A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

Present

Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Research, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Dean of Students, Vice-President for Global Relations, Professor D. Murchan, Professor S. Alyn Stacey, Professor P. Wyse Jackson, Professor C. Gardiner, Professor A.M. Brady, Professor M. Corry, Professor C. Kelly, Prof. S. Murphy, Professor D. Shepherd, Professor M. Clarke, Ms. S. Cameron-Coen, Ms. A. Connolly, Professor R.A. Kenny, Professor A. Long, Ms. S.A. McCarthy, Mr. G. Falia.

Apologies

Dean of Health Sciences, Mr. R. Carey, Ms. N. Hussaini, Mr. S. Murray, Prof. E.O. Nualláin, Dr. S. Kerr, Ms. S. Donnelly, Ms. F. Ni Ghrálaigh

In attendance

Academic Secretary, Secretary to the College, Librarian and College Archivist, Director of Student Services, Assistant Academic Secretary

SECTION A

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that no statements of interest were received in relation to the agenda items.

CL/18-19/135 Minutes

An amendment was proposed under CL/18-19/115, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence on page 5. The member clarified that surprise was expressed in relation to the absence of a module on any language.

The minutes of the meeting of 13 February 2019 were approved with the amended wording and signed.

CL/18-19/136 Matters Arising

(i) M.Phil. in Identities and Cultures of Europe (CL/18-19/115.ii.2)

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised Council that he had raised Council’s concern relating to the absence of a module on Irish language and culture from the course with the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. The School indicated that this is under consideration at present and may be a feature of the course in the future. The Dean of Graduate Studies added that the External Reviewer had not raised this as an issue and the course had received a very positive review.

The Provost acknowledged the concern relating to the absence of a module on Irish language and culture from the course.
**Action:**  
**CL/18-19/136:i.1:** The Dean of Graduate Studies to advise the Course Director of Council’s concern on the absence of any language and culture module from the course.

(ii) **Quality Review of the School of Creative Arts (CL/18-19/114)**  
The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that the recommendations presented in the Review Report are being progressed.

(iii) **Admissions Feasibility Study (CL/18-19/117)**  
The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred Council to its decision to defer a decision on the future of the Admissions Feasibility Study to a subsequent meeting. He advised that the logistics involved in expanding the Study were being explored at present and that he will report back to Council at the next meeting.

(iv) **Creating Opportunities for Students in Direct Provision (CL/18-19/093)**  
The Registrar referred Council to the decision to establish a small working group to make recommendations on supporting potential students in Direct Provision to attend courses in Trinity (CL/18-19/093.1). She advised that three meetings of the working group had been held to date, and the plan is to bring a proposal to the next meeting of Council.

Professor Rose-Anne Kenny joined the meeting.

**CL/18-19/137**  
**Provost’s Report**

(i) The Provost updated Council on Trinity’s Philanthropic Campaign. In 2019 Trinity will launch its first ever philanthropic campaign. The focus of the Campaign is on two main areas: investment in staff and students, and investment in major capital development and research infrastructure projects, including the Trinity St James’s Cancer Institute, E3 Institute, the Trinity Business School, and the Library and its unique collections. Two Town Halls held to date have been well attended and a third Town Hall will be held in St. James’s Hospital shortly.

The Provost advised that a business plan for the Trinity St. James’ Cancer Institute will be received by the end of May. The business plan will be brought forward to the Trinity Board and the Board of St. James’s Hospital for approval.

The Provost updated Council on developments relating to E3 and advised that funding is now available for the Learning Foundry to be a separate project outside of E3. The vision and business plan for the E3 Institute is being developed by a Leadership committee and a number of working groups have been established to progress the work.

There are four phases to be developed as part of the Trinity Technology & Enterprise Campus (TTEC). The steering committee subgroup, consisting of executive officers, meets weekly to progress the development of a business case for the Campus.

The Provost advised Council that work is progressing on the Library project. The project involves the refurbishment of the Old Library, the Trinity Visitor Experience, and the new research study centre.

An Advisory Group has been convened to progress the development of the new Law School building. A site close to the Samuel Beckett Centre has been assigned for the

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The Provost invited the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer to present the CAO Preliminary Application Statistics 2019 to Council.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that the Statistics presented are preliminary and subject to change, however the data from CAO can provide useful information on first preference applications. He highlighted that the total number of applications to CAO for 2019 were up by 0.49% from 2018 and that while there are declines in Group B (A Level) and Group C (Non Standard) applications that this tends to be the case when the economy is performing well. Brexit presents a challenge for Trinity and applications from Northern Ireland (NI) and the UK have dropped by 23%. However, applications from EU countries have increased. He acknowledged that at present NI and UK students will be treated as EU students from a funding perspective, however this announcement from the Department of Education and Skills was quite late, and may not have been widely known at the time of CAO application.

The Provost observed that UCD has a higher rate of first preferences than Trinity and wondered if the reasons for this were known. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that UCD has more places available and the growth in first preference applications to UCD in recent years is beginning to level off. The Dean of Students cautioned against heralding first preferences, as it could be perceived that Trinity is too difficult to access and deter good applicants from applying.

