

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 6 November 2002 at 10.15 am in the Board Room.

Present Provost, Senior Lecturer, Registrar, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts (Humanities), Dr P C Conroy, Dr M H Adams, Dean of Arts (Letters), Dr S J Matterson, Dr N McLelland, Dr J C Stewart, Dr N Persram, Dean of Engineering and Systems Sciences, Dr J K Vij, Dr D W O'Dwyer, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr A W Kelly, Dean of Science, Dr P Coxon, Dr B Espey, Ms G E Fallon, Dr C Benson, Mr B MacSharry, Mr I Moynihan, Ms T Cox, Ms H Fychan, Dean of Dental Affairs.

Apologies Vice-Provost, Dean of Business, Economic and Social Studies, Dr M G Barry, Mr F Kieran.

In attendance Librarian, Secretary, Academic Secretary.

9/A Strategic Plan, 2002-2007 A draft of the Strategic Plan dated 23rd October 2002 had been circulated together with a covering memorandum from the Provost dated 30th October 2002. In introducing the draft plan, the Provost stated that it was the product of a very wide consultation process. Following the current round of discussions, priority actions and costings would be prepared and targets would be set together with timescales for implementation. It was noted that during the time that the strategic plan was being developed, two working parties had been established – the Academic Promotions Review Working Party and the Working Party on Teaching and Learning – and the report of the latter was on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

The Provost outlined the main sections of the report which included chapters on the Trinity tradition and its place in Ireland, the changing external context, Trinity's core commitments, strengths and weaknesses of the College and the strategic challenges posed, the key initiatives to realise our vision of Trinity, and the implementation plan. The Provost stated that the external environment was becoming very competitive at a number of levels and this, together with a much more restricted financial environment, meant that we could not assume that all our existing activities would continue as at present.

The chapter on key initiatives set out six strategic goals, as follows:

1. Provide education of the highest quality
2. Be an internationally renowned research university
3. Be a leader in society
4. Create a strong College community
5. Ensure good governance and stewardship of resources
6. Develop an infrastructure to ensure the achievement of the College's goals.

In relation to providing education of the highest quality, it was proposed in the plan that there should be a focus on benchmarking to ensure quality in all programmes and that the broad curriculum initiative should be developed and strengthened. Arising from the report of the Working Party on Teaching and Learning (see below), a Centre for Academic Practice and Student Learning (CAPSL) will be established which will co-ordinate support for a number of activities: academic practice, including teaching quality; support for student learning; and further initiatives in e-learning. In the discussion, it was acknowledged that adverse staff:student ratios are a factor in relation to improvement in teaching quality and it

was noted that a target College staff:student ratio of 1:15 had been identified in the plan. Council also recognised the importance of providing adequate training and support for academic staff, especially newly appointed staff, and the Senior Lecturer advised that it was envisaged that the Centre for Academic Practice and Student Learning would provide such support. It would also support students in their learning and in the development of learning skills. The Centre would be established by bringing together several dispersed activities in College although additional resources would be required so that it could function at an effective level of operation and fulfil its potential. In the context of a more competitive external environment, it was noted that the reducing size of the school-leaver cohort was likely to have an impact on both the entry points level of students and on the demand for courses. In relation to international developments, it was proposed in the plan that the existing International Student Affairs Office be developed into a new International Office with a wider remit and strategic approach.

In terms of being an internationally renowned research university, three actions were outlined in the strategic plan. These included the need to benchmark and improve quality in research; to revise our policy on intellectual property so that College can maximise the benefits from the outputs of research; and to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary research based on areas of individual strength. In relation to the latter, several members of Council were of the view that while the significance of interdisciplinary research and the need to establish research groups in order to attain a certain scale of operation were recognised, the commitment to supporting and developing the research of individuals who might work outside such groupings or centres should be stated. The need to provide adequate facilities and additional support structures for postgraduate students was also acknowledged by Council.

The Provost outlined the objectives associated with the goal of being a leader in society and the objectives relating to the goal to create a strong College community. Following further discussion, the Provost answered a number of questions and clarified points raised. It was agreed that any further comment should be forwarded to Ms Anne Fitzgerald, Assistant Secretary.

