

**Incorporating any amendments made 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 May 2019 at 10.45 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 Students, Dean of Research, Vice-President for Global Relations, Professor A. Long, Professor D. Murchan, Professor C. Gardiner, Professor C. Kelly, Professor S. Alyn Stacey, Professor D. Shepherd, Professor P. Wyse Jackson, Professor A.M. Brady, Professor M. Corry, Professor M. Clarke, Ms. S. Cameron-Coen, Ms. A. Connolly, Ms. S.A. McCarthy, Mr. G. Falia, Mr. S. Murray.
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor R.A. Kenny, Dr. S. Kerr, Ms. F. Ní Ghrálaigh, Mr. R. Carey, Ms. N. Hussaini, Ms. S. Donnelly, Professor S. Murphy, Professor E.O. Nualláin.
<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 A.M. Brady) declared interest in item D.29, relating to the confirmation of academic staff in post following probation. It was agreed that Professor A.M. Brady would leave the meeting for the discussion of this item.

**CL/18-19/177 Declaration**

A new member made the required statutory declaration.

**CL/18-19/178 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 10 April 2019 were approved and signed.

**CL/18-19/179 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**CL/18-19/180 Provost's Report**

The Provost advised that he would not be providing an extensive report at this meeting. He drew Council's attention to the Inspiring Generations campaign (publication distributed at the meeting), launched on 2 May 2019. The campaign is the first philanthropic campaign undertaken in Trinity's history and will advance Trinity into the next decade inspiring

generations to come. The campaign's ambition is to raise €400 million in philanthropic funding and to inspire 150,000 volunteer hours from the Trinity Community worldwide.

The Provost highlighted that Inspiring Generations will build on Trinity's commitment to create a diverse campus reflecting Irish society and the contemporary world by attracting new academic talent from around the world. He stated that there is a need for Trinity to reduce the Staff-Student Ratio (SSR), and while Trinity fares better than other Irish universities the Russell Group average is 1:14. The top UK universities have a ratio of 1:10. There is an opportunity for Trinity to fund posts through the Philanthropic Campaign and Usher funding.

The Provost stated that Trinity is a world leader on supporting access to College through the Trinity Access Programme (TAP). Trinity is working with Oxford University to support the development and implementation of an access programme.

The Provost reported that Trinity is continuing to develop as a campus for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century through privately funded development projects. The Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies (E3) Institute and Grand Canal Innovation District (GCID) are such projects, which will transform how Trinity educates future generations of Engineering, Natural Sciences and Computer Science students. A new building for the Law School will enhance its ability to deliver contemporary legal programmes, and the new Trinity Business School will be launched later in May, 2019. Inspiring Generations will enable the safeguarding and conservation of the Old Library and its collections for future generations, and will benefit several flagship Trinity Initiatives including the new Trinity St. James's Cancer Institute.

The importance of cherishing the humanities was acknowledged by the Provost. The Trinity's Arts and Humanities Research Institute plays an important role in Scholarship, the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation brings the best of Irish writing to the world, and the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies is vital to the work of a global university.

The Provost invited comments and questions.

A number of members complimented the Inspiring Generations campaign and the event organised to launch the campaign. In response to a query the Provost stated that there had been no reaction from the Department of Education and Skills (DES) or the Higher Education Authority (HEA) that he was aware of, but that both the DES and HEA were kept informed of the campaign. He added that the benefactors were genuinely inspired by what Trinity is trying to achieve. The E3 Institute and GCID would not have been possible without public funding and there is a need for public and private funding for such projects.

A member referred to the point made by the Provost relating to Trinity attracting the best academic talent from around the world, and highlighted the need for Trinity to empower existing academic staff to flourish by addressing their working conditions and the considerable administrative duties undertaken by them. The Provost advised that academic workload is a matter for Schools, to be escalated to Faculty Deans and the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer if required. He added that he expected Schools to be using workload models to organise the work of academic staff.