It was observed that increases in applications for disciplines such as Engineering and Computer Science may be related to development plans in these areas such as the E3 development. This is also the case for Global Business with an increase of 38.10% in first preference applications.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that while first preference applications for Law have remained steady they have decreased by 10.60% for Medicine. The decrease in first preference applications for Medicine is not concerning due to the number of applications (760) versus available places (quota – 121).

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer drew Council’s attention to modern languages. Modern languages have a new method of entry and all modern languages have pooled their quotas. He explained the new method of entry for applicants choosing a modern language with another subject such as history, and with another language. The only students applying directly to a language are those studying two languages.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that Trinity should not be afraid of taking risks, as the data from CAO suggests that despite making significant changes to its undergraduate programme offerings Trinity has continued to experience an excess of first preference applications over quota. Trinity therefore, has the capacity to accommodate change. Despite Joint Honors replacing TSM in 2019 applications have fallen by just under 8%, this is an improvement on the previous year (-13.07%). Geography and History, both offered as joint honors, have experienced significant growth whereas Sociology has experienced a significant decrease (32.22% decrease in 2019 versus a 9.9% decrease in 2018). This decrease will need to be monitored over the coming years.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for his presentation and invited comments.

Observations on downward trends were highlighted by a number of members. Concern was expressed that as first preferences for two languages had not exceeded quota, there may be

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implications for M.Phil. programmes in the future. It would be important that students have the opportunity to continue their studies and progress to research programmes. Human health and disease also experienced a decrease in first preference applications and there was a discussion on the possible reasons for this. It was noted that the biological and biomedical sciences stream may be competing with human health and disease and the situation would need to be monitored over the coming years. The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science advised that it may be possible to bring human health and disease into the TR060 stream (biological and biomedical sciences) at some stage, however, he recommended examining trends over a five-year period.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for his presentation and highlighted that while considerable changes have been made to programme offerings there is a stability and robustness in the system. He also remarked that it is good to see a positive growth in applications for modern languages.

**Postgraduate Course Proposal (M.Sc. in Genomic Medicine)**

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the postgraduate course proposal (M.Sc. in Genomic Medicine) to Council for approval.

The M.Sc. in Genomic Medicine proposed by the School of Medicine (lead school) in collaboration with the School of Genetics and Microbiology, leads to a National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) level 9 major award. It is a 90 ECT programme consisting of 60 ECTS of taught and self-directed learning and 30 ECTS as an original research project. The course proposed by the School of Medicine is a one-year full-time/two-year part-time programme and may attract non-EU students. The aim of the course is to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and competence to generate, evaluate and apply genomic data. The course received a very positive external review, and if approved will commence in September 2019.

**Decision**

**CL/18-19/140.1:** Council approved the proposal for a course in Genomic Medicine leading to an M.Sc. in Genomic Medicine with a first intake in 2019/20.

**Undergraduate Course Proposals**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented Council with three undergraduate course proposals for approval:

(i) Proposal for a single honors programme in the History of Art and Architecture

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the proposal for a new single honors programme in the History of Art and Architecture from the School of Histories and Humanities. The proposed full-time course will commence in September 2020 and places will be offered to 10 EU and 3 non-EU applicants. The quality review (March 2017) of the School of Histories and Humanities recommended the establishment of a single honors programme in History of Art and Architecture, the only programme of its kind in Ireland. The introduction of a new curriculum, which will be shared in part with joint honors students, is also necessary to accommodate the new fixed timetable and TEP compliance. The programme aligns with the College Strategic Plan and the module ‘The Practice of the History of Art’ facilitates internships and work placements both in Ireland and abroad.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised, in response to a query, that the joint honors offering will continue and that he was not aware if students were consulted. He highlighted, however, that Universities in the UK tend to take a similar approach and that there is a high demand for the subject. He further clarified that there are 30 new credits and that the capstone will also be a feature of the single honors programme.
A member referred to page 12 of the course proposal and sought clarification on the staffing and resourcing of the new programme. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Science advised that while the department offering the programme is small there should be no implications for junior and senior members of staff, as there is a staffing plan in place. This plan is in the early stages of discussion. The Provost emphasised that new courses should only be introduced if there is sufficient staff available to support them. He highlighted the substantial resource commitment of a single honors programme and asked if the resourcing of the programme had been raised at USC. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that the USC does not discuss resources and is concerned only with the academic quality of the programme. A member drew Council’s attention to the resourcing information in the document and noted that there is provision for additional staffing resources in years 3 and 4. The Provost recommended that the USC consider the resources available to a new programme as part of the approval process.

(ii) Proposal for a new moderatorship option in Chemistry with Biosciences

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented a proposal for a Chemistry with Biosciences as a new moderatorship option within Chemical Sciences (TR061). The new moderatorship will not entail a new CAO entry route and European applicants will apply through TR061 Chemical Sciences. The quota for the proposed moderatorship to commence in 2020 is 5 EU and 5 non-EU students. The moderatorship will be very attractive to non-EU students and has been designed to reflect student interest in Chemistry and Biology. There are no staffing implications as this is a restructuring of existing modules. The external review was very positive.