- 10/A Minutes** The minutes of the meeting of 9th October 2002 were approved. The minutes of the meeting of 22nd October 2002 were approved subject to the deletion of the 'Senior Tutor' from the list of those present at the meeting.
- 10/B Matters Arising from the Minutes** A number of matters arising from the minutes were discussed and have been minuted under appropriate headings hereafter.
- 10/C Chair of Theology (1980) (see Actum 8/A of 22nd October 2002)** The College Secretary advised that the offer of appointment to the Chair of Theology had been declined.
- 10/D Quality Improvement and Quality Assurance (see Actum 1/D of 9th October 2002)** The Senior Lecturer reported that the Quality Committee had considered the procedural changes that may be necessary in the departmental review process arising from the agreement to publish summary reports on the College website. The Quality Committee had recommended the following: (i) that the Faculty Dean will consult with the relevant Head of Department on matters of factual accuracy in the draft report; (ii) that the report of the external reviewers will be made available to Council; and (iii) that following approval by Council and Board, the Provost's report on the departmental review will be published on the College website. Council approved the recommendations of the Quality Committee.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

- 11/A Working Party on Teaching and Learning** The report of the Working Party on Teaching and Learning dated 30th October 2002 had been circulated. In October 2001 and at the Provost's request, Council had invited the Academic Affairs Committee to establish the Working Party on Teaching and Learning with the Senior Lecturer acting as Chair. Council had agreed that the aim of the Working Party was to review College policy and practice in relation to teaching and learning with a view to supporting high standards in teaching and enhancing the quality of students' learning experience. Its objectives were to arrive at a set of recommendations on a number of specific initiatives that might be acted upon immediately and a set of recommendations on issues that will require longer term consideration by other committees in College.

The Senior Lecturer outlined the overall structure of the report as follows:

- I. *Introduction* –the terms of reference and membership of the Working Party were set out in the introduction. It was noted that an interim report had been submitted to the Provost in April 2002 in order to inform the ongoing deliberation on the College's strategic plan.
- II. *Review of Current College Policy and Practice in relation to Teaching and Learning* – this section reviewed the statements on the Educational Objectives of the Moderatorship and the Policy on the Broad Curriculum. A questionnaire on approaches to teaching and learning had been administered and its main findings were set out in the report. The College's commitment to teaching quality and support for student learning were also articulated in this section.
- III. *The Working Party's Proposed Value Framework for the Future of Teaching and Learning in Trinity College* – the values and commitments that we aspire to enshrine in the future educational practice of the College were set out under this heading together with the Working Party's definition of teaching and learning and also a statement of the attributes of the graduate.
- IV. *Proposed Principles to Underpin the College's Learning and Teaching Strategy* – a set of principles were proposed to mark the College's renewed commitment to high quality in learning and teaching.
- V. *Barriers to Teaching Excellence and to the Provision of an Optimally Supportive Environment for Student Learning* – a number of barriers had been identified including adverse staff:student ratios, inadequate physical infrastructure to support teaching and lack of training in third-level teaching.
- VI. *A Strategy to Promote and Enhance the Quality of Teaching and Learning* – a central objective of the Working Party was to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the university and it had decided that this can best be achieved through the development of a teaching and learning strategy. This section set out nine aims of a proposed teaching and learning strategy together with actions required, identified responsibility for carrying out these actions, and targets/dates for implementation.
- VII. *Centre for Academic Practice and Student Learning* - The Working Party considered that a major enabler for the implementation of the teaching and learning strategy would be the proposed new Centre for Academic Practice and Student Learning. The Centre would provide a strong and integrated framework for supporting best academic practice and the highest quality of student learning.
- VIII. *Using Ubiquitous Computers (Laptop Computers and Wireless Networks) to Support Innovation in Teaching and Learning* - A second key enabler was the development of a wireless campus. The flexibility and communication power of 'wireless laptops' offered a means of supporting many of the innovations in teaching and learning that were recommended in the report.
- IX. *Resource Implications* - An estimate of costs associated with the proposals was outlined.

In the discussion, it was suggested that in the context of the principles articulated in section IV, there was an opportunity for College to be radical in its thinking in relation to both teaching and the linking of teaching and research. Students should be encouraged to be

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

creative and analytical thinkers and should have opportunity to learn from the research of staff. The Senior Lecturer confirmed that the intention of the document was not to be prescriptive but to encourage diversity in practice.

The Working Party proposed that the Centre for Academic Practice and Student Learning (CAPSL) should be established using existing resources although additional resources would be required to allow it to fulfil its potential. Significant resources would also be required for the wireless campus however it was proposed that the existing pilot activity might be extended.

The CAPSL would facilitate the co-ordination of various innovative activities in teaching that are currently taking place in College. It would also keep abreast of new developments in teaching and learning and disseminate information on best practice. It would be established using existing resources and there would not be duplication of activities. The Centre for Learning Technology (CLT) would be integrated fully within the CAPSL. In response to a question about e-learning materials being made available on the web, the Senior Lecturer advised that the main focus of the CLT was the provision of support to campus based learning. The Dean of Graduate Studies commented that there may be demand at the postgraduate level in terms of providing distance and off-campus courses and that he would be exploring this further. The Working Party had recognised the benefits offered by information and communications technology (ICT) as a tool to support teaching and learning and while it was proposed to maintain our existing style of education, technology would be used to enhance our activity and our commitment to face-to-face engagement with students.

