There will be a meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee on Thursday 20 October, 2016 at 9am, Boardroom, Provost’s House

AGENDA A

1. Minutes of GSC of 22nd September 2016
2. Matters arising
3. A new course proposal – MSc in Entrepreneurship – Prof. Paul Ryan (School of Business) to report
4. Dean of Graduate Studies’ Annual Report 2014/15
   – Dean of Graduate Studies to introduce
5. Role of External Examiners in postgraduate taught courses – TTL document dated 4 October for discussion
6. First qualified applicant admissions policy for Non EU applicants across postgraduate taught courses – for discussion (Dean of Graduate Studies to introduce)
7. Best practice in supervision of research students – for discussion (Dean of Graduate Studies to introduce)
8. Criteria for EU Fee Status: for discussion - Prof. Elizabeth Fahey-McCarthy (School of Nursing and Midwifery) to introduce
9. Any Other Business

Amended AGENDA B (for noting and approval)

B1 LLM Calendar changes 2017/18

AGENDA C (for noting)

18 October 2016
Ewa Sadowska
Trinity Teaching and Learning

Venue: Boardroom, Provost’s House, 9am-11am
Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to give a brief introduction to a few items on the Agenda for 20 October in order that the discussion can be a focused one.

1. **Role of External Examiners**

An issue which arises regularly (and especially by reference to practices in other jurisdictions) is what the proper role of an external examiner should be. In particular, should s/he act as a moderator of exam results (in effect a second marker) or should the role be more in relation to course development and more high level issues. And, of course, a further question is whether there should be any homogenisation of this issue or whether, instead, different schools should use their external examiners having regard to what they feel their role could most usefully be. I would like us to discuss this and also to get some sense of the role(s) that external examiners serve in the various different schools, disciplines and courses. To be clear, this is a reference to the role of externs on *taught* courses, and not the role of the external examiner of a research thesis such as a PhD (albeit that an extern on a taught course may end up responsible for moderating the research dissertation component of that course).

2. **Supervision**

In the last meeting we discussed the QQI white paper on research programmes (I will provide further information at the meeting). In the course of this discussion it was agreed that, at this next meeting, we would look to issues pertaining to research supervision and best practice thereof. This is in the context of the need for Trinity to have a policy on this issue and also, as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that our procedures and guidelines are what we would want them to be. So in our discussion I would like us to consider (a) whether there are elements of research supervision which we see as important for or conducive to best practice and (b) whether it would be appropriate to incorporate these elements in a particular context (for example a policy, enhanced research guidelines and so on).

3. **Admission of NON-EU PGT students**

At the last meeting we discussed the Council memo from June 29, which (A) required that a course’s quota of non-EU students be filled with ‘first qualified applicants’ and (B) said that if a school did not make a decision on a non-EU student’s file within a prescribed period, the Dean would authorise Academic Registry to make an offer to the student. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to formulate a response to this and so, in our discussion I would like us to consider what this response should be.

Thanks so much and see you on Thursday!

Neville