

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 10 April 2019 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Health Sciences, 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 A.M. Brady, Professor M. Corry, Prof. S. Murphy, , Professor M. Clarke, Ms. S. Cameron-Coen, Ms. A. Connolly, Professor R.A. Kenny, Ms. S.A. McCarthy, Mr. R.Carey, Ms. N. Hussaini, Ms. S. Donnelly .
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Research, Professor D. Shepherd, Mr. G. Falia, Mr. S. Murray, Professor C. Gardiner, Prof. E.O. Nualláin, Professor C. Kelly, Dr. S. Kerr, Professor A. Long, Ms. F. Ní Ghrálaigh.
<i>In attendance</i>	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 and requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary noted that a member of Council (Professor M. McCarron) declared interest in item D.18, as Professor M. McCarron is recommended for accelerated advancement. It was agreed that Professor M. McCarron would leave the meeting for the discussion of this item.

CL/18-19/155 Minutes

An inaccuracy was reported under CL/18-19/139 on page 7 of the minutes regarding the attribution of a comment on 'examining trends over a five-year period' to the Dean of Health Sciences instead of the Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science.

The Provost reported an inaccuracy relating to CL/18-19/137, item (vi) on page 3. The reference to the University of Beirut is incorrect, and should read 'the American University of Beirut'.

The minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2019 were approved with the amended wording and signed.

CL/18-19/156 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CL/18-19/157 Provost's Report

The Provost advised that as he gave an extensive report at the last meeting he would not provide a report at this meeting.

CL/18-19/158 Trinity Admissions Feasibility Study

The Provost invited the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to provide an update relating to the Trinity Admissions Feasibility Study (TAFS).

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred Council to its decision to defer a decision (CL/18-19/117) on the future of TAFS until an exploration of the logistics involved in expanding the Study had been undertaken.

Since the February Council meeting, information had been sought from the Central Applications Office (CAO), the State Examinations Commission, the College Solicitor, and the College Admissions Officer. Responses from these parties highlighted a number of logistical issues that may arise in the event of mainstreaming or expanding the mechanism, namely:

1. The comparator group for calculation of the Relative Performance Rank (RPR) is based on the exam centre in which a student sits the Leaving Certificate examination, rather than the secondary school that the student attended. Many students who attend grind schools, for their final year or even a repeat year, for example, choose to sit their examinations in a local school. This would change the comparator group and could thereby change the RPR scores. The system is thus open to some degree of gaming.
2. Administering the TAFS admission mechanism requires manual intervention by the College Admissions Office. This is quite labour- and time-intensive, and scales linearly with the number of students involved. There is no obvious way to automate the process and no increase in efficiency with scale. The admissions process is especially time-sensitive and delays cause serious problems that ramify through the system, delaying the offering of places to all students.
3. Requests for re-checks may further complicate matters. They could change not just a student's grades and CAO points but also their relative rank and RPR score. In addition, every change to one student's RPR score will also change that of their peers who may also be applying through this mechanism.
4. There is the potential for legal challenge, based on the fact that this mechanism can only practically be applied to students who have sat the Irish Leaving Certificate, thus disadvantaging students from other EU jurisdictions. Legal advice on this issue suggests it is not insurmountable – it is possible to have an indirect discriminatory mechanism, if it is justified to address some other inequality, and if the mechanism used is reasonable and proportionate. The advice suggested, however, that the data collected so far on TAFS might not be enough to be convincing on these points.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that it is important to consider alternative schemes already in operation, and wider developments across the sector addressing the same issue. Such alternative schemes consist of the Higher Education Access Route and Disability Access Route to Education schemes, additional access routes from further education to Trinity courses, and mature student entry. The Widening Participation Group (WPG), a subcommittee of USC has been established, and held its first meeting on the 1 April 2019. The WPG is tasked with examining Trinity's strategy for widening participation from under-represented groups, improving coordination of existing schemes, and improving data gathering systems. The Irish Universities Association (IUA) Task Group on Reform of

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

University Selection and Entry (TGRUSE) will re-convene for the academic year 2019-20, and will explore administrative processes in the sector in the context of Senior Cycle reform. These developments should be taken into consideration in reaching a decision on the future of TAFS.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented five proposals as a course of action.