#### **CL/18-19/181 Trinity Education Project Update**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer provided a brief update on the Trinity Education Project (TEP). He stated that there has been substantial work undertaken behind the scenes and the online registration for Trinity Electives has now been completed. IT Services is now exploring the development of an algorithm to allocate students to specific Trinity Electives based on their preferences. Students will be notified of their preferences in August, 2019. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that the fixed timetable will be ready for

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the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019. This is a major accomplishment and the work of the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and his team was acknowledged.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that in 2019/20 Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences students entering will be registered to the new architecture, and that a joint honors programme office to support the common architecture will be established in the summer. It is also expected that work will be completed on the TEP pathways in the summer.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and identified the need for substantive issues relating to assessment and examinations to be addressed and invited comments and questions.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer acknowledged that Trinity is going through a time of major change, and that there had been an expectation that Schools would move away from a focus on examinations and employ more continuous assessment. Based on this year's experience he added that there is a need to review the summer examinations schedule. Trinity needs to listen to and address the feedback received in relation to examinations, and a process of continuous review has to be now embedded in all structures as TEP will end in 2020.

The Senior Tutor highlighted that fewer student cases and medical cases had been reported during the summer examinations. However, he noted that more medical certificates were received in respect of the Christmas examinations, and it was remarked that students may need time to adjust to examinations at Christmas. There was a sense that some students experienced less pressure during the summer examinations due to having already achieved a pass grade and saw the summer examinations as an opportunity to improve on their grades. It was acknowledged that it will take time for the new system to embed.

The need to plan continuous assessment submission dates so that they do not coincide with the lead up to examinations was highlighted. Students have reported feeling under considerable pressure due to submission dates coinciding with the lead up to examinations. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies agreed that this was an issue and highlighted that some Schools had not replaced examinations with continuous assessment but had rather supplemented examinations with continuous assessment. This is a practice that needs to be addressed and the assessment mapping exercise being undertaken by the Trinity Teaching and Learning (TT&L) assessment fellows is a process that will support culture change in relation to how students are assessed and the different methodologies employed. It was acknowledged that some disciplines will need to retain examinations in order to assess knowledge and competence, however, there is a need to ensure that students are not over-assessed. The Dean of Students highlighted that it would be his preference in the future for examinations to account for 50% of the overall grade.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer agreed that work has to be undertaken by Schools on the planning of continuous assessment submission dates so that they do not coincide with examinations. He added that the assessment mapping exercise will enable Schools to review their assessment practices, identify the overall assessment load of programmes, and to establish if students are being over-assessed. Schools will then be in a position to best plan and employ appropriate assessment methodologies to assess student learning.

**Action:**

**CL/18-19/181.1:** The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to work with Schools to ensure that continuous assessment submission dates do not coincide in the run up to examinations.

**CL/18-19/182**    **Update on Strategic Plan 2019-24**

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The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer presented an update on the Strategic Plan 2019-2024 Community and Connection. He advised that the final draft will be presented at a meeting of Board and Council on the 19 June 2019. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer revisited the four missions and actions of the Strategic Plan presented at the April Council meeting (CL/18-19/163) – Civic Action, Organisation, Research and Education, and highlighted the many existing strategies in place at College. He highlighted that existing strategies, which extend into 2019-2024, contain 400+ targets. The strategic planning process has involved reviewing and grouping the strategies in order to identify cross-cutting themes and goals. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained that the cross-cutting goals are high-level objectives that contribute to the overall Mission with each containing multiple operational targets.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer presented each of the eight draft cross-cutting goals and discussed the first four goals in detail identifying sample operational targets for each.

**Goal 1: We will foster an ever more diverse student community**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that bottom-up projections from Schools and existing development plans identify that by 2023/24 the Trinity student body will consist of approximately 22,000 students. He indicated that while Trinity will be growing at a rate lower than other Irish universities it was important to ensure the quality of education provided. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred to the sample operational targets for the draft goal. He explained that the targets came from existing strategies and a gaps analysis. Three emerging targets resulting from the gaps analysis are, developing a new online education strategy, a new undergraduate admissions strategy, and a more flexible programme of delivery. Each of these targets relate to one of the four mission statements.

