



Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

XX = Board relevance

**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 8 April 2020 at 11.15am remotely and hosted from the Provost's Library.

Present Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Research, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor D. Murchan, Professor S. Alyn Stacey, Professor D. Shepherd, Professor C. Kelly, Professor M Monaghan, Professor M. Ruffini, Professor R.A. Kenny, Professor A.M. Brady, Professor M. Clarke, Professor M. Corry, Professor A. Long, Ms. D. Kelleher, Ms N. McCay, Ms. E. Black, Mr D. O'Reilly, Ms. I. Lis, Ms G. Scanlon.

Apologies Dr. S. Kerr, Dr. A. Guha, Mr. D. Ringis.

In attendance Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Librarian and College Archivist, Director of Student Services, Assistant Academic Secretary, Ms. S Brown, Ms. A. Crawford.

Observers Mr F. Frank.

SECTION A

The Provost welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of Council.

The Provost requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary to the College noted that there was a statement of interest relating to item D.18 'Nominations for Appointment' of the agenda, and advised that he had consulted with the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and it was agreed that the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer would absence himself for this item.

CL/19-20/129 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 11 March 2020 were approved and signed. Professor S. Alyn Stacey requested that it be noted that her absence from the last meeting of Council was due to a technical difficulty and not a dereliction of duty.

CL/19-20/130 Matters Arising

The Dean of Graduate studies referring to item CL/19-20/108 'Proposal in relation to Distance-based Postgraduate Research Study' of the minutes, advised Council that four Schools had expressed interest in participating in the proposed pilot initiative, namely, the School of Psychology, the School of Religion, the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies,

and the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences. Referring to item CL/19-20/112 'Graduate Studies Committee', the Dean of Graduate Studies informed Council that student submission of a hard-bound copy of a thesis to the library will be discussed at the next meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) and he will provide an update to Council at a future meeting.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer drew Council's attention to item CL/19-20/107 'Revised Senior Academic Promotions Procedure,' highlighting that the revised Procedure had been approved by Board. He advised that while Board had also approved the financial envelope for the subsequent promotions round, it had been decided to review the proposed timeline due to the potential financial implications presented by COVID-19, which will need to be assessed.

CL/19-20/131 Provost's Report

The Provost observed that several developments had occurred relating to COVID-19 since the March meeting of Council. He advised that a comprehensive update on COVID-19 and the academic affairs of the University will be presented under item 4 of the agenda, and he invited the Annual Officers to update Council on measures taken across College in response to COVID-19.

- (i) The Dean of Research referred Council to an email communication that had been issued to the College community on 24 March 2020 relating to a list of eight essential research activities that had been agreed in response to College closure. Each School and the Trinity Research Institutes, she advised, had been asked to generate a list of critical personnel who are involved in the eight essential research activities, and that only people on those lists should be permitted to access College premises for research purposes. She informed Council that a number of Calls relating to item eight 'COVID-19 related research,' had commenced with Calls from the Health Research Board, the Irish Research Council and Enterprise Ireland. She added that a protocol is being developed for members of staff to come onto campus for the purposes of COVID-19 related research, which is near completion. She advised Council that an online form to facilitate the reporting of disruption to research activities had been developed.

The Dean of Research advised Council that College has been in regular contact with the League of Research Universities (LERU) and the Irish Universities Association (IUA) to share learnings on practices across the Universities in response to COVID-19. She added that Trinity is working with the IUA and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) on postdoctoral research matters to ensure that there is one approach taken on research at a sectoral level.

Referring to the Research Committee, the Dean of Research advised that this is now meeting online.