A member noted that core modules are not offered in biology in Junior and Senior Fresh and Junior Sophister years, and that approved modules, which are optional, consist of biology modules. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies clarified that approved modules can be mandatory and stated that his understanding is that the Capstone can be in one or both subjects.

The issue of adequate staffing was raised and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies confirmed that there are no staffing implications. He acknowledged that there would be a slight increase in workload for existing staff due to an increase in the number of assignments to be marked. The Dean of Health Sciences highlighted that a plan is in place for an increase in student numbers as part of the School’s strategy. The new moderatorship is a very attractive prospect for international students.

The importance of students understanding the implications of their approved module choices in first year was emphasised. Current practice within Science is for students to research their options when making decisions of this nature.

Professor Rose-Anne Kenny left the meeting.

(iii) Articulation Agreement, School of Engineering/UM-SJTU Joint Institute

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies introduced the proposal for an articulation programme between Trinity and University of Michigan – Shanghai Jiao Tong University Joint Institute (UM-SJTU Joint Institute). The proposal is for a programme that will involve students completing three years of study at the UM-SJTU JI followed by two years of study in the Trinity Engineering programme, and includes a summer semester at their home University between years 4 and 5.

Entry is proposed for September 2019. Successful completion of the five years will lead to the award of MAI. Students who do not meet the 60% progression requirements in the first sitting of the year 4 examinations will not be eligible to progress to the MAI year, and will not

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Students may return to UM-SJTU JI to complete the requirements of the B.Sc.

**Decisions**

**CL/18-19/141.i.1:** Council approved the proposal for a single honors programme in the History of Art and Architecture leading to a B.A. in the History of Art and Architecture with a first intake in September 2020/21.

**CL/18-19/141.ii.1:** Council approved the Chemistry with Biosciences as a new Moderatorship option in Chemical Sciences (TR061) with a first intake in September 2020/21.

**CL/18-19/141.iii.1:** Council approved the Engineering/UM-SJTU Joint Institute Articulation Route with entry to be available from September 2019.

**CL/18-19/141.iv.1:** Council agreed that resources for new courses should be considered by the relevant committees of Council in future.

**Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no other urgent business.

**SECTION B**

**CL/18-19/143** Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that agenda items 4 and 7 had addressed the two areas for consideration by Council. Approval is sought from Council for the name change from the moderatorship in Plant Sciences to the moderatorship in Botany for students entering Junior Sophister year of TR071.

The minutes of the meeting of 19 February 2019 were noted and approved.

**Decision:**

**CL/18-19/143.1:** Council noted and approved the name change from moderatorship in Plant Sciences to moderatorship in Botany, for students entering their Junior Sophister year of TR071 in 2019/20 (USC/18-19/055).

**CL/18-19/144** Graduate Studies Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the 28 February 2019 were noted and approved.

**CL/18-19/145** Research Committee

The Dean of Research drew Council's attention to the discussion on GDPR and research (RS/18-19/12) recorded in the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of the 22 January 2019 were noted and approved.

**CL/18-19/146** International Committee

The Vice-President of Global Relations commended the Director of Student Services for her excellent work on compiling data on international students, and noted the possibility of international students applying for modules prior to arrival.

The minutes of the meeting of the 11 February 2019 were noted and approved.

**CL/18-19/147** Student Life Committee

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The Dean of Students highlighted a benchmarking exercise that was undertaken in relation to student accommodation provided in the UK and US.

The minutes of the meeting of the 15 January 2019 were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/18-19/148 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 13 February 2019 and noted by Board on 27 February 2019.

(i) Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone

M.D. Anne Noelle Maria McGowan

(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

Ph.D. Anna Aletti; Bianca Battilocchi; Vanessa Zaiatz Bittencourt; Megan Canavan; Maria Corrigan; Kieran Dee; Orna Farrell; Órla Gilheaney; Cian James Glenfield; Emer Hackett; Neasa Hardiman; James Thomas Anthony Hussey; Adam Kelly; Laura Kennedy; Vanessa Koch; Anne Marie Liddy; Jane Maher; Adriana Maria Magherusan; Kate McCarthy; Colín McElroy; Alexandra Murphy; Colin O’Callaghan; Emma Bernadette O’Connor; Sorcha O’Keeffe; Maeve O’Neill; Chloe Michelle O’Reilly; Ciaran O’Rourke; Gary John O’Sullivan; Carole Quigley; Devon Michelle Ramey; Ashling Ryan-Mangan; James Scanlon; Zeyan Zhao.

M.Sc. James Henry Glass

M.Litt. John Fitzsimons

CL/18-19/149 Nomination of External Examiner

The Council noted and approved the memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, circulated, dated 11 March 2019.

CL/18-19/150 Nomination of Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Breffni O’Rourke as Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences.

CL/18-19/151 Nomination of School Directors of Global Relations

The Council noted and approved the nomination of the following as School Directors of Global Relations:

Professor Elaine Moriarty, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy;
Professor Sinead Roden, School of Business.

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SECTION D

In accordance with the Data Protection Acts, this information is restricted.

Signed ...................................................

Date .....................................................

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