**Goal 2: We will enhance our role as a leading 4<sup>th</sup> level university**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer raised the need to focus efforts on enhancing Trinity's postgraduate experience. Student numbers on postgraduate taught programmes are continuing to grow while student numbers are declining on postgraduate research programmes. Growth in student numbers on taught postgraduate programmes relate to developments such as the new Law School and the St. James's Cancer Institute. The reasons for the decline in numbers participating on postgraduate research programmes need to be established. A gaps analysis has identified two targets, the first to develop a project-based approach to renewing postgraduate education and the student experience after 2020, and the second, to enhance career development for the post-doctoral community.

**Goal 3: We will enrich and expand our global network**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that the last Trinity Strategic Plan 2014-19 focused on establishing Trinity as a global university. There is a need now to build on Trinity's success in recruiting non-EU students and in developing partnerships with universities such as Columbia University. Three emerging targets arising from the gaps analysis reveal the need to develop a new online education strategy, increase international research collaborations, and to add one new industry collaborating company for a new country per year.

**Goal 4: We will put research at the heart of the university**

Operational targets referred to by the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer included, building on research by increasing projects between enterprise and the university, and creating a new space centred around research intensive activity. He highlighted the important role of campaigns and networks in placing research at the heart of the university. The gaps analysis revealed additional targets for increasing capacity for 4<sup>th</sup>-level teaching.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer summarised targets relating to draft goals 5-8. These targets are about inhabiting space responsibly and being aware of the impact Trinity has on its neighbours, and ensuring that organisational structures are developed on the principle of 'one Trinity,' with all staff feeling part of it. He highlighted that sustainability is an

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important goal and how the university contributes to this goal through research and in using the space sensibly is important.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost for his presentation and invited questions and comments.

The Graduate Students' Union (GSU) Vice-President referred to draft goal 2 on developing Trinity as a 4<sup>th</sup>-level university and enquired about the level of engagement and consultation with postgraduate students in developing the strategic plan, and the representation of the Graduate Students' Union (GSU) on the steering group. He highlighted the importance of including the postgraduate voice in the process since one of the eight draft goals refers specifically to the 4<sup>th</sup>-level and includes objectives relating to the reform of postgraduate education. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that the Students' Union President is the President for all students and is a member of the steering group. While the GSU president is not a member of the steering group he has engaged with the GSU and has met the current president. One of the areas of concern raised is the limited availability of affordable accommodation and that this needs to be addressed. The GSU Vice-President advised that he is concerned that the GSU is not represented on the steering group especially since postgraduate education reform is a strategic goal. The Provost noted that the Dean of Graduate Studies is a member of the steering group and a pivot group. The Dean of Graduate Studies stated that he shared the concern of the GSU Vice-President, and that he is a member of the education pivot group.

The inclusion of a goal placing research at the heart of the university in the strategic plan was welcomed. It was observed that there is a need to ensure that structures are in place to develop researchers, and that the graduate student's voice is heard.

A member referred to the operational objective on increasing accommodation in draft goal 1, and enquired if the lack of availability was influencing student numbers from outside of Dublin and Leinster. He noted that there is a need for Trinity to become not only a global university but also a national university and suggested that consideration be given to approaching accommodation in the same way as is taken with major projects such as E3. It was highlighted that a balance needed to be achieved when addressing accommodation needs as it would be important not to saturate the market. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that affordable accommodation was the issue, and that an accommodation project is underway in Dartry. The Dean of Students advised that 5,500 units have been recently built in Dublin, however, they are not affordable. Board has provided him with the mandate to drive the cost of accommodation down and there is a need to build at low rent levels. He remarked that there is a need to focus on the development of a College-level Accommodation Advisory Service. He acknowledged the work of the Students' Union on this, however, he advised that Trinity needs to support students in sourcing affordable accommodation.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer responded to a point raised in relation to the global network and collaboration with industry on developing European Union (EU) links and highlighted that the Global Relations Strategy (GRS) is looking at globalisation and the need to increase EU student numbers in a more holistic way.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer acknowledged that Trinity has not made significant progress on micro credentialing and modularisation to date. There is a need to explore approaches undertaken by other universities and to put in place appropriate systems and governance in order to achieve this target.