1. Renew the TAFS mechanism as a continuing feasibility study for an additional two-year period in order to collect additional data and maintain the important social statement that Trinity is committed to exploring alternative mechanisms of entry.
2. Explore whether the mechanism could be extended on a limited scale to one or two professional courses, where there would be a positive societal impact on the professions by having more socially diverse practitioners in the field.
3. Publish a report to disseminate the findings of the TAFS to the education sector and relevant stakeholders, nationally and internationally.
4. Continue to explore additional alternative mechanisms through the Widening Participation Group and the Irish Universities Association (IUA) Task Group on Reform of University Selection and Entry (TGRUSE).
5. Pursue a strategic objective in the 2019-24 College Strategic Plan to introduce an undergraduate admissions mechanism that removes the emphasis on 'points', provides greater new entrant diversity and a more equitable distribution of places across a broader social and geographical backdrop.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies for his report and invited questions and comments.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies was thanked for taking on board the discussions of Council relating to TAFS at previous meetings and for bringing forward the proposal for consideration. It was acknowledged that continuing the study for another two-years in order to gather additional data would be useful. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that it is timely for Trinity to be exploring alternative admission routes, as the IUA TGRUSE has reconvened and that the sector is engaging in similar discussions in the context of the Leaving Certificate and University admissions. In response to the concern that students may gain an advantage if they attend a 'grid' school and then sit their examination in a local examination centre, a member advised that school principals would be able to control this.

A member expressed surprise that 24% of new entrants to Trinity were through alternative admission routes. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that Trinity is on track to achieving the Trinity Strategic Plan goal of 25%, and that Trinity is widening participation and achieving a greater diversity in the student population.

The Provost commended the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Academic Secretary and others involved in putting forward the proposal, and noted that Trinity is conducting a national experiment by employing alternative entry mechanisms. He indicated that it would be useful for the study and its outcomes to be written up and published in an academic journal.

Decision:

CL/18-19/158.1: Council approved the proposals and continuation of TAFS for a further two-year period.

CL/18-19/159 **Creating Opportunities for those in Direct Provision**

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

This item was taken before item 5 on the Agenda, Trinity Education Project: Capstone-Definition and Criteria, CL/18-19/160, due to the meeting running ahead of schedule.

The Registrar referred Council to its approval of a project to address the injustice of students in Direct Provision who have sat the Irish Leaving Certificate examination and who are unable to take up CAO offers of places in Trinity due to being classified as non-EU students, and therefore subject to non-EU fees (CL/18-19/093). These students are not entitled to financial supports.

In her presentation the Registrar highlighted that the Direct Provision working group's membership and remit was approved by Council on the 13 February 2019 (CL/18-19/111.ii.1). The working group was tasked with bringing a proposal to Council on how prospective students in Direct Provision could be supported to take-up CAO offer of places at Trinity. A proposal to accommodate the entry of four students from Direct Provision Centres, within Dublin and commutable distance, annually across faculties commencing in 19/20 has been developed by the working group.

The Registrar highlighted that the proposal involves a collaborate response and supports by many across the College community including, each faculty, TAP, the Senior Tutor's hardship fund, the Students' Union and College Catering. A number of measures will be put in place to support the entry of four students annually. These measures involve the provision of support by the Senior Tutor's Office, the Tutorial system and the Trinity Access Programme (TAP); and the availability of Student Counselling and Health facilities to cater for the potential specific needs of the students.

