Pierce, Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics
Professor Tim Hicks, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Professor Stephanie Holt, School of Social Work and Social Policy

Mr Martin McAndrew, Graduate Students’ Union President (Ex officio)
Mr Andrew McEwan, Graduate Students’ Union Vice-President (Ex officio)
Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers’ Services (in attendance Ex officio)
Ms Lee Mills, Information System Services Representative

Apologies:  Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Professor Conor McGuckin, School of Education
Professor Sam Slote, School of English
Professor Timothy Foster, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor John Gormley, School of Medicine
Professor Anna Davies, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Lidia Tajber, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Mauro Ferreira, School of Physics

In attendance:  Ms Jennifer Hill, Graduate Studies Office, Secretary to the meeting (Ex officio)
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office

GS/12-13/29  Minutes of 21st February 2013
The minutes of the meeting of 21st February 2013 were approved by the Committee as circulated.

GS/12-13/30  Matters Arising
The Dean informed the Committee that the proposal from the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) for a validated course, Master of Music in Performance, has been approved
by the University Council and will be a M.Mus. rather than a Master in Fine Arts.

The Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education) has been sent for external review.

Following discussion about the changes to the Irish Research Council funding (GS/12-13/26) the Dean has been liaising with Schools about the structured elements of their PhD. A template has been sent for completion to 15 Schools so far and remaining Schools would be contacted over the next 2 weeks.

GS/12-13/31 Doctorate of Music in Performance

The Dean explained that this proposal is part of TCD’s continuing relationship with the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) and noted that a more recent version of the proposal has been submitted which includes some revised learning outcomes.

The Dean introduced Dr Deborah Kelleher and Dr Orla McDonagh from the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) and invited them to speak to the proposal. Dr Kelleher informed the Committee that RIAM developed Bachelor and Masters programmes in Music Performance in the 1990s and the Doctor of Music in Performance degree, previously accredited by Dublin City University, had its first intake in 2006. Previous graduates include international prize-winners and seasoned performers and academics.

The programme will comprise a combination of taught components and performance and the award is based on the completion and submission of several recitals and a written dissertation.

In answer to a query regarding exit routes it was agreed that further consideration would be given to this by RIAM together with the Dean and the proposal amended accordingly.

It was also agreed that consideration should be given to appointing an External Programme Examiner and this should be noted in the proposal.

The School of Drama, Film and Music confirmed they are enthusiastic about this development and the continuing relationship with RIAM.

The Committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to the above amendments to the proposal and any additional amendments that may be required following the external assessor’s report.

GS/12-13/32 Academic Case for Online Education

The Dean noted that at the request of the Provost a Taskforce on Online Education was established and the circulated document prepared by the Taskforce was submitted for consideration by the University Council at the meeting on 13th March 2013. The Dean summarised the four recommendations which are as follows:

- Recommendation 1: Trinity create a new annual officer position, such as an Associate Dean, to provide academic leadership to Trinity’s technology-enhanced and online education initiative.
- Recommendation 2: Trinity expand its provision of online education to include the development of new high quality online courses, with associated fee, to enable more flexible modes of course delivery and reach new markets.
- Recommendation 3: Trinity expand its provision of online education to include the development of high quality open access courses as a public good and marketing opportunity.
- Recommendation 4: Trinity consider the implementation issues that are required in order to deliver recommendations 1-3.

and suggested the DTLPGs provide the document to staff in their Schools for information. It was clarified that while there is appetite in some Schools to develop fully online courses
there is also an interest in developing new blended courses. Online courses could be a possibility to reach students who are unable to attend campus but consideration needs to be given to the Student Experience.

It was noted that in conjunction with these developments further consideration should be given to students registering for individual modules and for options to enable a student to “pay per module”. The Dean confirmed that this issue has been raised with the GeneSIS project team.

GS/12-13/33 Arrangements for Submission of Calendar Part 2 Changes for 2013/14

The Dean asked Jennifer Hill and Alexandra Anderson to update the Committee on the issuing of the Calendar Part 2 for 2012/13 and the arrangements for submission of changes for the Calendar Part 2 for 2013/14.

Jennifer Hill explained that due to extensive work required to produce revised Calendar Part 2 entries following the approval of the harmonized assessment and progression regulations by the University Council in June 2012, the production of the Calendar Part 2 for 2012/13 had been delayed. However, it is now available online and hard copies are currently being printed to be distributed in the next couple of weeks.

Alexandra Anderson informed the Committee that further work is still required to fully harmonise taught postgraduate courses and a set of guidelines will be circulated with the request for changes for the 2013/14 Calendar Part 2 to ensure that Schools are consistent with the harmonized assessment and progression regulations.

A deadline in May 2013 will be set for Schools to submit their Calendar changes but are encouraged to submit these as soon as possible to ensure that all required changes are approved by the Graduate Studies Committee at the remaining meetings, 25th April 2013 and 23rd May 2013.

GS/12-13/34 AOB

The Dean noted that an Executive Steering Group has been established with representatives from UCD and TCD to consider the extent of academic collaboration between the institutions and where further collaboration may be warranted Schools were asked to bring any suggestions for new academic collaborations between UCD and TCD to the attention of their Faculty Deans.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11am.

Prof. Veronica Campbell  Date: 28th March 2013