The Provost highlighted that there are a number of issues to be addressed and there is a need to establish if these can be financed.

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- CL/18-19/182.1:** The President of the GSU to be consulted on the strategic plan.  
**CL/18-19/182.2:** The strategic plan to include online student numbers in projected statistics.  
**CL/18-19/182.3:** A business case for micro credentialing to be developed.  
**CL/18-19/182.4:** A financial plan is required for strategic objectives.

**CL/18-19/183 Annual Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies 2017/18**

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the annual report refers to the academic year 2017/18 and had been endorsed by the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). The report consists of three parts, part A providing an analysis of postgraduate student data, part B, miscellaneous 2017/18 items, and part C challenges, recommendations and reform.

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that part A of the report presents data in relation to postgraduate taught applications, postgraduate courses in general and postgraduate research applications. He reported that while there has been a 39% increase in the number of applications for postgraduate taught courses since 2017, there has been an overall reduction in EU applications to postgraduate courses by 6.5%. There is a widening gap between applications to courses and subsequent offers made, and a diminishing gap between offers and the number of students registering for courses. The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences saw an increase in the number of registered students, while the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science and the Faculty of Health Sciences saw small decreases in student numbers.

The Dean of Graduate Studies informed Council that there are a significant number of courses with small numbers and that there is a need for a re-evaluation of what the market requires. Ninety-one (91) nationalities are represented on postgraduate programmes and there is approximately a 2% failure rate. There is some concern at the postgraduate taught failure rate by certain nationalities but there are insufficient data at present to establish trends.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that there is a significant drop in applications (approximately 19%) for postgraduate research programmes and there is a need to establish the reasons for this. Contributory factors may be due to the limited availability of funding, a prosperous economy and competition in the market. Postgraduate research programmes account for 83 nationalities with the majority of students coming from Ireland. He suggested that there is a need for Trinity to reflect on how it brands its PhD programmes.

Turning to examinations, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that there had been a 20% decrease in the number of postgraduate research examinations, which is of concern. Eighty-three percent (83%) of students passed with minor corrections and the Dean of Graduate Studies stated that this can be attributed to the excellent work of Trinity supervisors and examiners. Eleven (11) students took in excess of two-years to complete their research.

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that part B of the report addresses miscellaneous items, namely the embedding of the Provost's PhD Awards; the rollout of the mandatory module in research integrity and impact; requirements in relation to the structured PhD; listening to the results of the student surveys; and the benefit of being a member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU). The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) had raised a number of postgraduate student concerns, including communication issues. He advised that he now emails postgraduate students every two-weeks and on 21 May 2019 is hosting a "postgraduate got talent night" as a response to this issue. The Dean of Graduate Studies remarked that his involvement with LERU has been very positive and that he has learned much from the doctoral studies group.

The Dean of Graduate Studies communicated three points representing challenges in relation to part C of the report. It is his view that Trinity can aspire to becoming a 4<sup>th</sup>- level university,

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however there is a need to reconceptualise its thinking on postgraduate education and students. He identified that there is a need to equalise the postgraduate space and to recognise the bespoke nature of the postgraduate experience, as postgraduate students deserve top quality services from all aspects of College. Most services provided by College are structured around undergraduate students, which do not meet the specific needs of postgraduate students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that a project-based approach should not be taken in relation to postgraduate education reform, as there is no appetite for another project at present. There is a need to progress reform immediately and to start the process now with the reform to be implemented by September 2020. The Dean of Graduate Studies recommended that this reform be led by the Dean's Office supported by the Graduate Studies Committee, and that the Dean's Office be reconstituted to deal with the resolution of postgraduate issues, postgraduate research examinations, and the development of academic policy. The Dean's Office needs to be staffed accordingly and an administrative officer is required in the Dean's Office to drive the policy of the Dean.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies for his presentation and invited comments and questions.

The Dean of Health Sciences left the meeting (12pm).