The Registrar presented the funding plan for scholarships which will cost €6,500 per student over the four years. Scholarships will consist of an annual stipend of €1,500 and a laptop. A number of conditions will be associated with scholarship eligibility and these include that the student is attending University for the first time and is not eligible for State support. Funds will be raised by Trinity Development and Alumni, and funding has already been secured for first entrants for two years. Regarding fee income, no fees will be charged as the Faculty taking in the students (no more than two per faculty) will forgo the fee income. A new sponsor code has been generated called Asylum Seeker Access Provision (ASAP) and no fees will be applied to students' accounts, which is similar to the approach used for Erasmus and exchange students.

The Registrar advised that it would not be possible for students who are asylum seekers to fulfil entry requirements of a number of courses due to the need for Garda vetting, and compulsory study-abroad components. These courses are mainly offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences, though some are also offered by the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Registrar explained that the application process and selection criteria, which include the completion of a scholarship application form and the provision of supporting documentation by the 5 July 2019. Students from eligible Direct Provision Centres offered places through the CAO and who have the highest CAO points will be offered scholarships. Remaining scholarships will be offered to the next ranking student or to students across faculties. Final offers of support to four students will be made mid-August after the first round of CAO offers. A communications campaign, which will commence on the 26 April, will be organised through the Irish Refugee Council and will also involve targeting eligible Direct Provision Centres.

The Registrar stated that the initiative will be reviewed during the first academic year, and in advance of the scholarships process to facilitate the implementation of recommendations prior to the 2020/21 intake.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The Provost thanked the Registrar for her presentation and invited comments and questions.

The initiative was welcomed and cited as an excellent example of civic engagement. The Registrar, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and members of the working group were commended for progressing the initiative in such a short space of time. In a response to a query the Registrar explained that the provision of scholarships to support pathways to higher education is one of the criteria for recognition as a University of Sanctuary, which is something Trinity could progress in the future.

The Dean of Health Sciences expressed her disappointment that the Faculty is unable to facilitate the participation of students in Direct Provision Centres in programmes offered by the Faculty due to these students being unable to meet the necessary Garda vetting requirements.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer applauded the Registrar and all those involved in progressing the work, and provided an update on forthcoming changes in Government policy discussed at a recent meeting of the IUA Registrars in April 2019. It is likely that persons with official 'leave to remain' status will be entitled to benefit from a range of State supports, including the eligibility of Student Universal Support Ireland grants on the same basis of other Irish/EU students and 'free fees'. Prospective students eligible for these supports will need to have been resident in the State for three out of the last five years. He highlighted that Trinity through its efforts is adding value, especially through the inclusion of additional supports in this initiative. A member noted the importance of continued lobbying for change within the political system and by refusing to accept the non-EU status of students who are asylum seekers, Trinity is sending a strong statement to policy makers.

The Provost commended the Registrar, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and all involved in undertaking the work and thanked the Registrar for her presentation.

Decision:

CL/18-19/159.1: Council approved the proposal to support the entry of students who are asylum seekers and who meet the criteria set out for entry to Trinity under ASAP.

CL/18-19/160 Trinity Education Project: Capstone Project – Definition and Criteria

The Provost welcomed the Associate Dean of Research, Professor Andrew Bowie and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education, Dr. Áine Kelly.

The Associate Dean of Research and the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education presented the work undertaken by the Trinity Education Project (TEP) Phase 4 Implementation and Mainstreaming work package 'Capstone for Every Student'. The Capstone Project is a key feature of TEP providing all undergraduate students with the opportunity to complete a capstone project during their degree course, which supports the attainment of the four graduate attributes. The scope of the work package is to ensure that all undergraduate students entering the new TEP programme architecture will have the opportunity to complete a capstone project, formulate recommendations on what constitutes criteria for defining 'high-quality' capstone projects, and recommend a process for ensuring that high-quality capstone projects continue to be offered in the long-term.

The presenters reported on the findings of an audit that had been undertaken during semester 1 (2018). The purpose of the audit was to gather information on all current final year projects and to receive confirmation that planning is in place to ensure that students entering the new programme architecture will be undertaking a capstone project in their final year. The presenters highlighted that the findings confirmed that the vast majority of programmes are offering a final year project or equivalent at present, and that all programmes confirmed that they will be offering a 20 ECTS capstone project. Programmes

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

offered in the health sciences will offer a capstone project or equivalent, which takes account of professional accreditation requirements. Where a capstone is not offered, students will have the opportunity to carry out independent research or complete a reflective clinical portfolio.