- (ii) The Vice-President of Global Relations reported that the Global Relations Office (GRO) has been working with Trinity students on placements abroad and on Erasmus, explaining that many of the students had chosen to stay abroad and continue their studies. Referring to prospective international students, she advised that GRO is hosting webinars to interact with students, however, there are questions arising on how testing for English Language Proficiency will be conducted and whether students can take the final school examination in their respective countries due to COVID-19.
- (iii) The Registrar stated that the Spring Commencements had been held virtually on the 7 April 2020 with Chancellor Mary McAleese conferring 532 graduands in-absentia. While some graduands had expressed disappointment that they could not attend the ceremony, the Registrar reported that the graduands were grateful that the Commencements had proceeded, advising that the majority had chosen to graduate in-absentia. The Registrar reported that the Commencements for Medical graduands will be held virtually on the 28 April 2020, and that she is in contact with the Health Sciences regarding professional programmes that students are due to complete in June 2020.
- (iv) The Provost updated Council on the E3 (Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technologies)

Learning Foundry, advising that the four sub-groups of the Project Steering Committee had met recently. The sub-groups, he noted, are the Education Group, the Business Development Group, the, E3 Research Institute Group, which has produced a research vision document that will be presented to Council at a subsequent meeting, and the Communications and Public Affairs Group.

The Provost acknowledged that the Inspiring Generations' Campaign Cabinet will be impacted by COVID-19, and he referred to emergency sessions of the Campaign Steering Committee that had taken place on 20 February and 7 April 2020 to discuss ways of keeping Inspiring Generations on course. New ways of connecting with donors will need to be found on flagship projects – Grand Canal Innovation District (GCID), E3, the refurbishment of the Old Library, St. James's Cancer Institute, the School of Law and the New Generations programme for Scholarship and Academic Talent.

The Provost updated Council on the Board Review Working Group, chaired by Mr. Dermot McCarthy, former Secretary-General of the Department of An Taoiseach, which is examining the future governance of Trinity and Board membership. The Working Group will make recommendations to Board on effective College Governance for the future.

Raising the financial challenges presented to College by COVID-19, the Provost informed Council that the Executive Officers' Group (EOG) will establish an emergency finance group to examine the long-term funding challenges that a reduction in public funding and a decrease in commercial revenue may present.

- (v) The Provost drew attention to two anniversary events that had taken place in Trinity, the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute's 10th Anniversary Symposium on 19 February 2020, and he commended Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of the Long Room Hub for her organisation of a very successful event; and the Hist250 week, 2-6 March 2020, celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the College Historical Society's foundation in Trinity.
- (vi) Updating Council on his recent travel, the Provost informed Council that he had travelled to the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg in February 2020 and that he had met with the Chairman and Scientific Director, Professor Dr. Michael Baumann, who is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Medicine, to learn about the organisation and management of the Center.

The Trinity Students' Union Faculty Convenor left the meeting.

CL/19-20/132 Covid-19 Updates

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- (i) Academic Continuity in Response to Coronavirus: Approval

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred to the memorandum on Academic Continuity in Response to Coronavirus circulated to Council members by email for consideration and approval, advising that a majority of Council members approved the memorandum by the expiration of the time limit set. He reminded Council that the proposals in the memorandum were as follows:

- Changes to exam regulations and practices as documented in the Calendar and in course handbooks.
- Delegation of the functions of Council to the Provost and/or the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and/or Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, as appropriate to deal with assessment related matters between meetings of Council.
- Procedures adopted in this way to be documented and communicated to students prior to their online exams and all the regulations applying retrospectively to students registered for the 2019/20 academic year.

Decision:

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

CL/19-20/132.i:1: Council noted the memorandum on *Academic Continuity in response to the Coronavirus* dated 26 March 2020 that had been approved electronically by Council on 31 March 2020; and noted the memorandum from the Secretary to the College dated 1 April 2020.

- (ii) **Academic Continuity in Response to Coronavirus: Amendment**
The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the delegation of functions of Council to the Dean of Graduate Studies had not been included in the memorandum on Academic Continuity in Response to Coronavirus and he asked for Council approval of this delegation.

Decision:

CL/19-20/132.ii:1: Council approved further to item (i) that Council delegate its functions to the Dean of Graduate Studies as appropriate to deal with assessment-related matters between meetings of Council.

- (iii) **Alternative Assessment Arrangements: Update**
The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred to the intensive preparations underway for implementation of alternative modes of assessment acknowledging the efforts of Schools, IT Services, the Academic Registry, Trinity Online and CAPSL in responding to the challenges presented by COVID-19. He stated that three overarching principles guided the development of the proposals:

- Design of alternative assessment methodologies to examinations that appropriately assess programme and module learning outcomes.
- Protecting the academic integrity of Degrees.
- Ensuring that students are not disadvantaged by the new modes of assessment.