A number of members congratulated the Dean of Graduate Studies on his report and agreed that there is a need for reform of postgraduate education. Members agreed that postgraduate students have specific needs, and students on postgraduate taught and postgraduate research programmes have very different needs. It was recognised that stipends available to postgraduate research are low and insufficient to meet costs associated with living in Dublin. Referring to the Dean of Graduate Studies' recommendation that a tutor like system for postgraduate education be established, the Senior Tutor advised the Postgraduate Advisory Service (PAS), which was established to support postgraduate students' wellbeing, is under-resourced. Current support consists of a Student Support Officer and three advisors per Faculty, which is insufficient to meet the needs of postgraduate students. There is a need to examine the needs of postgraduate students carefully, as these differ from undergraduate students.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that he agreed that postgraduate education in Trinity needs to be reformed and College needs to establish ways of engaging with postgraduate students. He acknowledged that the needs of postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students differ, and stated that he is concerned at the decrease in student numbers on postgraduate research programmes. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer emphasised that the reform of postgraduate education requires a College-wide approach, involving systems and finance people, as was the approach taken in relation to the reform of undergraduate education. The TEP model for undergraduate education brought the necessary people and structures together to bring about the necessary reform. The Graduate Studies Office has a role to play in the process but cannot lead and implement the change on its own.

A member stated that there is a need for a Trinity strategy for 4<sup>th</sup>-level and for Trinity to undertake an analysis of the fee structure and Trinity's funding model generally. There is a disparity between State funding and postgraduate fees and the cost of postgraduate education is very high for students. While she recognised the importance of generating funds outside of the exchequer, she added that some Irish universities charge non-EU students EU fees only. The Provost added that Trinity's postgraduate fees are less than fees charged by other Irish and UK universities and acknowledged that the cost of postgraduate education is an issue. However, he felt that to undo the existing funding model would unravel many existing strategies.

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The recommendation for the establishment of an appropriately staffed Graduate Studies Office received support from a member, who believed that this would bring significant benefits to postgraduate students. However, there was not a consensus on this, with one member urging caution on restructuring the Graduate Studies Office to what it was before, stating that a decision on this requires considerable thought. It was recommended that a review of the postgraduate education market and College structures be undertaken prior to making major changes. A member expressed surprise at the operational role of the Dean of Graduate Studies and felt that the role should have a greater emphasis on strategy and policy development.

The Director of Student Services addressed the administrative points raised and how to bring improvements to the system. She highlighted three aspects to graduate education administration - student admissions, examinations and enquiries – which are managed by the Academic Registry. Postgraduate admissions is working well but on the matter of examinations, she stated that 400 theses are submitted each year on average and that this requires significant work and improvement. The matter has only recently been brought to her attention and she has initiated a review and has put in place measures to address the workload, which is currently being carried by only one full-time person in the Registry. She also plans to improve the process, which is very labour intensive and prone to error. She advised that student cases are complex and that the Registry has managed to-date 1,200 cases this year. The Registry works very closely with the Dean's Office on the more complex cases. She cautioned against fragmenting the student experience and commented that it is her view that administrative work should remain in the Academic Registry.

The Provost stated that due to time constraints the item needed to be closed. However, he acknowledged that there is a lot to be discussed, and there is a need to take up the challenges presented by the Dean of Graduate Studies in his report. The Provost affirmed the success of TEP and stated that it had achieved what it set out to do and had done it well. Trinity postgraduate education requires reform and there is a need for a deep consideration on how this is to be achieved.

**CL/18-19/183.1:** Council approved the annual report of the Dean of Graduate Studies 2017/18 and noted that a number of the recommendations are the subject of further discussion with the Dean.

The Provost stated that items 9 and 10 would be taken prior to item 7 due to time constraints.

#### **CL/18-19/184 Undergraduate Course Proposals**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies introduced the single subject programme in Film and the dual degree programme in Film with Columbia University.

He advised Council that there is a change in the course title from Film Studies to Film to emphasise the new practical focus of the course.

##### **(i) Single Subject Programme in Film**

The single honors programme in Film is proposed by the School of Creative Arts. Students will graduate with either a single honors or a major award in Film. The proposed number of students is 15 EU and 2 non-EU with the first intake to take place in September 2020. The proposal was developed in response to the new common architecture.