The presenters reported that a definition of the capstone project had been agreed by the work package and was subsequently approved by TEP and USC. The capstone project is defined as '...the common element across all degree exit routes and is weighted at 20 ECTS. It requires a significant level of independent research by the student. It should be an integrative exercise that allows students to showcase skills and knowledge which they have developed across a range of subject areas and across their four years of study. It should result in the production of a significant piece of original work by the student. It should provide them with the opportunity to demonstrate their attainment of the graduate attributes.' It was acknowledged that the definition of the capstone project may vary across disciplines and for some disciplines it may be necessary for the capstone project to be offered over two years.

Recommendations for embedding and maintaining high-quality capstone projects in the long term were outlined by the presenters. High-quality capstone projects will consist of a standalone module of 20 ECTS in the final year and an original piece of work undertaken by the student. The recommendations for embedding the projects are:

- The Head of School, as having the overall responsibility for academic management, will ensure that all students have the opportunity to take high-quality 20 ECTS capstone projects or equivalent.
- The External Examiner Report process will include the capstone project.
- The capstone project will be embedded in the Quality Review at the School and programme level.
- The Capstone Project will be embedded in new Undergraduate course proposals.

Professor S. Alyn Stacey joined the meeting (12.10pm).

The Provost thanked the Associate Dean of Research, Professor Andrew Bowie and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education, Dr. Áine Kelly for their presentation and invited comments and questions.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that the processes, which will facilitate the embedding and maintenance of capstone projects are already in place under Council's remit, and are well established. Such processes include, quality reviews, external reviews and course proposals.

The capstone project was broadly welcomed and the presenters were thanked for their work on the project. There was a discussion on the importance of maintaining quality and the benefits to students in undertaking a capstone project during their undergraduate education including, the development of research skills, an awareness of ethical issues and questions, and preparation for postgraduate research. There is a need for strong and robust mechanisms to be in place to ensure the quality of the capstone project process so that students understand the principles and practice underpinning ethical research, and the importance of securing consent when undertaking research. It was acknowledged that General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) presents a number of challenges for clinical research in terms of accessing research data, and a decision on this is expected by the 30 April 2019.

The importance of Trinity resources and collections and how such collections differentiate Trinity from other Universities was emphasised. Students in Trinity have access to a range of unique collections, including Egyptian artefacts and ancient Greek manuscripts, providing them with many valuable opportunities to conduct primary research.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The Dean of Graduate Studies joined the meeting (12.20pm).

It was acknowledged that professional accreditation requirements will need to be accounted for and creatively addressed. There is a need for flexibility regarding capstone project requirements for new courses that must meet external accreditation requirements.

The Provost thanked the presenters for their presentation and highlighted that the capstone project definition will feature in programme handbooks and in the Calendar Part II.

Decision:

CL/18-19/160.1: Council approved the definition and criteria of the Trinity Education Project: Capstone Project.

Professor Stacey explained that BoardPad incorrectly stated that the start time of the meeting was 12.15pm, hence her late arrival at the meeting. The Secretary apologised citing the correct time was on the Agenda but possibly due to the summer time change the BoardPad was not updated.

CL/18-19/161 Undergraduate Course Proposal: Dual Degree Programme in History of Art and Architecture

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the proposal for the dual degree programme with Columbia University in the History of Art and Architecture. He noted that Council had 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 at its last meeting (CL/18-19/141:i.1).

The dual degree programme is proposed by the School of Histories and Humanities. It will follow the structure of dual degree programmes with Columbia University with students spending the first two years in Trinity followed by two years in Columbia. Students will graduate with a Trinity B.A. in History of Art and Architecture and a B.A. from Columbia with a Major in either Art History, History and Theory of Architecture, or Art History and Visual Arts. It is expected that seven students will take part in the dual degree programme.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that USC had considered the resourcing and staffing of the dual degree programme and was satisfied that these were sufficient.

