



**Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings**

**XX = Board relevance**

**Trinity College Dublin  
The University of Dublin**

**A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 8 February 2017 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.**

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Research, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor D Faas, Professor S Garrigan, Professor A Holohan, Professor J Walsh, Professor C Gardiner, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor C Comiskey, Professor J P Spiers, Professor M Clarke, Professor P Cronin, Professor A O’Gara, Mr D Whelehan, Ms A MacPherson, Mr N Cooke, Ms E Crespo.
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Students, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor J Jones, Professor S Murphy, Professor E O Nuallain, Dr S Chandra, Ms S Cameron-Coen, Ms L Killeen, Ms E Ruiz Jiménez.
<i>In attendance</i>	Academic Secretary, Secretary to the College, Librarian and College Archivist, Dr A Oldam (Director of Student Services), Ms S De Brunner.
<i>Observers</i>	Secretary to the Scholars (Mr S Johnston), Mr M Kenyon.

**SECTION A**

The Provost requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary to the College noted that Professor S Murphy had sent her apologies but if she had been present she would have declared an interest in item D.18 and withdrawn for the discussion of the item.

**CL/16-17/098 Minutes**  
The minutes of the meeting of 18 January 2017 were approved and signed.

**CL/16-17/099 Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising.

*Dr A Oldam (the Director of Student Services) joined the meeting.*

**CL/16-17/100 Provost’s Report**  
A memorandum from the Provost, dated 7 February 2017, on the Trinity Education Project was circulated. The Provost noted that the specific focus of his Provost’s Report would be on the Trinity Education Project (TEP) and, in particular, on the academic year structure and the Two Subject Moderatorship (TSM).

He referred to the soon to be concluded ballot of the Fellows on the alteration of the 2010 Consolidated Statutes to permit, as standard, examinations to occur outside Trinity Term. He noted that examinations were already occurring throughout the academic year by virtue of receiving Council derogations and that this amendment would regularise the current situation. He advised members that he and Mr Dale Whelehan, Students' Union Education Officer, met with the Fellows on 1 February 2017 to give presentations and to answer questions. A number of concerns were raised by Fellows during the discussion and the Provost agreed to bring the following proposals to Council for consideration:

- (a) That the twelfth week of each semester be an assessment or revision week. This would mean that undergraduates would not face immediately into examinations after a period of teaching. It also addresses the concern that one week may not be sufficient for timetabling end-of-semester examinations, and
- (b) that the research period is extended by,
  - (i) merging the marking week and the orientation week ahead of the first semester, and/or
  - (ii) merging the marking week with the scholarship examination week ahead of the second semester, and
  - (iii) reducing the number of marking weeks from four to three at the end of the second semester.

Concerns were also raised in relation to TSM and the vulnerability of a number of subjects under the current proposals. He noted that entry to TSM and other two-subject combinations is a very complex matter and could not be adequately reviewed as part of TEP, rather, it requires distinct treatment. In this regard, he proposed that entry to TSM, and two-subject combinations generally, be externally reviewed; he noted that the external review of the Science course (TR071) worked well. If approved, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies would be tasked with facilitating the review by consulting with relevant stakeholders to develop the terms of reference for the review and to select the external reviewers. The Provost confirmed that the decoupling relates only to entry routes; all other aspects of TEP will remain applicable.

Clarification was sought in relation to the proposed changes to the academic year structure and the effect these would have on the current ballot. The Provost confirmed that the Fellows are being balloted on the removal of restrictions to holding examinations outside Trinity Term only, therefore, the proposals before Council would not affect the subject of the current vote.

An additional suggestion was put forward, that consideration be given to holding Trinity Week after the completion of examinations in Trinity Term to avoid it falling in between the assessment/revision week and the assessment week, which would be disruptive. The Registrar confirmed that according to the 2010 Consolidated Statutes, Trinity Monday should be held on the first Monday of Trinity Term, however, if the proposed changes to the Statutes are accepted, Board will have the flexibility to move Trinity Monday, as the need arises. The tight schedule for marking supplemental examinations/assessments, registration and student appeals was highlighted.

Council was, in general, supportive of the measures proposed and further exploration of the workability of (b)(ii) and evaluating the feasibility of moving Trinity Week to fall after the formal examination week in Trinity Term.