The review undertaken by Dr. Fife Donaldson from the Department of Film Studies at the University of St. Andrews noted that the academic merit of the course is excellent. However, Dr. Donaldson voiced concern about the additional burden that the programme would place on existing staff members and the potential over-reliance on industry experts and practitioners. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that following

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receipt of the report, the issue was raised with the Head of School and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Plans have been put in place to appoint an additional assistant professor during the third year of the delivery of the programme.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences stated that he acknowledged the concerns the reviewer raised on resources, however, there is a need to incentivise small disciplines to design and deliver programmes. A staffing plan is in place and he is confident that the creation of a full-time assistant professor post responds to the concerns raised in the reviewer's report.

#### **(ii) Dual Degree programme in Film with Columbia University**

The dual degree programme in Film with Columbia is proposed by the School of Creative Arts. 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 Film and a B.A. from Columbia with a Major in Film and Media Studies. The student quota is 3 EU and 4 non-EU students.

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 Film 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/18-19/184.i.1:** Council approved the proposal for a single honors programme in Film leading to a B.A. (Moderatorship) with the first intake in September 2020/21.

**CL/18-19/184.i.2:** Council approved the title change from Film Studies to Film.

**CL/18-19/184.ii.1:** Council approved the proposal for a dual degree programme with Columbia University in Film leading to a B.A. (Moderatorship) with the first intake in September 2020/21.

**CL/18-19/184.ii.2:** Council approved the derogations noted above for the dual degree programme with Columbia University in Film.

#### **CL/18-19/185 Postgraduate Course Proposal: M.Phil. in Environmental History**

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the postgraduate course proposal in Environmental History to Council for approval. The M.Phil. in Environmental History proposed by the School of Histories and Humanities leads to a National Framework of Qualifications level 9 major award. The programme has a strong interdisciplinary component through modules offered by the School of Natural Sciences. It is the first masters-level programme in Environmental History in Ireland.

The purpose of the programme is to provide students with an understanding of how the natural world has influenced human society, and how society has influenced the environment over time. It is a one-year full-time/two-year part-time 90 ECTS programme

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consisting of taught modules (60 ECTS) and a dissertation (30 ECTS). There is an optional module consisting of a field trip to Iceland over the summer. It is expected that the programme will have an intake of between 10 to 20 students each year with a minimum of two non-EU students. The programme received an excellent review.

**Decision:**

**CL/18-19/185.1:** Council approved the proposal for a course in Environmental History leading to an M.Phil. in Environmental History with an exit award of postgraduate diploma with the first intake in September 2020/21.

**CL/18-19/186 Consolidated Report on Faculty Quality Assurance in 2017/18**

**XX**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised Council that he would take the report as read and informed Council that the Annual Faculty Quality Report (AFQR) was introduced in 2015 as part of the Framework for Quality at Trinity College Dublin. The Report provides data that support the monitoring of the implementation and effectiveness of College quality assurance policies and procedures at local level, informs the production of the Annual Institutional Quality Report to Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), and the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) for Trinity's next institutional quality review scheduled for 2020/21.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer presented the highlights for each Faculty in 2017/18. In the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) there was a restructure of the School of Religions and implementation of a new Undergraduate Programme; the Arts block refurbishment project (phase 1) had a positive impact on the student experience; and the Columbia University partnership was providing a number of opportunities for Schools. He reported that the expansion and embedding of Inter-Professional Learning (ILP) activities took place in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The position of Deputy Data Protection Officer for Research was funded by the cross-Faculty initiative to respond to challenges posed by Health Research Regulation (HRR) (November 2018), and there was a rollout of training on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to 450 researchers across the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science (EMS) saw the entry of the first cohort of students to the new undergraduate Science programme in September 2018, and that a number of innovative postgraduate programmes were approved. He advised that the potential of the new E3 Learning Foundry for student teaching and learning is expected to contribute to an improved student experience.