The Provost commented that the proposals contained in the Working Party's report represented a major initiative in teaching and learning in College and that the proposals would be presented into a format suitable for fundraising activity.

It was agreed that the need for teaching spaces should be a priority in relation to any new building or refurbishment carried out by the College in the future.

Council approved the teaching and learning strategy as presented and also the proposals in relation to the CAPSL and the development of a wireless campus.

The Senior Lecturer proposed and it was agreed that comments on the report would be invited from the wider College community and following consideration of these comments by the Working Party, a proposal would be brought to Council on implementation of the strategy and arrangements for annual review.

On behalf of Council, the Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer and members of the Working Party for their work in preparing the report.

12/A Departmental Reviews

- (i) **Hebrew, Biblical and Theological Studies** A report from the Provost dated October 2002 had been circulated and the Provost noted that a very positive report had been received from the external reviewers. The reviewers had commended the range and calibre of the teaching offered in the School and had noted that the quality of courses was very high and that the range of courses was impressive. The reviewers recommended, however, that the School should review the coherence of its teaching programme and should address issues relating to the School's identity and vision. They commended the staff for maintaining a high profile for the School through its high quality series of evening lectures which offered an important point of contact with the wider public. In relation to research, the reviewers noted that the School had developed an international scholarly reputation and that it was evident that research of high quality is being carried out by all members of staff and that a substantial proportion of this research is of international importance. The reviewers encouraged the School to consider the introduction of a taught graduate course to

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

achieve the transition from the basic skills and knowledge of the first degree to independent research. In relation to the low entry points for admission to undergraduate courses, the reviewers make a number of suggestions regarding recruitment and marketing strategies. The Dean of Arts (Humanities) indicated that the School would require some assistance from the Admissions Office and College in this regard. The Dean also noted that it had been anticipated that an appointment to the Chair of Theology would greatly assist the School in articulating its vision for the future.

Following further discussion, Council noted and approved the following recommendations:

- (a) that the School should:
 1. Continue to build on its fine achievements in teaching and research.
 2. Address the questions raised in the Report with regard to the School's identity and the coherence of its teaching programme, culminating in the not too distant future in an appropriate change of name.
 3. Continue to explore ways of attracting more high-calibre students to the study of religion, including international students.
 4. Consider the development of a taught masters programme.
 5. Explore further the potential for teaching and research links with the Irish School of Ecumenics.
 - (b) that the Faculty should:
 1. Assist the School in reviewing the additional administrative support required by and provided to the School.
 - (c) that the College should:
 1. Seek to fill the Chair of Theology (1980).
 2. Support the School in its schools liaison and recruitment activities.
 3. Invite the Bursar to give urgent consideration to the Report's recommendations in relation to the School's accommodation and the quality of teaching space in the Arts Building.
 4. Support the School in its plans for future development once the School has clarified its identity and mission.
- (ii) **School of Irish and Celtic Languages** A report from the Provost dated October 2002 had been circulated. In introducing the report, the Provost noted that the reviewers had been very impressed with the teaching in the School. The reviewers noted that the School was different in structure to other Schools in Irish universities in that it had a single School of Irish and Celtic Languages rather than separate departments of Old/Middle and Modern Irish and the reviewers were of the view that the School was understaffed in terms of coverage of these two broad areas. They considered the School's courses to be rigorous and searching while imparting depth and variety. Furthermore, they commended the School on the constructive thinking evident in its pedagogical approach, noting that it had moved from a more traditional approach to a variety of approaches in the learning experience. In relation to research, the reviewers considered that the School's contribution in Early Irish linguistics and law, in bardic verse, autobiography and revival literature are of the highest quality and that staff publications over the past five years have included important and substantial articles in most of the Irish/Celtic refereed journals. The Dean of Arts (Letters) endorsed the comments of the reviewers regarding research in the School and noted that it was at the forefront of research in these areas. The reviewers also noted that there was scope for expanded postgraduate recruitment provided the current staffing problems could be resolved.

