



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 20 January 2021 at 11.00 remotely and hosted from the Provost's Library.**

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor D. Murchan, Professor S. Alyn Stacey, Professor D. Shepherd, Professor C. Kelly, Professor M. Lyons, Professor A. O'Connor, Professor M. Monaghan, Professor M. Ruffini, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor B. O'Connell, Professor C. Donnellan, Dr. O. Gobbo, Professor A. Long, Ms. D. Kelleher, Ms M. O'Connor, Mr D. O'Reilly, Ms. A. Bhattacharjee, Ms. J. Wall.
<i>Apologies</i>	Professor AM. Malone, Mr. J. Noctor, Ms. J. Whelan.
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Librarian and College Archivist, Director of Student Services, Assistant Academic Secretary, Ms. A. Crawford.
<i>Observers</i>	Ms. Camilla Persello, Ms. Nilki Aluthge Dona.

**SECTION A**

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting. He requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary noted that Professor O'Driscoll had declared a conflict of interest for item D.27 (i) Membership of Senior Academic Promotions Committee (2019 Call), and it has been agreed that Professor O'Driscoll absence herself for the item.

**CL/20-21/075    Declarations by new Members and Observers**

The new members and observer of Council made the required statutory declarations.

**CL/20-21/076    Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 25 November 2020 were approved and signed.

**CL/20-21/077    Matters Arising**

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**(i)            CL/20-21/057 Quality Review of Trinity Business School**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred members to a memorandum that was circulated in relation to CL/20-21/057 advising that there had been follow-up with the Dean of

the Trinity Business School (TBS) in relation to the recommendations of Council, which were:

- CL/20-21/057.1: Council deferred the decision to recognise the TBS' triple accreditation processes in lieu of an external quality review under the College School quality review procedure to a subsequent meeting and subject to the document being revised to properly represent the governance structure of the TBS within the university.
- CL/20-21/057.2: The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to follow-up with the Dean of the TBS on the description of governance and staffing in the document.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that following discussions with the Dean of the TBS changes to the 'Report of the Quality Review of the School of Business' were agreed, as follows:

- Figure 2, page 7: TBS Governance Structure amended to indicate dual reporting role to the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) and a direct relationship with the AHSS Faculty Executive.
- Figure 3, page 8: TBS Internal Governance Structure – title change from 'Chief Operations Officer (School Manager)' to 'Head of Business Development and Operations' (the official title of the postholder).
- Appendix 2, pages 18-24: the term 'Associate Deans' has been replaced by 'Co-directors of Academic Staff'.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the Quality Office Review was conducted in line with the *Quality Policy Statement* approved by Council (CL/18-19/063) and Board (BD/18-19/096). However, Council discussion of the item during the November 2020 meeting identified the need for revisions to the *Quality Policy Statement* as follows:

- (i) To specifically include the Dean of the Faculty in the process, and
- (ii) That the policy applies only where there are multiple 'statutory' quality accreditation/review obligations.

He added, that having considered the issues raised at Council and having reviewed the *Quality Policy Statement*, he did not recommend that Council recognise the TBS' triple accreditation processes in lieu of an external quality review under the College-School Quality Review Procedure. He recommended that a College Quality Review of the TBS is undertaken in 2023/24.

#### Decisions:

**CL/20-21/077.1:** Council approved the changes to the Report of the Quality Review of the School of Business.

**CL/20-21/077.2:** Council approved the revision of the *Quality Policy Statement* to (i) specifically include the Dean of the Faculty in the process, and (ii) that the policy applies only where there are multiple 'statutory' quality accreditation/review obligations.

**CL/20-21/077.3:** Council approved the recommendation that a College Quality Review of the TBS be undertaken in 2023/24, and that the TBS' triple accreditation processes not be recognised in lieu of an external quality review under the College School Quality Review Procedure.

#### CL/20-21/078 Provost's Report

- (i) The Provost updated Council on the *Inspiring Generations Campaign*, which consists of funding four flagship projects. The first phase of the planned Grand Canal Innovation District (GCID) has commenced with the initiation of the Early Activation Capital Project. He advised that an independent Chair, Stephen Vernon, has been appointed to the Early Activation Capital Project Committee (EACPC) and that the EACPC will report into the Capital Review Group. A Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus Steering Committee will be established. Referring to the Old Library Redevelopment Project he advised that the

Taoiseach visited the Old Library on 4 December 2020, and that a funding request had been submitted to Government, which is now under review. The St. James' Cancer Institute, the Provost reported, is progressing well with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being drafted by the Bursar and Director of Strategic Innovation and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of St. James' Hospital. *New Generations*, the Provost highlighted, will lead to more PhD Scholarships through the Provost PhD Awards. He noted that there are 40 Provost PhD Awards 2020-21 with applications being considered by the Dean of Graduate Studies at present.