There was an increase reported in the percentage of undergraduate external examiner reports returned compared to 2016/17 in all three Faculties with the Faculty of Health Sciences reporting a 79% return, the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 88%, and the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, 97%. Returns for postgraduate taught programmes were 89% for Health Sciences, 91% for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and 76% for Engineering, Mathematics and Science.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer acknowledged that the ISSE undergraduate and postgraduate reported a low response on quality of interactions, supportive environment and student-faculty interaction. He felt there is a need to address communication with students. Schools have increased efforts to meet the timeframe for return of course work (20 days undergraduate programmes, 30 days for postgraduate programmes) and to improve the student experience.

The implementation of the ISSE postgraduate research pilot-survey highlighted that funding for postgraduate studentships was a challenge with 41% of Arts, Humanities and Social

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Sciences self-funded, 41% of Engineering, Mathematics and Science research-funded and 20% of Health Sciences employer-funded.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that the College retention rate of 96% was achieved for 2017/18. A progression rate of 88% was achieved from year 1 to year 2, which is lower than the College target of 90%. The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was the only Faculty to have achieved the College target (91%). He highlighted that there is a need to discuss the definition of progression with the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in respect of the new Trinity undergraduate programme, as this is now encouraging student mobility across subjects. Such student mobility will lead to a decrease in the progression rate under its current definition.

The Provost invited comments and questions.

A member stated that the report presents a number of interesting trends and that last year's report highlighted issues concerning library access, which are not highlighted this year.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that the library and online access have not been raised as issues this year.

**Decision:**

**CL/18-19/186.1:** Council approved the Consolidated Report on Faculty Quality Assurance in 2017/18.

**Action:**

**CL/18-19/186.2:** The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to raise the new Trinity Undergraduate programme with the HEA in relation to student progression data.

**CL/18-19/187 PhD Thesis Committee**

**Decision**

**CL/18-19/187.1:** Council deferred the PhD Thesis Committee item to the next Council meeting.

**CL/18-19/188 Internships and Placement Policy**

**Decision:**

**CL/18-19/188.1:** Council deferred the Internships and Placements Policy item to a subsequent meeting.

**CL/18-19/189 Any Other Business**

There was no any other business.

## SECTION B

**CL/18-19/190 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) had approved the continuation of the Northern Ireland Feasibility Study (NIFS) for another year (USC/18-19/080). He advised that students seeking entry through the NIFS are required to apply through the Central Applications Office in the normal way and complete an additional application form and return this to the Trinity Admissions Office by 1 May of the year in which they hope to matriculate. Up to a maximum of three places

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(depending on the course quota) is set aside in all courses (excluding Medicine), which students from Northern Ireland can access with only three A-Levels. Students must present with the minimum profile of ABB and meet course-specific requirements, and are ranked on merit. Students taking four A-Levels are also eligible for places offered through the Feasibility Study and their best three subjects are considered.

The minutes of the meeting of 3 April 2019 and 16 April 2019 were noted and approved.

**Decisions:**

**CL/18-19/190.1:** Council approved the continuation of the NIFS for a further year.

**CL/18-19/190.2:** Council approved the proposed Trinity Electives Courts of Examiners process for a one-year period.

**CL/18-19/190.3:** Council approved the process for requests to transfer to a different Trinity Elective for 2019/20.

**CL/18-19/190.4:** Council approved the proposal to allow applications who hold a Singapore Polytechnic Diploma and have a GPA of 3.0 to be considered for direct entry to year one programmes outside of those programmes covered by the School of Medicine/Singapore Institute of Technology Partnership.

**CL/18-19/190.5:** Council approved the internal transfer application deadline for Junior Fresh students at the end of week 3 of teaching term.

**CL/18-19/191 Graduate Studies Committee**

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the electronic submission of pre-examination research thesis submission rather than by hard copy will be discussed at the next Graduate Studies Committee meeting. This is in the interests of the environment and student resources.

The minutes of the meeting of the 18 April 2019 were noted and approved.

**CL/18-19/192 Global Relations Committee**

The Vice-President of Global Relations drew Council's attention to item 7 of the minutes. The Global Relations Committee is at present examining centralised admissions for student mobility applications.

The minutes of the meeting of 17 April 2019 were noted and approved.

**CL/18-19/193 Quality Committee**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred to the procedure for conduct of focus groups for student feedback on modules and programmes appended to the minutes.