#### **Decision/Action**

**100.1:** Council approved the designation of the current twelfth teaching week in Michaelmas and Hilary terms for revision/assessments rather than for teaching.

**100.2:** Council approved merging the marking week and the orientation week ahead of the first semester.

**100.3:** Council approved reducing the number of marking weeks from four to three at the end of the second semester.

**100.4:** Council approved the further exploration of the feasibility of merging the marking week with the scholarship examination week ahead of the second semester and the possibility of moving Trinity Week to after the assessment week in Trinity Term.

**100.5:** Council approved the decoupling of entry routes for admission to TSM and other two subject combinations from TEP and, instead, agreed that an external review panel should be convened to examine this matter and develop recommendations.

**100.6:** The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to consult with the relevant schools to formulate the terms of reference for the external review and in the selection of the external review panel members.

*The Dean of Graduate Studies joined the meeting.*

**CL/16-17/101 Proposed New Method for Strategic Hires – Revised Version**

**XX**

The Provost welcomed the Dean of Research and the Deputy Director of Human Resources to the meeting, noting that the Director of Human Resources was unavailable.

A memorandum from the Dean of Research and the Director of Human Resources, dated 3 February 2017, was circulated. Two versions were circulated, one showing the amendments since the last meeting of Council via tracked-changes and the other, a clean copy with all changes fully incorporated. Speaking to the item, the Dean of Research noted that since 2000, Trinity had made seven strategic hires. In all cases, the successful candidates have performed significantly above the norms in their respective fields in terms of research outputs, research impact, research teams, collaboration and external funding. In addition, as with other academics, they maintain teaching loads. He referred to the impact of losing two particular candidates of this calibre under a previous recruitment round and noted that Trinity was unable to draw down €14 million in research funding as a result, in addition to the loss of potential future income associated with their research.

The Dean of Research highlighted the following significant changes to the document since the last meetings of Council and Board:

- The removal of references to established vacant chairs. The new approach will only apply to appointments concerning personal chairs.
- The level of remuneration, if above the top of the professorial scale, will be considered by the Sub-Committee on Remuneration and will be linked to expected performance. The appointees will be reviewed on this basis every three years.
- Clarification that strategic appointees will undertake all normal academic duties, including teaching duties and activities falling under service to the University.
- Clarification that dual recruitment will only be considered in cases where there is a clear fit with both schools and where the profile of the partner meets Trinity's standards for academic appointments.

Responding to questions, the Dean of Research confirmed that schools will be integral to the process especially in terms of putting forward recommendations for appointment. In this regard, schools should expand their vision and be ambitious in terms of their recommendations. He also confirmed that a process would be put in place around the recruitment of partners to ensure that Trinity can stand over the integrity of all appointments. As an aside, he noted that in most cases the partner will be a high quality candidate working in an institution with a ranking equal to or higher than Trinity's. He noted that such appointments would have to be handled on a case-by-case basis in discussion with the intended home school. The Provost confirmed that any such appointee would have to meet the standards required by Trinity and that no academic unit would be disadvantaged by having to accept an unsuitable candidate. He added that each situation would have to be considered on its own merits.

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On the topic of funding posts, the Dean of Research noted that this is not always a straightforward matter. The Science Foundation Ireland, for example, will pay for set-up costs but not salaries, therefore, some exchequer funding may have to be used. The Deputy Director of Human Resources confirmed that Trinity is allowed to award salaries of up to €185,000 under the departures framework.

**Decision/Action**

**101.1:** Council approved the revised proposal concerning a new method for strategic hires, as circulated.

*The Dean of Research and the Deputy Director of Human Resources left the meeting.*

**CL/16-17/102 Trinity Education Project – Assessment**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer spoke to this item by way of a presentation. He referred to the graduate attributes and the previously approved assessment tenets noting that assessment in Trinity will:

- Support the acquisition of the graduate attributes
- Support learning
- Be programme focussed
- Support meta-learning
- Actively engage students and staff

In terms of adopting a programme focus, course owners are encouraged to carry out an assessment mapping exercise to consider the distribution of assessments within and across course years; to identify gaps, overlaps and the potential for over-assessment; to consider the range of assessment tasks set. Moving away from the dominance of the examination should not mean that assessment tasks will increase overall, rather there is an opportunity to think more strategically and holistically about assessment to ensure that it meaningfully forms part of the learning process.

He referred to the Trinity Education Fellows who are currently gathering information about innovative assessment practices. These practices need to be shared and in this regard, CAPSL in conjunction with the Trinity Education Fellows, are to host a number of events, taking place between the end of February to May, to allow for the exchange of ideas and information on different facets of this topic. A number of formats will be used for these events including workshops, seminars and discussion and reading groups. The events will be accompanied by teaching and learning resources to form elements of toolkits on particular areas, for example, the capstone project. In addition to these events, it will be possible to host bespoke events for individual schools.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred to recent presentations given by representatives of the Schools of Law and Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences to the Undergraduate Studies Committee on the topic of assessment and noted that it is another useful forum for sharing ideas and information.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for updating Council on this topic.

**CL/16-17/103 Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no other business.

**SECTION B****CL/16-17/104 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew the attention of Council to the item concerning the discontinuation of the Comparative Biology moderatorship in Science TR071 (USC/16-17/031) and the appended related documentation. Council approved the draft minutes of the meeting of 17 January 2017 and the discontinuation of the Comparative Biology moderatorship option, noting that there will be no new Junior Sophister cohort from 2017/18 onwards.

In relation to USC/16-17/030 the Provost queried if the Careers Advisory Report 2015/16 and First Destination Statistics should be presented to Council. The Academic Secretary advised that the statistics gathered, while useful, are quite rudimentary and that the Higher Education Authority is currently working with the sector to try to improve the level of responses and the data collected.

**Decision/Action**

**104.1:** The Provost, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Academic Secretary to discuss the usefulness of presenting this data to Council.

**CL/16-17/105 International Committee**

The Vice-President for Global Relations highlighted the discussion on the Department of Education and Skills' new *International Education Strategy for Ireland: 2016-2020* and noted that international postgraduate students will be permitted to stay in Ireland for two years following the completion of their programme of study. The draft minutes of the meeting of 13 October 2016 were noted and approved.

**CL/16-17/106 Student Life Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2016 were noted and approved.

**SECTION C****CL/16-17/107 Burkitt Medal Selection Committee 2017**

The Council noted and approved the Memorandum from the Provost, circulated, dated 26 January 2017.

**CL/16-17/108 Consolidated List of Teaching Assistants and Assistant Examiners including Demonstrators for 2016/2017**

The Council noted the Memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, circulated, dated 1 February 2017.

**CL/16-17/109 Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, circulated, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 18 January 2017 and noted by Board on 25 January 2017.

**(i) Higher Degrees by Research Alone****MD**

Niamh Marie-Therese Mulryan; Alida Fe Talento.

**PhD**

Rachael Ainsworth; Nilufer Akcay; Aideen Allen; Burcu Baykan; Donata-Katharina Brunelli; Danielle Clancy; Lydia Dyck; Emma Farrell; Conor Fearon; David Gibney; Miriam Haar; Nuha Ibrahim; Mark Anthony Kearns; Eric Kelleher; Deirdre Maria Kelly; John Francis Lawlor; Alexandros Lazaris; John Martin Leech; Guibing Li; Yue Lu; Amy Lynch; Stuart MacLennan; Vincent Patrick Mc Darby; Craig McEntee; Rogelio Jr. Mercado; Ben Joseph Molloy; Julia Murphy; Sadhbh O'Neill; Michael O'Sullivan; Katherine Sanborn; Nitheen Kaperi Sanyal; Laura Uelze; Aidan Walsh.

**MSc**

Aine Elizabeth Coe; Anthony Cooney; Róisín Clare McCormack.

**CL/16-17/110 Head of School**

The Council noted that the Board at its meeting of 25 January 2017 had approved the extension of Professor Paul Browne as Head of School of Medicine until 30 April 2017.

**CL/16-17/111 Membership of Senior Academic Promotions Committee**

The Council noted and approved the Memorandum from the Acting Secretary, Senior Academic Promotions Committee, circulated, dated 3 February 2017.

**SECTION D**

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts this information is restricted.

Signed .....

Date .....