- (ii) The Dean of Students updated Council on progress relating to the *Framework for Consent in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)*, advising that an Implementation Oversight Committee has been established, chaired by the Associate Vice-Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. She highlighted that the implementation will be supported by the *College Dignity and Respect Policy*, which is being updated.
- (iii) The Provost reported that he had been invited to address the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science on 3 December 2020, which was examining the impact of Covid-19 on the HEIs.
- (iv) Referring to the Research Funding Expansion Strategy, which will be presented to Board for approval, the Provost advised that the Strategy will enable Trinity to effectively apply for research funding. There is a need to increase the staffing complement of the Research Development Office to support Principal Investigators (PIs) in accessing research grants and funding.
- (v) Submissions were made to the Higher Education Authority (HEA) re the National Development Plan (NDP) and to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science on the *Statement of Strategy 2021-23*, the Provost explained, and he thanked the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for leading out on these submissions at short notice.
- (vi) The Provost highlighted that the Trinity Innovation Awards 2020 were awarded on 1 December 2020, acknowledging the recipients of the awards as follows:
  - Campus Company Founders Award - Aljosa Smolic
  - Inventors Award - Vinny Kelly and Bruce Murphy
  - Ones to Watch Award - Marco Ruffini and Sarah Doyle
  - Societal Impact Award - Aideen Long
  - Lifetime Achievement - Pete Humphries
  - Provost's Innovation Award - Kingston Mills
  - Industry Engagement Award - Frederick Sheedy and Maeve Lowry.

Campus Companies to be recognised at the Award ceremony were Senoptica Way2Be, and Akara Robotics.

Professor Catherine Comiskey and Professor Pdraig Carmody joined the meeting.

#### **CL/20-21/079 CHARM-EU: Master in Global Challenges for Sustainability**

The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced the item advising that a Master in Global Challenges for Sustainability will be delivered under CHARM-EU. She reported that the programme went to an External Review Panel for review and that the Panel concluded that the proposal evidenced compliance with all nine dimensions of review. There were no required amendments to the proposal, however, a number of recommendations

were made by the Panel for future consideration. The course proposal was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) on 5 November 2020.

Professor Comiskey presented the MSc in Global Challenges for Sustainability, reminding Council that CHARM-EU is an initiative formed by five research-based universities, created to become a world example of good practice to increase the quality, international competitiveness and attractiveness of the European Higher Education landscape. The vision of CHARM-EU is to:

- have an innovative university model, which embraces the change needed to meet society's challenges,
- aim for a challenge-driven university, creating flexible student-led educational programmes focused on identifying and solving specific challenges in close collaboration with the broader community.
- promote the common European values emphasizing the richness and diversity of the European tradition and focusing strategically on trying to rethink the role of the European universities in the world.

The vision, she explained, will be delivered through an inter-university campus, student choice of where and what to study, embedded mobility, new joint and flexible curricula, transdisciplinary-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches, practical and/or work-based experience, and a diverse student body.

Outlining the structure of the programme, Professor Comiskey explained that the MSc in Global Challenges for Sustainability will be offered full-time over 18 months with an accelerated option to take the programme over 12 months commencing in September 2021. The programme consists of 90 ECTS with a preparatory phase comprising 30 ECTS; a flexible phase, 30 ECTS; and a Capstone, 30 ECTS. Professor Comiskey informed Council that graduates of any discipline seeking to acquire knowledge of sustainability by addressing global challenges using an innovative educational approach are eligible to apply.

Professor Comiskey referred to the admissions entry requirements, which comply with the national legislation of the countries of the partner universities and are in line with Trinity's admission standards. The selection criteria will be assessed through academic transcript, curriculum vitae, an essay, a video presentation, and an interview if required. She explained that applications will be balanced by geography and discipline and will be ranked to ensure diversity and inclusion criteria are met.