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

**Decision:**

**CL/18-19/193.1:** The procedure for the conduct of focus groups for student feedback on modules and programmes was approved.

**CL/18-19/194 Engagement Advisory Group**

The minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2018 were noted and approved.

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**CL/18-19/195     Research Committee**

The Dean of Research highlighted that a deputy data protection officer has been appointed for research who will be responsible for managing research-related GDPR issues and addressing Health-Research Regulation challenges.

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

**SECTION C**

**CL/18-19/196     Laidlaw Scholarship Progress Report**

The Council noted and approved the Laidlaw Scholarship Progress Report, circulated.

**CL/18-19/197     Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners**

The reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 10 April 2019 and noted by Board on 24 April 2019, were noted and approved.

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

**PhD**     Aqel Sulaiman A Albutti; Joseph Vellanal Augusthy; James Behan; Lauren Boland; Angela Bridget Butler; David Cichon; Rachel Coyle; Catherine Elliott O’Dare; Evan Healy; Lee Jollans; Ciaran Kenny; Agnieszka Irena Kozyra; Stefan Müller; Fabio Niosi; Darren O’Connell; Eoin O’Neill; Elspeth Payne; Amelia Smith.

**MSc**     Grace Pauline Freya Cowderoy; Niamh Hennessy; Aishling O’Reilly.

**CL/18-19/198     Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (2019-2024)**

The Council noted that the Board had approved the nomination of Professor Gail McElroy to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences for a five-year term to commence on 3 June 2019.

**CL/18-19/199     Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences (2019-2024)**

The Council noted that the Board had approved the nomination of Professor Orla Sheils to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences for a five-year term to commence on 25 April 2019.

**CL/18-19/200     Head of School of Creative Arts (2019-2022)**

The Council noted that the Board had approved the nomination of Professor Ruth Barton to the position of Head of School of Creative Arts for a three-year term to commence on 25 April 2019.

**CL/18-19/201**  
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### **Head of Discipline**

The Council noted and approved the following:

- (i) Nomination of Professor James Hanrahan as Head of Discipline of French, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, for a three-year term commencing 3 June 2019;
- (ii) Nomination of Professor Clodagh Brook as Head of Discipline of Italian, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, for a three-year term commencing 3 June 2019;
- (iii) Nomination of Professor Brian Brewer as Head of Discipline of Hispanic Studies, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, for a three-year term commencing 3 June 2019;
- (iv) Extension of Professor Pdraig Carmody's term as Head of Discipline of Geography, School of Natural Sciences, to January 2020, at which point the incoming Professor of Geography (1966) will assume the position.

**CL/18-19/202**  
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### **School Directors**

The Council noted and approved the following:

- (i) Nomination of Professor Nigel Stevenson as interim Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning, School of Biochemistry and Immunology, effective 10 May 2019, to cover maternity leave;
- (ii) Extension of Professor Declan O'Sullivan's term as Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further two-year term commencing 3 June 2019;
- (iii) Extension of Professor Owen Conlan's term as Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further two-year term commencing 3 June 2019;
- (iv) Extension of Professor Justin Doherty as Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, for a further one-year term commencing 3 June 2019;
- (v) Extension of Professor Rachel Hoare as Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, for a further one-year term commencing 3 June 2019;
- (vi) Nomination of Professor Gillian Martin as Director of Global Relations, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, for a two-year term commencing 3 June 2019;
- (vii) Nomination of Professor Lidia Tajber as Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, for a two-year term commencing 1 July 2019;
- (viii) Nomination of Professor Carlos Medina Martin, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, as Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning for a one-year term commencing 1 July 2019.

**CL/18-19/203**

### **Membership of the University Council**

The Council noted that the following candidates had been elected to Council, representing the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science (Junior Constituency to Council) for the period 2019-2022:

- (i) Professor Michael Monaghan (nominated by Professor Caitriona Lally, seconded by Professor Ciaran Simms);
- (ii) Professor Marco Ruffini (nominated by Professor Georgios Iosifidis, seconded by

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Professor Ivana Dusparic).

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....

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