Two derogations were presented by the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies in respect of the dual degree programme to meet the requirements of Trinity and Columbia. These derogations are as follows:

- A derogation from the requirement that 60 ECTS are taken in subject 1 in the Junior Freshman year under the single subject common architecture that will allow students to take 10 ECTS of language modules in their first year in order to meet the Columbia foreign language requirement. Students will therefore take 50 ECTS in subject 1 in the Junior Freshman year.
- A derogation from the 30:70 calculation of the degree award that will permit the calculation of the B.A. (moderatorship) classification to be based on results from the final two years in Columbia, and the results from the additional Trinity sophister level modules (60 ECTS) to be added together on a two-thirds to one-third basis.

Decisions:

CL/18-19/161.1: Council approved the proposal for a dual degree programme with Columbia University in History of Art and Architecture leading to a B.A. (Moderatorship) with the first intake in September 2020/21.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

CL/18-19/161.2: Council approved the derogations for the dual degree programme with Columbia University in History of Art and Architecture.

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science left the meeting at 12.30pm.

CL/18-19/162 Annual Report of the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies 2017/18

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that the Annual Report refers to the academic year 2017/18, and consists of three parts. The first presents an overview of developments that took place in 2017/18; the second provides an overview of admissions and the composition of the undergraduate student body; and the third details issues relating to progression and the student lifecycle. The annual report is based on data provided by the Academic Registry (AR) in February 2019, and data presented in the AR Annual Report 2017/18, which is in Section C of the Council Agenda.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted the main developments that took place in 2017/18. These consisted of partnership agreements, including the dual degree programmes offered with Columbia University, namely in English Studies, European Studies, History, and Middle Eastern and European Languages and Culture. There was also an articulation agreement with the University of Science and Technology Beijing relating to the School of Physics. The partnership agreement with Thapar University in relation to the transfer of eligible students to year 3 of the Trinity Engineering degree programme saw 41 students register in 2017/18. Other developments in 2017/18 highlighted included; work progressed in relation to TEP, such as defining modules in units of five ECTS, and the implementation of TEP in Phase I programmes, and the development of a number of College Policies - the Fitness to Study Policy, the Reasonable Accommodations Policy for students with disabilities, the Programme Handbook Policy and the External Examiners' Policy (revised).

In relation to undergraduate admissions, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported a number of trends, namely an increase in the number of applications and registrations of non-EU students, with 11.76% of the student body consisting of non-EU students. He stated that this can be attributed to the ongoing efforts of the Global Relations Office and the partnership agreements that are in place. EU admissions were reported as remaining relatively unchanged over the last five years with the majority of students from Ireland residing in Dublin and Leinster. Broadening Trinity's reach should be a goal and Trinity should be a University for All of Ireland. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that while it appears that applications from Northern Ireland are on the increase from the 2017/18 Report, Council is aware from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's presentation at the March Council meeting (CL/18-19/139) that applications are in fact down for 2019.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented data relating to the student lifecycle post-admission, and noted that Trinity had achieved a retention rate of 96% for 2017/18 (first year students) and a progression rate of 88%. He noted that there are some fluctuations across programmes, and indicated that completion data for a five-year period would be useful in establishing an overall retention rate. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies stated that he would ask the AR to provide data for the last five-years when producing next year's report. This will allow for the identification of trends.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred Council to the award classification tables provided by AR and stated that it would be useful to have information over five-years to establish trends.

In relation to Gold Medals, he reported a slight decrease in the percentage of students awarded Gold Medals from 2016/17 to 2017/18.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

Examination sittings increased by 3.6% in 2017/18 and there was a reduced number of appeals to the Courts of First Appeal at Supplemental examinations in 2017/18. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that it will be interesting to examine the impact of the changes relating to the academic year structure in next year's report.