The seven assessment principles of CHARM-EU were highlighted by Professor Comiskey as follows, outcome based, student centred, feedback focused, mentor supported, multiple assessors and methods applied, process oriented, and flexible. She explained that longitudinal programmatic assessment will consist of low stakes assessment activities, with meaningful feedback provided to drive student learning, and a high-stakes pass/fail decision made based on the multiple low-stakes assessments. The outcomes will be stored in an e-portfolio.

Professor Comiskey reported that the proposal and fuller project have been approved and signed into a legal agreement by all five university Rectors.

The Provost thanked Professor Comiskey and asked how EU qualifications will be assessed by the Admissions Committee. In response, Professor Comiskey explained that eligible candidates will hold a 2.1 bachelor degree consisting of 180 ECTS, except in the case of candidates from France, who will have a Degree consisting of 210 ECTS.

Responding to questions from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies on the logistics relating to students taking the 18 month programme and the accelerated programme, and the mobility and blended learning dimensions of the programme, Professor Comiskey advised that students taking the programme over 18 months will

have a break over the summer, while students taking the accelerated programme will complete the research strand over the summer. All students will follow the same format in semester 1 and semester 2. She explained that students will have the opportunity to travel to a university to take a specific discipline, as the academic expert delivering the blended learning will reside in one of the five universities. Professor Carmody added that a student identity document is under development, that a student alumni and advisory council will be established, and that students will travel to another university for the Semester 2 modules they are specialising in.

The Senior Tutor asked if consideration had been given to a language component noting that all the modules were delivered in the English language. He also sought clarification on the provision of student services referenced on page 42 of the document. Professor Comiskey agreed that a language component would be beneficial, however, she advised that for the pilot programme it was agreed that the programme would be taught through the English language. In relation to the provision of student services, she explained that a virtual joint office will be established through the project funding and that each university will provide student services locally. As the CHARM-EU students will be students of all the universities, the students will be able to avail of the local student supports also.

A member voiced her support for the programme adding that there is some enthusiasm in Trinity to set up MPhil collaborations asking if a timeframe had been considered on this. She agreed with the Senior Tutor on the importance of languages, noting that Trinity has a strength in this area. Professor Comiskey thanked the member for her comment advising that this was something partner institutions would also endorse and undertook to bring this to the Academic Board when it meets next.

The Vice-Provost/Chief-Academic Officer noted that the CHARM-EU Alliance has many parallels with the Trinity Strategic Plan 2020-25, especially in relation to innovative assessment. He referred to the opportunities presented by the Alliance for programmes to grow from the pilot and noted that he also would like to see languages feature in future programmes. He congratulated all involved in developing the programme over a tight timeframe. The Dean of Graduate Studies extended her thanks to all involved also.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/079.1:** Council approved the proposal for the one-year full-time (12 months) and two-year part-time (18 months) blended CHARM-EU course in Global Challenges for Sustainability leading to a Master in Global Challenges for Sustainability (90 ECTS) at level 9 of the NFQ, with a first intake in September 2021.

Professor Catherine Comiskey and Professor Padraig Carmody left the meeting.

**CL/20-21/080 School of Creative Arts: Quality Review Implementation Plan**

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The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reminded Council that the quality review of the School of Creative Arts took place from the 27-29 November 2018 and that the review team consisted of academic expertise from Harvard University (Music), University of Glasgow (Drama), the University of East Anglia (Film and Gender Studies), and the University of Warwick (Drama – Theatre and Performance). The TOR of the review was as follows:

To assess and make recommendations on:

- New administrative and governance structure proposals to underpin the unification of School of Creative Arts.
- Proposals to further integrate provision of School-wide courses and research.
- Enshrining practice-based teaching and research within the School.
- Consideration of the relocation of the School to the proposed Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus housing all three disciplines and the Arts

## Technology Research Laboratory.

The review report identified three main challenges facing the School and are as follows:

1. The School is located across four different sites, some of which are deemed 'not fit-for-purpose'. Facilitating the co-location of the School's three subject areas is a key challenge.
2. The School's three subject areas function largely independently of each other. As a result, there is duplication of administrative roles across the subject areas leading to inefficiency and a lack of shared identity and purpose.
3. The School does not have the necessary staff and leadership resources to facilitate and support the next phase of its development. Rationalising the delivery of its curriculum in order that some additional capacity is realised is a key challenge.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer drew attention to the Council recommendation on the establishment of a Taskforce to address the implementation of the review recommendations. The Taskforce comprised the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, the Dean of AHSS, the Academic Secretary, the Head of School of Creative Arts, the School Administrative Manager, and the Faculty Administrative Manager. It met on 13 occasions from March 2019-December 2020. He highlighted that the TOR of the Taskforce was to consider the recommendations of the School Review with a particular focus on resolving the issues on the School's physical dispersal across campus in a series of inadequate buildings, reviewing the curricula, and restricting the administrative reporting lines.

The physical infrastructure development consists of two phases, as follows:

- Phase 1, involving the redevelopment of 191-3 Pearse Street to accommodate both Film and Music in a new bespoke teaching spaces and offices, with agreement with the RIAM to use their new performance space, for all professional staff from the three disciplines to be relocated to 191-3 Pearse Street, and for teaching staff and research students to be housed in these shared spaces.
- Phase 2, the Samuel Beckett Theatre, will be refurbished and renamed as 'The Centre for Creative Arts'.

Turning to curriculum redesign, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that the Drama MPhil is under revision, the Music MPhil is currently on hold pending the introduction of a School-wide MSc in Creative Technologies, which is under development through Human Capital Initiative (HCI) funding. It will focus on the application of technology to creative practice in collaboration with STEM disciplines. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer summarised developments relating to undergraduate programmes offered by the School, noting that the Music undergraduate curriculum is currently under major revision and is expected to be ready for delivery in 2021/22; that the Drama undergraduate curriculum has been revised in line with review recommendations; the Film department has launched its Single Honours programme alongside its Columbia Dual-Degree programme, and all three departments have revised their curricula to address the Trinity Education Project (TEP) requirements.

Speaking to progress made in relation to the recommendation on staffing and leadership in the School, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that there are no immediate plans to appoint a Professor of Creative Arts due to funding constraints. The School submitted a 2019/20 Senior Academic Leadership Initiative application for internal Trinity consideration but was unsuccessful. The School has initiated the process of restructuring professional and technical staffs' reporting lines and job descriptions. He explained that while the School has appointed a Technical Officer to the Samuel Beckett Theatre, the appointment of a dedicated School Technical Officer is not currently possible due to financial constraints.

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

In response to a concern expressed by a member in relation to the renaming of the Samuel Beckett Theatre to the Centre of Creative Arts, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that due to the long-term nature of the project any such change is not going to occur in the short to medium term. The Provost referred to the reviewers' recommendation on the appointment of a Professor of Creative Arts, noting that investment is often required to generate funds, and he sought clarity on where investment was made. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that investment will be made in relation to the co-location of the three disciplines and that the funding for this has been identified. He added that the curriculum redesign of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes will also make programmes more attractive and that this has worked for the Film programme. The School, he reported, is engaging with Trinity Development and Alumni (TDA) re philanthropic support for the appointment of a Professor.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/080.1:** Council approved the Quality Review Implementation Plan from the School of Creative Arts Review Implementation Taskforce.

**CL/20-21/081 2021 Scholarship Examinations**

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The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred Council to the proposed quota mechanism for the 2020/21 Scholarship examination, which was discussed by Council on 21 October 2020, noting that it had been conditionally approved by Board on 18 November 2020, subject to the determination of the Visitors through a *dubium* that the proposal was compliant with the Statutes (BD/20-21/070). The decision of the Visitors on the *dubium*, having received submissions from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Professor E. O'Dell acting on behalf of the Scholars, was that the proposal is compliant with the Statutes, and Board noted the Visitors' decision at its meeting of 16 December 2020. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies added that Council consent is now sought as per the Statutes, Chapter on Scholars, Section 5.

Revisiting the rationale for the introduction of a quota mechanism, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained we are using an untried and untested examination system with online exams where we have no history on past performance on which to calibrate the level of achievement on which we would award Scholarships. He expressed the concern that we might have significant grade inflation, which was the case for Trinity's Semester 2 exams last year, and that this would result in a devaluing of the 2020/21 Scholarship examination. The quota is to protect the academic rigour of the Scholarship exams and the value of the Scholarship awards themselves.

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

Professor Alyn Stacey expressed her dissent with the proposal to introduce a quota mechanism, noting that the rationale is perverse in the legal sense as it implies there is a presumption that there could be possible academic maleficence by potential Scholars, and she felt the fear of possible grade inflation as observed in the annual exams is unwarranted. She feared that College is setting a serious precedent and doing a disservice to Scholarship. She noted that the opinion given by the President of the Students' Union or the Fellows is not heard in the discussion on the matter. She requested that her dissent be noted again.

The Students' Union (SU) Education Officer, Ms M O'Connor, reiterated the SU's position that the introduction of quotas is undermining the integrity of the level of general assessments and will set precedents for introducing quotas in the future; for example, for the award of 1<sup>st</sup> class honours. She argued that if there is doubt about the assessment of the Scholarship examination, then this casts doubt on the rigour of the examination and assessment approaches employed in

2020. She further argued that applying quotas to the Scholarship exam questions College's level of confidence in the ability of academic staff to assess their subject.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies responding to the concerns raised above clarified that the introduction of quotas is not concerned with students cheating in the exams but for the calibration of the standard on which we award the Scholarship. The numerical grades increased last year with the online format of exams, and he felt that there are no grounds for concern about setting precedents because the Scholarship examination is a real-time online exam and most of the adjustments to the challenges of the assessment across the other exams have been because of the move to a range of exam methods, including more open-book exams and assignments. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies did not see any relational precedent and rejected the idea that putting quotas in place for the 2020/21 Scholarship examination undermines confidence in assessments generally.

The postgraduate student (FHS) member, Ms J Wall, also recorded her dissent, agreeing with the opposing arguments already stated and arguing that everyone who meets the standard should be awarded the Scholarship.

The SU (STEM) member, Mr D O'Reilly, also recorded his dissent, noting that the introduction of a quota mechanism would have a negative effect on the reputation of Scholarship, and would send a signal that we don't have confidence in the system to maintain academic standards without the use of an artificial cap. He also argued that the quota system signals that we do not have trust in how we assess.

The GSU Vice-President, Ms A Bhattacharjee, also noted her dissent and agreed with the arguments already made against quotas and added that a quota mechanism is not an academic measurement and Scholarship should be awarded on academic grounds only.

In responding to these concerns, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained that the use of the quota mechanism is to ensure that the standard for the 2020/21 Scholarship examination is met in line with the standards of previous years. The baseline expectation should be that on average the number of people achieving Scholarship should not fluctuate wildly from year to year. He explained we have an untested, uncalibrated system where we do not know what the distribution of numerical grades is likely to be, and the quota system will grade the curve and award the Scholarships to the top X number of students taking the exam. This allows for variation in the numerical grades, while protecting the value of the Scholarship. He felt that the worst thing that could happen to the reputation of Scholarship is a significant increase in the number of Scholars in 2020/21, and these Scholars being dismissed as the 'Covid' Scholars. He argued that the application of quotas is precisely to protect the value of the Scholarship.

The Secretary to the Scholars, Ms C. Persello, also recorded her concerns stating that she, along with her predecessor, had already voiced disagreement with the proposal. She objected to the application of quotas on the same grounds as those stated above by others. She also noted that the only relevant data on grade inflation should come from examinations invigilated in the same way as the 2021 Scholarship examinations, and inquired if grade inflation had occurred for the 2020 annual proctored real-time online examinations. She asked why the average is being chosen to determine the cap when there is a wide deviation within the numbers across the last five years. She felt that there is a good chance that fewer students will sit the 2020/21 Scholarship examination because of the timing of the end of semester exams. She argued that denying a Scholarship to a candidate who meets the academic standard would be a lost opportunity for the College and the students who may achieve the academic standard but lose out because of the relative achievement of other candidates. The Secretary to the Scholars further argued that the criteria to be employed for the ranking of students should have been communicated to students along with the ranking mechanism as this would have influenced how they would have prepared for the examinations. Further and in agreement with Prof Alyn Stacey's concern, she noted that there is a difference in approach to the management of Scholarship as opposed to the other examinations, where a greater degree of leniency is applied. Concluding, the Secretary to the Scholars noted that The Statutes state that Scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic ability and learning, and she argued that quotas do not focus on individual academic achievement.

Professor Kelly also asked for her dissent to be recorded, stating that she supports the arguments presented by Professor Alyn Stacey and others, and felt that the Board decision did not come down in favour of the students. She drew attention to the omission of a statement in the documentation that this was an emergency measure introduced for this academic year only.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies confirmed that the mechanism is explicitly an emergency measure for this academic year only and does not imply precedent for future Scholarship exams or any other exam. He apologised that this was not explicitly stated in the documentation.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer voiced his support for the introduction of the quota mechanism, stating that it is an emergency measure in the context of the Covid pandemic and in this context we should not compare the circumstances of annual examinations with Scholarship examinations: all students are required to sit annual examinations whereas Scholarship is a choice. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer felt that under the current circumstances, the application of quotas will protect the integrity of the 2020/21 Scholarship examination.

The SU Education Officer stated that she disagreed with the assertion that this was an emergency measure as College has the experience of running two examination sessions online. She asked if College is looking for a mark of 70% or higher or for the top 60 students in the College.

Concluding the discussion, the Provost declined a request that there be a Council vote on the measure but offered the opportunity for any additional members to record their dissent. Observing that there were no further dissents, he asserted that the proposal had majority support. He also stressed the necessity of the measure to protect the integrity of Scholarship. Professor Alyn Stacey stated that on a point of procedure, she could not say that there is a majority in agreement with the decision.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/081.1:** Council gave its consent to the proposed quota mechanism for the 2020/21 Scholarship examinations. The following members of Council dissented from the decision, Professor Alyn Stacey, Professor Kelly, Ms O'Connor, Ms Wall, Mr O'Reilly, and Ms Bhattacharjee.

The Secretary to the Scholars, as an observer at the meeting, asked that her opposition to the proposal be recorded.

**Action:**

**CL/20-21/081.2:** The memorandum to include the statement that the introduction of a quota mechanism is an emergency measure for the 2020/21 Scholarship examination only.

**CL/20-21/082 Proposed Governance Structure for Pillar 3 Human Capital Initiative**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer informed Council that the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) was launched by the government in late 2019 to invest €300 million to increase the capacity of Higher Education (HE) over five years to meet skills needs of the future. The three pillars of the Initiative cover the areas of graduate conversion courses (Pillar 1), additional places on existing undergraduate provision (Pillar 2), and innovation and agility (Pillar 3). Trinity was recently awarded €21 million under Pillar 3, he explained, following the submission of a proposal of 24 individual work packages under the umbrella theme 'Next Generation Teaching and Learning for the Changing Needs of Society and Enterprise'. To oversee and project manage the funding, it is proposed to establish the following governance structure:

- i. HCI Steering Committee chaired by the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, with the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate

Studies as co-sponsors. HCI Steering Committee is responsible for guaranteeing the execution of the deliverables of the five streams of the project and for ensuring that the delivery of the HCI work-packages remains on time, within budget and within scope, and for maintaining and monitoring the risk register as well as suggesting and implementing risk mitigation.

- ii. HCI Logistics Advisory Group chaired by the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The Group will report directly to HCI Steering Committee.
- iii. HCI Cluster 1: IUA-linked Micro-credentialing Pilot chaired by the Academic Secretary.
- iv. HCI Cluster 2: Environment and Sustainability chaired by Professor Sylvia Draper.
- v. HCI Cluster 3: Well-being and the Care Economy chaired by Professor Aideen Long.
- vi. HCI Cluster 4: ICT, Data Science and Engineering chaired by Professor Vinny Cahill.
- vii. HCI Cluster 5: People, Culture and Leadership chaired by Professor Gillian Martin.

He advised that each of the five Clusters will have its own working group with membership consisting of each work-package owner and that these will meet monthly to review progress.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that a HCI Project Office will be established in the Academic Services Division (ASD) reporting to the ASD Manager. The Office will be managed by a HCI Project Manager, who has recently been appointed, and a HCI Project Administrator. He informed Council that the governance structure for the HCI project as well as the TOR and membership of the working groups was approved by the Executive Officers Group (EOG) at its meeting on 8 December 2020.

The Librarian and College Archivist requested that given that the Library is embedded in the academic work of the college that Library membership be considered in respect of the following Committees:

- HCI Steering Committee – Librarian and College Archivist.
- HCI Logistics Advisory Group – Sub-Librarian (Digital Systems & Services), Arlene Healy
- TCD/IUA Micro-Credentialing Pilot Project – Sub-Librarian (Teaching & Research Support & User Experience), Siobhan Dunne
- Environment & Sustainability – Keeper of Preservation & Conservation, Susie Bioletti

The Dean of STEM welcomed the inclusion of representation from the Library on the groups suggesting that the Library be represented on HCI Logistics Advisory Group rather than HCI Steering Committee.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that he was very happy to have the Library on board and advised that the membership listing of the groups will be updated accordingly.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/082.1:** Council approved the HCI Pillar 3 governance structure and TOR and membership of the working groups with the inclusion of Library representation on HCI Logistics Advisory Group, TCD/IUA Micro-Credentialing Pilot Project working group, and the Environment & Sustainability working group, as above.

**CL/20-21/083 Postgraduate Course Proposal: Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Ageing and Frailty Studies**

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal for the course in Advanced Ageing and Frailty Studies to Council. The one-year part-time blended programme consisting of four modules will be delivered by the School of Medicine. The course will lead to the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Ageing and Frailty Studies (30 ECTS), a Special Purpose Award at level 9 of the NFQ. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the programme will be offered to a wide range of health-care professionals who wish to improve their knowledge and inform their clinical practice in the area of frailty. The course will accommodate a minimum of 8 EU and a maximum of 20 EU students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Tahir Masud, Consultant Physician at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH), President of the British Geriatrics Society, University of Nottingham, UK.

In response to a query from the Provost, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that candidates from healthcare disciplines are invited to apply once they hold a 2.1 Degree relating to the health sciences. The Dean of Students suggested that it would be useful for Schools to offer a range of modules that could be shared across College. The Dean of Health Sciences noted that it would be important to ensure that no overlap in provision occurred, advising that this had been raised at the Faculty Executive. The Dean of Graduate Studies stated that the GSC will explore the establishment of a working group to consider and address this issue.

A member stated that it is important to consider administrative supports when course proposals are being developed to ensure that sufficient supports are in place to deliver the programme. The Dean of Graduate Studies in responding to the comment, advised that the Faculty Dean ensures that the necessary staffing is in place noting that the member had raised this point previously in relation to the Academic Registry. She advised that GSC takes this on board when considering course proposals.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/083.1:** Council approved the proposal for a one-year part-time blended course in Advanced Ageing and Frailty Studies (30 ECTS) leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Ageing and Frailty Studies (Special Purpose Award), with a first intake in September 2021.

**CL/20-21/084 Title of Head of School of Medicine**

The Dean of Health Sciences referred to the recommendation of the Quality Review of the School of Medicine to *'Strengthen the position of the Head of the School of Medicine through recognition as Dean (or other title) and inclusion in the senior leadership of the College. There is precedent with the Dean of the Dental School and the Dean of the Business School. Beyond Executive Officers meetings, the Head of School (Dean) needs to be a member of the College Planning Group.'*

She advised that Council did not approve the recommendation at its meeting on 16 June 2020 noting that the Dean of Health Sciences was requested to conduct a comparative analysis of other leading Medical Schools and make a recommendation to Council on a change of title for the Head of School of Medicine, for external purposes only, and that if recommended, should not be 'Dean of Medicine' but of the Medical School.

Speaking to the item the Dean of Health Sciences advised that the proposed introduction of the title of Dean for one School may open a discussion about introducing the title for all Schools. She highlighted that it also has implications for the title of Dean as used elsewhere in the university, and in light of the broader considerations she believed that the recommendation pertaining to the School of Medicine should be examined with regard to the impact on the individual School and in the wider College context. Referring to the reviewers' recommendation, the Dean of Health Sciences explained that the justification for the use of the title Dean within the Dublin Dental University Hospital exists due to its independent auspices.

The Dean of Health Sciences reported that she had conducted a comparative analysis of the governance structures of several leading Medical Schools (UCD, UCC, QUB, RCSI, Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Columbia) and found no consensus regarded nomenclature. She added that it is not the case that Trinity is out of alignment with other universities and that the decision would need to be weighted in terms of the benefit to and impact on the School, Faculty and university. There is little evidence she maintained that the title of Dean is required by the School of Medicine in order to achieve or sustain international relationships, or the growth in international partnerships or student numbers.

The Dean of Health Sciences advised that following assessment of the diversity of titles used in

Ireland and internationally for the Head of School of Medicine that she does not believe the Head of School is disadvantaged by the current title and recommends no change be made at this time.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Health Sciences and invited comments and questions.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/084.1:** Council approved that there be no change to the title of the Head of the School of Medicine.