Council noted and approved the following recommendations:

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

- (a) that the School should:
1. Continue to maintain its high standards in teaching and research.
 2. Articulate its vision for the future of the School in the light of the forthcoming Faculty strategic planning process.
 3. Develop its strategy of extending the range of courses in the School and continue to explore innovative methods of course delivery.
 4. Develop a student recruitment strategy and actively explore ways of attracting different categories of students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
 5. Work with the Faculty and College in relation to developing plans for funding for the recommended new post in Modern Irish.
 6. Extend the existing strong reputation of the School by exploring new links in teaching and research both nationally and abroad.
- (b) that the Faculty should:
1. Facilitate and support the members of the School in securing sabbatical leave.
 2. Examine and address the needs of postgraduate students in relation to space and IT provision.
 3. Respond to the reviewers' suggestion in relation to extending collaboration with English literature and other languages.
- (c) that College should:
1. In collaboration with the School explore the funding prospects in relation to establishing a further post in Modern Irish.
 2. Examine inadequacies in current teaching and research space for departments / schools located in the Arts Building.
 3. Support and advise the School in its student recruitment strategy.
 4. Encourage the School's contribution to cross-faculty initiatives such as, for example, the possible development of a course in *Irish Studies*.

13/A Academic Appeals Committee The Council approved the recommendations of the Academic Appeals Committee from its meetings of 3, 14 and 16 October 2002. The Registrar highlighted the importance of ensuring that *Calendar* regulations are clearly stated and free of ambiguity.

13/B Junior Promotions Committee – Recommendations Council noted and approved the recommendations of the Junior Promotions Committee as tabled dated 1st November 2002 in respect of the following:

- (i) Dr Brian Espey (Physics);
- (ii) Dr Thomas Eoin O'Sullivan (Social Studies);
- (iii) Dr Linda Doyle (Electronic and Electrical Engineering).

13/C Personnel and Appointments Committee Council noted and approved the recommendations arising from the meeting held on 21st October 2002 as set out in the circulated memorandum from the Staff Secretary dated 30th October 2002.

13/D Nominations for Appointment Council noted and approved the circulated and tabled information (see Appendix 1).

13/E Chair of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery Under Other Business Council noted and approved the membership of the Search Committee for the Chair of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery as set out in the tabled memorandum from the Secretary to the College dated 4

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

November 2002. This is a joint appointment between the College, the Dublin Dental Hospital and St James's Hospital (Actum 64/B of 12 July 2002 refers).

Provost

Dean of Health Sciences

College Nominees:

Professor John Reynolds (Surgery)

Professor Ruth Byrne (Psychology)

Dublin Dental Hospital Nominees:

Professor John Clarkson (Dean of Dental Sciences)

Mr David Ryan (Senior Lecturer/Consultant in Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery)

St James's Hospital Nominees:

Dr T N Mitchell (Chairman of St James's Hospital Board)

Mr Cliff Beirne, Consultant Maxillo-Facial Surgeon

14/A Erasmus Smith's Chair of Mathematics (1762) Under Other Business Council noted and approved the external assessors for this Chair, as advised by the Secretary to the College.

14/B Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 24 September 2002.

(i) **Higher Degrees by Published Work**

LittD Vincent John Scattergood.

The Council extended its congratulations to Professor Scattergood.

(ii) **Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

PhD Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamed Abdel-Latif; Ronan Bradley; Thomas Stephen Byrne; Paul Joseph Foley; Fiona Duffy; Sarah Frances Christina Gee; Paula Thèrese Gilligan; Roman Kantor; Anouska Ann Kinahan; Sandra Michelle Lauhoff; Thomas Ciaran Loughman; Byran Anthony Martin McCabe; Edel Ann McNeela; Grainne Ni Chonghaile; Colm James O'Connell; Sile Rosarie O'Connor; Elizabeth Mary Scanlan; Cristina Solla Hach; Stefan Weber; James Warren Whitney.

PhD Political Science Mary-Clare O'Sullivan.

MSc Hilary Anne Colgan; John Keays; Lisa Kilmartin; Bernadette Mary McGowan; Finn Olaf MacLeod; Donal O'Connell; Sadhbh O'Dwyer; Timothy Savage.

MLitt Cristiano Morganti; Conor Dominic McAuliffe; Catherine Marie O Sullivan.

14/C Leave of Absence

(i) The Council noted and approved the following application recommended by Dean and Head of Department concerned on the usual basis, satisfactory proposals having been made for provision for teaching and other needs:

Irish School of Ecumenics Dr Iain Atask – Hilary term 2003.

(ii) The Council noted that Dr G Jane Farrar had deferred her request for leave of absence for 2002-3 (approved by Council on 26 June 2002, Actum 60/B).

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

15/A Visiting Academics The Council granted recognition to:

- (i) **Centre for Language and Communication Studies** Dr Canan Karababa, Ankara University – 1 November 2002 to 30 September 2003;
- (ii) **Modern History** Dr M Ó Siochrú, University of Aberdeen – 1 October 2002 to 30 September 2003;
- (iii) **Physics** Dr Percival D McCormack, University of Ulster, 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2004.

15/B Student Cases The Council noted and approved the Senior Lecturer’s request for permission for five students to repeat their Junior Freshman years, and for one student to repeat the Senior Freshman year constituting a third attempt in each case.

15/C Headship of Department The Council noted that the Board, at its meeting of 23 October 2002, approved the following appointment to headship of Department:

Pharmacology Dr M C Henman - 11 October 2002 to 12 July 2005 or until the Chair of Pharmacology is filled.

15/D Nominating Committees to approve the membership of the following committees:

- (i) **Lecturer in Health Sciences Education Research (5-year contract)**
Dean of Health Sciences
Professor John Reynolds
Professor Dermot Kelleher
Dr Mary Kelly
Mr Donal Motherway
- (ii) **Trinity College Institute for Neuroscience – Associate Director**
Professor Ian H Robertson
Dr Shane O’Mara
Dr Marina A Lynch
Professor Michael J Rowan
Mr Pierre Meulien (Director, DMMC)

Signed

Date

Appendix 1 to Actum 13/D

Nominations for Appointment – Council 6 November 2002

	Post	Name & Qualifications	Department	Start Date	Termination Date (if contract)
Clinical Medicine	Research Fellow	TEN BOKUM, Annemieke, MSc. (Wageningen, The Netherlands), Ph.D. (Erasmus, Rotterdam)		01/11/02	31/10/06
Clinical Surgery	Temporary Lecturer	RAOUF, Ali, Arif, B.Sc. (Salahhadin, Iraq),		01/10/02	30/06/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Research Fellow	JOYEAUX, Laurent, B.Sc. (Poitiers, France) MSc (Poitiers), Ph.D. (La Rochelle, France)		01/11/02	31/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	BATES, John, M.Phil (Dubl.)		07/10/02	09/05/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time (Music & Media Technologies)	HOLLY, Edward, B.Mus. (Dubl.), MA (NUI), M.Phil. (Dubl.)		07/10/02	09/05/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	CONWAY, Fionnuala, B. Mus. (NUI), M.Phil (Dubl.)		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	COSTELLO, Donnacha, B.A. (NUI)		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	CULLOTY, Gerry, B.Mus (Lond.) M. Ethno Musicology (Limerick)		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	DOYLE, Roger,		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	DRUMM, Owen, B. Sc. (Dubl.)		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	JOHNSTON, Fergus, Joseph., B.A. (Dubl.)		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	LOHAN, Natasha, B.A. (Mod) (Dubl.) M.A. (NUI)		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	McDONNELL, Maura, B.A. (NUI)		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	O'Toole, Larry, B.A. (Thames V.) Dip. Tonmeister		07/10/02	06/10/03
Electronic & Electrical Engineering	Lecturer Part-time	SIMPSON, Jurgen, M. Phil. (Dubl.)		07/10/02	06/10/03
Law	Lecturer (Part-time)	McGOWAN, Fiona, BCL (UCD), B.L. (King's Inns), Dip Accounting (DCU)		01/10/02	30/09/03

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Research Fellow	OVSEPYAN, Saak, M.Sc. (Yerevan, Armenia), Ph.D. (Sechenov Institute, St Petersburg)	To be arranged	3 years
Pharmacy	Lecturer in Community Pharmacy (part-time)	CONROY, Clare, Agnes, B.Sc. (Q.U.B.), Ph.D. (Q.U.B.), M.P.S.N.I.	01/11/02	31/10/07
Physics	Materials Scientist	KEELY, Chris, B.Sc. (NUI), Ph.D. (Dubl)	29/10/02	31/10/04
Pure & Applied Mathematics	Part-Time Lecturer	BRADLEY, Kevin G. T. B.A. (Mod) (Dubl), M.Sc. (Dubl) Ph.D. (Dubl)	01/10/02	30/09/03
Pure & Applied Mathematics	Part-Time Lecturer	FROST, Dermot, B.A. (Mod) (Dubl)	01/10/02	30/09/03
SFI Physics	Research Fellow (Part-time)	HOOVER, Rowan, Earle, B.Sc. (Sheff.), Ph.D. (Sheff.)	01/11/02	31/10/03
Surgery	Lecturer Part-time in Radiology	KEOGAN, Mary, B.A. (Mod) (Dubl) M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.P.I., F.R.C.R.	01/10/02	30/09/07