The presentation was concluded with an update on the recommendations made in the 2016/17 report. Regarding the establishment of an Admissions Strategy Committee, Council had not approved this as the overview of student numbers and resources is the remit of the Planning Group. The new Global Relations Strategy GRS 3 will address the recommendation on additional resource provision for EU student recruitment; and the ongoing development on reporting from SITS, addresses the development of a consistent and reliable data gathering system.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies for his very comprehensive presentation and report. He invited comments and questions.

The Director of Student Services acknowledged that the AR report and data were produced later this year and that efforts will be made to have the data available earlier. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies agreed and indicated that it would be preferable to have the data produced in November so that a report could be brought to Council at an earlier stage.

A number of observations were highlighted by members relating to data provided in the tables in the appendices. It was acknowledged that table E14, which refers to the distribution of grades by course, highlights a disparity in the number of first class honors awarded across programmes. This could be attributed to the nature of the programme itself i.e. a Science discipline, which may lead to a greater number of first class honors being achieved or to some programmes with very high CAO points having a larger representation of high achieving students. It was observed that some Schools may apply stricter criteria than others when allocating grades. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted the need to review the use of the marking scale across subjects.

The tracking of students availing of internships and student exchanges was raised. The Vice-President for Global Relations reported that data are available on student exchanges from the Global Relations Report. However, data on internships are not contained within this report.

The Dean of Graduate Studies clarified that the College Officer report is produced after the AR report as the former is a commentary on the data presented in the AR report.

The Provost highlighted that it would be important to produce the Officers' reports earlier in the Michaelmas term. He thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies for his presentation and work undertaken on the report.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked the AR and the Assistant Academic Secretary for assisting with the production of the report.

Decision:

CL/18-19/162.1: Council approved the Annual Report of the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies 2017/18.

CL/18-19/162.2: The Director of Student Services will make efforts to ensure the AR data are made available earlier in the academic year.

Action:

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

CL/18-19/162.3: The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to meet with AR to discuss making the data for the Senior Lecturer's annual report available in the Michaelmas term.

CL/18-19/163 Update on College Strategic Plan 2019-2024

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer presented an update on the College Strategic Plan 2019-2024 Community and Connection. He advised that there are four mission statements in the College Strategic Plan – civic action, organisation, research and education. Organisation was not a pillar in the 2014-19 Strategic Plan and will be included in the 2019-24 Strategic Plan as how Trinity intends to achieve its strategic objectives is very important. Fostering an agile and effective organisation that values all members of the community is vital. The four pillars are arranged in a sequence to capture Trinity's core mission and goals.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that a Steering Group comprised four pivot groups representing each of the pillar areas – organisation, education, research and civic action. He advised that he had held two workshops recently with Trinity Research Institutes and School Managers as part of reaching out to as many representatives as possible from the Trinity community.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that there is already a significant number of strategies in place which feed into the Strategic Plan, including, TEP, the Trinity Business School and E3, the Estates and Library Strategies, GRS 3, Tangent, and the Research Excellence Strategy. A number of cross-cutting themes are emerging from existing College plans and strategies such as the Research Excellence Strategy, League of European Research Universities (LERU), the Estates Strategy and GRS 3, and these themes are 'Research at the Heart of the University', 'Connections: Ireland, Europe, the World', 'Defining Our Space', and 'A More Diverse Student Community'. He highlighted that conducting a gaps analysis is an essential part of the strategic planning process and there is a need to undertake a gap analysis of the emerging cross-cutting themes. Such a gap analysis will identify areas to be addressed and progressed in action plans. Lifelong and flexible learning may be one such area, and the size and composition of the student body another important strategic question for the University.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer completed his presentation by highlighting the timeline for finalisation and approval of the Strategic Plan. The draft cross-cutting goals will be presented to Council on the 29th May and the final draft will be presented to a joint Board and Council meeting on the 19 June 2019. He stated that he would welcome feedback and comments at Council and after the meeting.