**CL/20-21/085 Any Other Business**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred Council to item 18.3 (iii), Section C, relating to Examination Measures for Academic Year 2020/21, advising that due to the ongoing Covid situation there was a need to reintroduce some of the emergency measures regarding assessments to deal with the acute impact of the crisis on the Semester 1 assessment session as follows:

- Automatic right to defer exams from Semester 1 to a different session.
- Automatic right to resit passed Semester 1 modules where they contribute to the final degree result.

He reported that he as Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Provost, and Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer had employed their emergency powers to introduce the above measures for the Semester 1 exams. He reported that the measures were implemented and that he will bring a proposal to Council during Semester 2 regarding the deferred examination session.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/085.1:** Council approved the automatic right to defer exams from Semester 1 to a different session and the automatic right to resit passed Semester 1 modules where they contribute to the final degree result, which were introduced to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on Semester 1 examinations.

**Action:**

**CL/20-21/085.02:** The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to bring a proposal to a future meeting of Council on the timing of the deferred examination session.

## SECTION B

**CL/20-21/086 Global Relations Committee**

The minutes of 7 December 2020 were noted and approved.

**CL/20-21/087 Graduate Studies Committee**

The minutes of 3 December 2020 were noted and approved.

**CL/20-21/088 Human Resources Committee**

The minutes of 29 October 2020 were noted and approved.

**CL/20-21/089 Library and Information Policy Committee**

The minutes of 5 October 2020 were noted and approved.

**CL/20-21/090 Research Committee**

The minutes of 10 November and 7 December 2020 were noted and approved.

**CL/20-21/091 Student Life Committee**

The minutes of 12 January 2021 were noted and approved.

**CL/20-21/092 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The minutes of 8 December 2020 and appendix English Language Requirements for 2021 were noted and approved.

### SECTION C

**CL/20-21/093 Council Business Approved by Electronic Procedure**

**(i) Appointments in the School of Chemistry**

The Council noted that the circulated Memorandum from the School of Chemistry, dated 12 October 2020, was approved by Council by Electronic Procedure on 14 October 2020

**(ii) Change of Title of Professor Post in School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

The Council noted that the circulated Memorandum from the Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences, dated 29 September 2020, was approved by Council by Electronic Procedure on 14 October 2020

**(iii) Examination Measures for Academic Year 2020/21**

The Council noted that the circulated Memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 9 December 2020, was approved by Council by Electronic Procedure on 9 December 2020.

**CL/20-21/094 Membership of the University Council**

The Council noted and approved the membership of the University Council, as follows:

- (i) Representative of the Research Staff: Dr Oliviero Gobbo (2020/21 – 2021/22)
- (ii) Graduate Student Member: Ms Julia Wall, Faculty of Health Sciences (2020/21)
- (iii) Graduate Student Observer: Ms Nilki Aluthge Dona, Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (2020/21)

**CL/20-21/095 Trinity Joint Honours Courses and Spelling of “Honours”**

The Council noted and approved the circulated Memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer dated 30 November 2020.

**CL/20-21/096 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 25 November 2020 and noted by Board on 16 December 2020.

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

**MD** Alaa Alakkari, Paul McElwaine

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

**PhD** Nicole Lindsey Basaraba, Sibylle Bechet, Maurice Brodbeck, Emma Violet Carrigan, Robert Clarke, Sarah Delaney, Jessica Dully, John-Mark Kenneth Fitzpatrick, Andrew Gerard Gibson, Linda Marie Kelly, Fan Li, Louise McAteer, Lucy Mary McKenna, Barry Moran, Emer Emily Neenan, Helen Geraldine O'Donnell, Alan Michael O'Dowd, Camila Perera Aladro, Marta Pinto-Grau, Genevieve Sartor, Stefan Scheurer, Alessia Sgobba, William Mary Shortall, Francesca Sibilgia, Jan Lenny Spriet, James Phillip Stratford, Patrick Joseph Wall, Adlet Yesmambetov, Emily Crossan, Michael Joseph Nolan, Ian Michael Reynolds, Elaine Philippa Shore

**MAI Recurrent Education** Mark Paul Farrell

**MSc** Mohammad Alherz, Christy Elias, Aoife Kearney, Evelyn Reilly

**CL/20-21/097 School Director**

The Council noted and approved the appointment of Prof Mary-Lee Rhodes as Director of Global Relations, Trinity Business School, for a two-year term commencing 20 January 2021.

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....