He invited the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies to present the proposals to Council.

Undergraduate Studies

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reiterated the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's appreciation of the efforts of the College community in responding to the challenges presented by COVID-19 particularly acknowledging the work of IT Services. Updating Council on preparations relating to undergraduate examinations, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that all undergraduate students and academic staff were sent an email communication on 2 April 2020 detailing the timing of the exam period and steps to be taken. He explained that the extra two weeks of Council-approved contingency dates for exams and assignments will be used, and that it is proposed to schedule take-home/offline or real-time/online exams during the two weeks of Monday 27 April to Saturday 9 May 2020, and that assignments replacing scheduled final examinations will be set a deadline in the third week, 11-15 May 2020.

Speaking to the nature of assessments, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies stated that live exams have been replaced by:

- Pro-rate continuous assessment – where 50% or more of the assessment is complete for Freshman years or 70% or more for Junior Sophister year, and the learning outcomes assessed.
- Assignment – convert final examinations to written assignments where the assignment is of a different type to the exam. The deadline will be one day during the week of 11 May 2020.
- Take home offline exams – open-book exams that are given a longer deadline to submit the answers. The deadline will either be the same-day or a multi-day deadline.
- Real time online exams – a timed exam offered remotely that is not invigilated, where students interact continuously with the online platform.
- Real time online invigilated exam – a timed exam offered remotely for which

students may not use any materials, and which require a trained invigilator. This will apply to programmes that have professional accreditation.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies informed Council that Schools were asked to advise on their plans for assessing modules by 6 April 2020 noting that all Schools had done so. He reported that only 69 modules, representing 9% of overall modules, require real-time online invigilated exams. Referring to the scheduling of exams, he advised that the information will need to be entered into SITS to provide students with access to a single source of truth on their exam schedules.

To mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies proposed several measures to facilitate completion of assessment by students, as follows:

1. Automatic right to defer – students can defer to the reassessment session on grounds of difficult personal circumstances in the current crisis through their Tutor.
2. Right to defer during examination period – students who attempt assessments and find that they are unable to complete them or perform as they would have expected can contact their Tutor and ask for deferral to the reassessment session.
3. Discretionary powers to Court of Examiners – for final degree grades, the Court of Examiners will use their powers of discretion with greater latitude than normal and will be advised to consider a student's overall profile of grades to ensure that no student is disadvantaged. External examiners to be consulted as appropriate, and performance on *vivas* to be taken into account where available.
4. Permission to resit passed modules – students will be presented with the opportunity to apply through their Tutors, to retake an exam in a module or modules they have passed during the reassessment session with the better mark of the two sittings counting. This option will be presented to students in years that contribute to their final degree grade.
5. Aggregation and progression – employment of the aggregation mechanism for modules failed in the second semester to facilitate a students' progression once the student achieves an overall pass mark for the year.
6. Student transcripts – the transcript to note modules taken during the time of COVID-19.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies acknowledged that this was a very stressful time for students, and that he expected the proposed measures to protect the academic integrity of programmes allowing students to take exams under less stressful circumstances. He added that it is proposed that assessment modalities employed in the reassessment session will be the same as the April/May modalities. He extended his thanks to the Trinity Students' Union for its input into the proposed measures.

Graduate Studies

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that due to the self-contained nature of postgraduate taught courses there is only a need for one real time exam to be held, as all other exams have been converted to assignments or take-home exams. He stated that postgraduate taught programmes have a higher proportion of international students, many of whom have returned to their home countries. Applications for deferrals or extensions, he advised, will be considered with maximal sensitivity to student circumstances.

Speaking to postgraduate taught programmes with theses, the Dean of Graduate Studies informed Council that dissertations will continue as intended with extensions for submission if College reopens in the summer. He indicated that it may be possible to devise an alternative 'dry' project for students in lieu of the dissertation if College does not reopen in the summer and advised that where appropriate, students may come off-books between May and September to recommence work on their dissertations in May

2021.

Referring to postgraduate research programmes, the Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that fully electronic *vivas* are now sanctioned and are working effectively, and that during this time students do not need to submit a final hard-bound copy of their dissertation as a condition of their graduation but will be required to submit a hard copy when exiting restrictions lift. He added that guidelines are being drafted on *vivas* to take account of the disruption caused to postgraduate research, noting that students can apply for an extension through their Supervisor.

The Dean of Graduate Studies extended his appreciation to Schools and the Senior Tutor for the work that they had done on assessment.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies for their reports and invited questions.

Members commended the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies for the work they had undertaken on the development of the proposals for mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on assessment. A member raised a concern relating to the application of the aggregation mechanism to undergraduate modules with a placement component. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies clarified that aggregation will not apply to modules that are already deemed as non-compensatable and confirmed that aggregation will only apply to the assessment of modules affected during the COVID-19 crisis.

Responding to a question raised by a member on whether there would be a later start to the 2020/21 academic year, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer indicated that as he did not know how long the current national restrictions would last, and if the Leaving Certificate would take place in June as scheduled, he was unable to advise. He added that he is monitoring the situation closely.

In response to a question raised relating to students on postgraduate taught programmes being provided with the opportunity to resit passed modules, the Dean of Graduate Studies undertook to raise this with the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) at its next meeting.

The Trinity Students' Union (TSU) Education Officer thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Provost for the work undertaken in relation to the development of the proposals to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and for involving students throughout the process. She referred Council to the campaign by Trinity students for a 'no detriment' policy acknowledging the importance of finding a policy that best fits with the Irish higher education system. She expressed her support for the same modality applying for exams in August as per the assessments in April and May, and asked that College continue to engage with the IUA in relation to the practice emerging from other Institutions. The TSU Education Officer requested that College consider a 'no detriment' policy that is already in place in other UK universities such as the University of Cambridge, to provide a safety net to students that guarantees final year students that their grade class will not be lower than their average from previous years, adding that students in all years who have completed 50% or more of their credits, should not have to sit a final exam. She asked if there was a pedagogical argument for not providing Trinity students with such a safety net.

In response to the issues presented by the TSU Education Officer, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that Trinity is working closely with the IUA to discuss policies and practices emerging in response to the crisis, clarifying that the policies of other Irish universities are very similar to Trinity's. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, in referring to the 'no detriment' policy explained that as fourth year requires more independent work on the part of the student than third year, it would not be possible to benchmark results based on third year grades. He added that as some students spend third year abroad, it would not be possible to allocate a grade to these

students based on their third-year grades.

The Dean of Students in referring to the real time exams recommended that contingency time be built in over the two-hour examination period to account for technical issues and internet connectivity issues that students may experience. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained that IT Services is putting in place a 'mock environment' to facilitate students testing their connectivity to the environment in advance of the exam. He added that a buffer will be built into the real time exam allowing for connectivity and technical issues disruption.

The Secretary to Scholars emphasised the importance of written assignments taking the place of exams being manageable in terms of student effort and word limits so that the assignment is not detrimental to students. He highlighted the need for a communication to be sent to students on the schedule for exams to allow ample preparation.

Referring to the question raised by the Secretary to the Scholars on Trinity Monday taking place, the Provost advised that the announcement of elections to Fellowship and Scholarship will be made online and that the other events associated with Trinity Monday will be either postponed or cancelled.

The TSU Health Sciences Faculty Convener referred to the third year Nursing six-week placement block due to commence in May 2020, highlighting that students are unable to take on health care assistant positions due to having to complete and pass the placement block. Students who take on health care positions, she noted, take the risk of not progressing to fourth year due to not having completed the placement block. Professor Brady, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, informed Council that contingency plans had been put in place by the School of Nursing and Midwifery and that these had been communicated to students. She advised that students could take on health care assistant roles in their own locality, and she expected that the majority of students will be able to progress as additional time will be made available to complete placements in August if this is required.

Decision:

CL/19-20/132.iii.1: Council approved the measures, 'automatic right to defer', 'right to defer during examination period', 'discretionary powers to Court of Examiners', 'permission to resit passed modules', 'aggregation and progression', 'student transcripts', proposed in the memorandum to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on students' academic performance.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies for their reports.

- (iv) Trinity Education Project: Update

Due to time constraints this item was postponed to the May meeting of Council.

CL/19-20/133 Institutional Quality Review: Institutional Profile

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The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer provided Council with a brief report on the Institutional Profile (IP) in advance of its submission to Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) on 23 April 2020. The IP, he explained, is part of documentation that will be sent to the Review Team in advance of the Trinity Institutional Review that is due to take place from 23-27 November 2020, adding that there is no indication from QQI that the timing of the review will be impacted by the current COVID-19 crisis.

Referring to the key documentation for submission to the Review Team in advance of the Trinity site visit, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, outlined that these are, the:

- i. Annual Institutional Quality Report (AIQR) submitted to QQI on 28 February 2020.
- ii. Institutional Profile, due for submission to QQI on 23 April 2020.
- iii. Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER), due for submission to QQI in September 2020.

He explained that the purpose of the Trinity IP is to provide a context and institutional-level data to the Review Team to frame their approach to the review and the review report. The IP includes content on Trinity's Mission and Vision Statements, an overview of the Trinity Strategic Plan 'Community and Connection', 2020-2025 and other College Strategies such as the Global Relations Strategy 3 and the Research Charter and Strategy; Trinity governance and management structures and its approach to Quality. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that the IP has drawn on a number of College-level publications, such as the Provost's Annual Report, and has been approved by College Officers, the Quality Committee and the Institutional Self-Evaluation Team.

The Provost congratulated the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and his team on the excellent document. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer acknowledged the Quality Officer and her team for their work on producing the IP.

Decision:

CL/19-20/133:1: Council approved the Institutional Quality Review: Institutional Profile and recommended it to the College Board for approval.

CL/19-20/134 The Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2018/19

The Librarian & College Archivist advised that she would take the Library Annual Report 2018/19 as read, remarking that 2018/19 was a year of significant progress on major long-term programmes. She stated that the annual report dovetails with the final year of the Trinity Strategic Plan 2014-2019, which focused on student environments, research environments, and the Trinity Visitor Experience, and is implemented under five pillars underpinned by communications, operations, and training and development. She presented a summary of the main highlights for each of the five pillars as follows:

- Pillar 1: Integrated Space – extensive progress was made towards an integrated design that addressed three essential components – conservation and protection of the Old Library building and its collections, the creation of a Research Collections Study Centre, a new and revitalised display and reinterpretation of the Book of Kells exhibition, new visitor facilities, rotating exhibition, orientation and public spaces. The Librarian & College Archivist reported that a programme of reimagined contemporary library spaces including Berkeley, Stearne and Hamilton was undertaken.
- Pillar 2: Integrated Digital – the complete set of records for the UK electronic Legal Deposit (UK e-LD) items were successfully added into Stella Search, which includes 5 million e-journal articles, and 500,000 e-books. The Librarian & College Archivist explained that while these can only be accessed on Library premises other copies have been purchased to offset this and the Library has also invested in laptops as access points. She referred to the *Irish Copyright and Other Intellectual Property Law Provisions Act* signed into law on 26 June 2019, an important piece of legislation that extends Irish legal deposit to digital publications, however she expressed her disappointment that a web archive of the Irish web domain was excluded.
- Pillar 3: Integration into Teaching, Learning & Research – the Open Scholarship Taskforce organised *Unboxing Open Scholarship*, which consisted of eleven events to ascertain the University's understanding of open scholarship practice as it pertains to individual and collective scholarly practice.
- Pillar 4: Prioritised Funding – the Library is one of the flagship projects of the Inspiring Generations Campaign launched by the University in May 2019. The Old Library Redevelopment Project, and the creation of a Virtual Trinity Library, the Librarian & College Archivist advised, are two complementary and intertwined Library programmes.
- Pillar 5: Suite of inter-related Policies and Programmes – the contemporary programme

to create a new virtual library was established in 2018/19. The Librarian & College Archivist advised that the Virtual Trinity is a new Irish research entity and digital library that will be open to the world. It will consist of a series of projects to catalogue, conserve and digitise the unique and rare collections of the Library. The Librarian & College Archivist referred to the State Visit of their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands in June 2019, stating that this visit was particularly significant for the Library, as they viewed some items from the Fagel Collection, the finest surviving 18th century Dutch private Library.

The Librarian & College Archivist referred to a number of events hosted by the Library that took place in 2018/19, including the League of European Research Libraries (LIBER) Annual Conference hosted by the Library in partnership with the Consortium of National and Universities Libraries (CONUL) in June 2019; and the 48th League of European Research Universities (LERU) INFO Group, a key forum for the advancement of Open Scholarship. Referring to the LIBER Annual Conference, she highlighted that the exhibition *Drawing your Attention: Four Centuries of Political Caricature*, co-curated by Shane Mawe, Department of Early Printed Books and Professor Gail McElroy, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, coincided with the conference. The Library lent the Book of Durrow to the hugely successful *Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War* exhibition at the British Library, the Librarian & College Archivist reported.

The Librarian & College Archivist presented the percentage breakdown of overall expenditure on resources by Faculty for 2018/19 noting that the expenditure is evenly distributed across Faculties. She informed Council that legal deposit material is not included in the expenditure.

The Librarian & College Archivist concluded her report by presenting the main challenges and opportunities for the Library Strategy in 2020/21. She described challenges such as COVID-19, and the implementation of Brexit as having huge implications for the Library Strategy and raised the need for a library presence in the GCID to facilitate legal deposit access on the new campus.

The Provost thanked the Librarian & College Archivist for her excellent report and presentation and invited questions and comments.

The Librarian & College Archivist was congratulated on her report and the work undertaken by the Library on Open Scholarship. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer commended the Librarian & College Archivist on her leadership.

Decision:

CL/19-20/134:1: Council approved the Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2018/19.

CL/19-20/135 Undergraduate Course Proposal – Environmental Science and Engineering

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal from the School of Natural Science and School of Engineering for an integrated undergraduate/postgraduate course in Environmental Science and Engineering, informing Council that the proposal emanates from Trinity's E3 initiative. The rationale for the course, he advised, is to produce graduates who will shape a sustainable future and tackle the global challenges of the world. The course in its first year is expected to have an intake of 20 EU and 5 Non-EU students, with this increasing to 26 EU and 6 Non-EU students in its second year, and 32 EU and 8 Non-EU students in its third year.

The Dean of Graduate Studies informed Council that the programme consisting of 240 (undergraduate) and 60 (postgraduate) ECTS will be delivered over five years, the first three years of which are common before separating into two distinct routes over the fourth and fifth years – *Environmental Engineering* and *Applied Environmental Science*. He explained that students who successfully complete the five-year programme will be conferred with both the Bachelor and Master degrees relevant to their stream, explaining that there is an option for students to leave at the end of fourth year with a Bachelor degree. The Dean of Graduate Studies explained that progression to year 5 of the programme is subject to the student achieving 60% (2.1).

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received very positive reviews and endorsements from two external reviewers, Professor Keith Beven, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Hydrology, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University and Professor Liam Dolan, Sherardian Professor of Botany, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford.

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that two derogations are being sought for the programme, which largely adheres to the professional architecture developed under the Trinity Education Project (TEP), these are:

- The 30 ECTS module in internship in the fourth year.
- The programme does not feature Open Modules, given the inherent breadth of its curriculum.

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

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Sciences stated that there is a clear need for the programme, as it addresses the environmental challenges ahead, and that there is a strong endorsement from the Faculty for the course.

The Provost queried why the award was a BSc. and not a BAI on successful completion of Year 4, and the Registrar explained that the award structure was aligned to that of the Engineering with Management programme.

Decisions:

CL/19-20/135.1: Council approved the proposal for the integrated undergraduate/postgraduate programme in Environmental Science and Engineering leading to a Bachelor in Science in Environmental Engineering/Bachelor in Science with Applied environmental Science (award to be established) after year 4, and the MAI (St.) Master in Engineering (Studies)/Master in Applied Environmental Science (award to be established) after completion of year 5, with the first intake in September 2021.

CL/19-20/135.2: Council approved the 30 ECTS module size derogation and the Open Module derogation.

CL/19-20/136 Any Other Urgent Business

The Provost extended his thanks to the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Trinity Students' Union on their work in relation to alternative assessments.

SECTION B

CL/19-20/137 Graduate Studies Committee

The minutes of 26 March 2020 were noted and approved.

Decision:

CL/19-20/137.1: Council approved continuation of the course in Nursing-Advanced Practice (ANP) leading to the M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip./P.Grad.Cert. Awards to see through current cohorts in the system, and the creation of separate course titles and codes for Advanced Practice (Midwifery) and Advance Practice (Nursing) for new entrants from 2020/21.

Professor M. Corry left the meeting.

CL/19-20/138 Research Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the 18 February 2020 were noted and approved.

CL/19-20/139 Student Life Committee

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The minutes of the meeting of 28 January 2020 and 25 February were noted and approved.

CL/19-20/140 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred Council to item USC/19-20/045 'Trinity Education Project' advising that a memorandum on integrating non-pillar subjects, Computer Science, Political Science, Business, Linguistics, Social Policy, and Law into the pillar structure had been presented to the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC), and that the allocation of subjects into the four pillars to apply from September 2021 were approved. He added that some issues had been raised by the Schools of Histories and Humanities and Social Sciences and Philosophy and that he was arranging to meet the Schools to discuss the issues raised relating to removal of the ring-fenced quota for History and Political Science and a possible overlap of modules on proposed combinations with Social Policy. He advised that a proposal on integrating non-pillar subjects would be brought to the next meeting of Council for consideration and approval.

i. Principles for Open Modules.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred to the Principles for Open Modules for year 2 and year 3, advising that it was proposed that students at level 2 of their programme of study should take Open Modules at either Level 1 or 2 and not above level 2, and that cohorts of students at level 3 of their programme of study should take Open Modules at levels 2 or 3 with preference for modules at level 3. He added that it is proposed that modules offered across years cannot be offered as Open Modules, and that Open Modules at level 3 will not require students to have prior credits at level 2 in that subject.

ii. Temporary Revisions for English Language Requirements.

Speaking to the temporary revisions for English Language Requirements, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies informed Council that proposals were presented to and approved by the USC. These proposals, he advised, relate to the extension of the validity of existing IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge and PET test scores by one additional year on a temporary basis for 2020/21 applications, and to accept a score of 110 in the Duolingo English Test as equivalent to IELTS 6.5 on a temporary basis for undergraduate and postgraduate 2020/21 applications.

Decision:

CL/19-20/140.1: Council noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of 26 March 2020 and the 'Principles for Open Modules' and 'Temporary Revisions for English Language Requirements'.

SECTION C**CL/19-20/141 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 11 March 2020 and noted by Board on 25 March 2020.

Higher Degrees by Research Alone

- PhD** Hadiah Khalaf Saad Almutairi; Sonia Bicca; Gareth Clarke; Martin Connolly; Aisling Durkan; Merim Dzaferagic; Gillian Elizabeth Fitzgerald; Hugh Fulham-McQuillan; Gary Hannon; Pik Ki Ho; Alejandro Jimenez Rios; Paul Loughlin; Victoria Lyons; Katie O'Brien; Stephen Adrian O'Brien; Duncan Alexander Spiers; Edward Owen Teggin.
- MSc** Fearghal Donaghy; Hamid Hassani; Sylvain Kezir Mangoni; Snehal Prabhukeluskar.
- MLitt** Lucia Venturi.

CL/19-20/142 Consolidated list of External Examiners

The Council noted and approved the Memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies dated 2 April 2020.

CL/19-20/143 Heads of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Melissa Sihra as Head of Discipline of Drama, School of Creative Arts, for a further one-year term extending to 31 May 2021.
- (ii) Professor Caroline Jagoe as Head of Discipline of Clinical Speech and Language Studies, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, for a three-year term commencing 1 June 2020.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date