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

The cross cutting aspect of the plan and the emphasis on civic engagement were welcomed. It was suggested that the inclusion of retired members of staff who continue to make a contribution to College would be important, and that Fellows should be brought into the matrix of pivot groups given the status of these in the College Statutes. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer responded that he would be happy to meet retired members of staff to get their input, and highlighted that Fellows are already represented on the pivot groups, as many of the members are Fellows. He also advised that there is communication with the Fellows on the Strategic Plan.

Decision:

CL/18-19/163.1: The update on the College Strategic Plan 2019-2024 was noted.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

CL/18-19/164 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

SECTION B

CL/18-19/165 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred Council to minute USC/18-19/064, which refers to the request for changes to the language admission requirements for Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures (MEELC) programme. The proposed change approved by USC related to applicants presenting at least one language other than English or Irish. This is to reflect students being able to study both a European language and a Middle Eastern language from *ab initio* level within the MEELC programme. The change, if approved, will come into effect from 2020/21.

The minutes of the meeting of 26 March 2019 were noted and approved.

Decision:

CL/18-19/165.i:1: Council noted and approved the change in the language admission requirement for the Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures (MEELC) programme to 'Applicants must present at least one language other than English or Irish' to take effect from 2020/21.

CL/18-19/166 Graduate Studies Committee

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) had discussed his annual report, which will be brought to the next Council meeting. He stated that GSC had recommended changes to the 1252 award scheme. The Scheme consists of 25 awards with each School having at its disposal one of the 25 awards, with the 25th award residing with the Dean's Office to be allocated on the basis of exceptional financial need. The changes included, fees will be covered over four years, with the fourth year covered by the 'pot' from which the stipend is drawn; and amendment of the Calendar to ensure that postgraduate research students in receipt of 1252 awards will not be required to do any free teaching in Schools. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that he would liaise with the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to bring the recommendation to the Planning Group and will advocate that it be implemented from 2019/20.

The Dean of Graduate Studies referred to the report of the working group on thesis committees. There is a need for Trinity to establish a thesis committee model as this reflects best practice globally.

Decision

CL/18-19/166: The minutes of the meeting of the 28 March 2019 were noted and approved together with the proposed change to the validated Master in Education Studies course title from Intercultural Education to Intercultural Learning and Leadership from 2019/20 as per ACDC/18-19/311(b) on Agenda C (GS/18-19/281).

CL/18-19/167 Student Life Committee

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The Dean of Students advised that a working group on racism had been convened due to a number of incidents of racism in Trinity. The working group will explore ways of making the existing Dignity and Respect policy operational, and the development of a bystanders' guide.

The minutes of the meeting of the 5 February and 5 March 2019 were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/18-19/168 Academic Registry Annual Report 2017/18

The Council noted and approved the Academic Registry Annual Report 2017/18, circulated.

CL/18-19/169 Consolidated List of External Examiners

The Council noted and approved the Memorandum, circulated, from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 4 April 2019.

CL/18-19/170 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners

The reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 20 March 2019 and noted by Board on 27 March 2019, were noted and approved.

(i) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

PhD Kerri Agnew; Zeeshan Anwar; Jonathan Paul Bailey; Kevin Doherty; James Duffy; Paul Kelly; Sinead Kenealy; Michelle Lowry; John James Magan; Pamela Martin; Aonghus Mc Govern; Paul Gerard Smith; Gaspare Tortorici.

MSc Dáire John Gibbons; Gerard Reid.

CL/18-19/171 School Directors: School of Dental Science

The Council noted and approved the following nominations relating to the School of Dental Science:

- (i) Nomination of Dr Ioannis Polyzois as Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning for the period June 2019 – June 2022
- (ii) Nomination of Dr Jeffery O'Sullivan as Director of Research for the period June 2019 – June 2021
- (iii) Nomination of Dr Michael O'Sullivan as Head of Division II for the period June 2019 – June 2022

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings