

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Student Services Committee Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007

- Present* Dean of Students (Mr B Misstear, Chair), Senior Lecturer (Prof C Kearney), Senior Tutor (Dr C Laudet), Ms D Flynn (Secretary), Dr D Abrahamson, Dr M Coffey, Ms D Keogh, Dr E MacCarthaigh, Mr T McAuley.
- Apologies* College Secretary (Mr M Gleeson), Treasurer's representative (Ms Janet Byrne), Ms Ruth Pe Palileo, Prof PP Walsh.
- In attendance* Ms G Conroy.

SECTION A

- SS/06-07/69** **Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007 were approved and signed.
- SS/06-07/70** **Matters Arising from the Minutes** There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- SS/06-07/71** **Capitation Committee Annual Report** The committee consists of representatives of the capitated bodies: DUCAC; CSC; SU; GSU; and Publications, with the Senior Dean as Chair, Secretary Gaye Conroy, Treasurer's Office representative and Principal Committee representative. The committee met three times during the year in question. The financial report was approved at AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Annual reports and financial statements of the capitated bodies were presented at the AGM and form the substance of this report.

DUCAC clubs continued to excel in many sports; 24 sports scholarships were awarded; and 14 university pinks were also awarded in 9 sports.

CSC societies had 28723 members (many students are a member of more than one society). A change in Constitution allowed for a new category of Associative Society, of which there were 3 recognised in the year. The inaugural Trinity Arts Festival took place in February 2006. 2 society people were awarded the Trinity Annual Fund student awards. Med Day raised over €60,000.

Mid-year the SU, having completed its review, negotiated a loan of €240,000 from College in order to implement its rationalisation. Unfortunately, this rationalisation resulted in unavoidable redundancies. The travel service was devolved to Club Travel. A new website and on-line information on accommodation and employment were put in place.

GSU: the office of Vice President was a sabbatical officer position in 2005/6, with grateful thanks to support from the change fund and the consideration of the Capitation Committee. The *Journal of Postgraduate Research* was published with support from the Trinity Annual Fund. New events included

a Postgraduate Ball and a Research Day. The Research Day was particularly successful, and the intention is for it to be an annual event.

**Publications Committee** revised its constitution completely during the year. The post of Advertising Officer was created, in response to increasing difficulties in securing advertising. A new grant structure was put in place in an effort to address these difficulties.

**Trinity Ball 2006:** this was very successful, helped by wonderful weather. It was the second of the MCD-promoted Balls. The decision to expand into Fellows' Square was costly and did not translate to an increased number of ticket sales, thus the Ball ran at a loss, which was capped under the contract with MCD at €10,000 and covered by an annual rollover provision set aside by the Capitation Committee.

**SS/06-07/72**

**Department of Sport Annual Report** During 2005/6, much work was carried out on the new Sports centre, with its target completion date of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 and contract completion date of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007. In anticipation of this, a preferential membership rate was offered at the beginning of the academic year 2006/07. The Director of Sport noted that students had recently voted in a referendum to introduce a €70 charge for all students, to cover usage of the new Sports Centre.

In the academic year 2005/2006, 166,735 total visits to the existing Luce Sports Centre were recorded, of which 78% were student users. The Fitness Theatre in the Luce Sports Centre remained an excellent facility and very popular, with 523 students buying annual membership while almost 35,000 used it on a pay-as-you-go basis. The swimming subsidy for off-peak swimming with the nearby Markievicz Leisure Centre continued.

The Department of Sport made a substantial contribution to upgrade the floor in the McConnell Hall at Trinity Hall so that it was suitable for use for recreational sport.

Twenty four students received Sports Scholarships in 2005/2006 and the third Trinity Corporate Golf Classic was held in Carton House on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2006 which netted also €30,000 towards this programme.

College Health Week incorporating many sporting events and activities ran 24<sup>th</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The sports events raised a substantial fund which together with other sources of funding was used to purchase 5 Automated External Defibrillators (AED's), essential devices for use in the event of sudden cardiac arrests. The AED's are currently located in the College Health Centre, the Luce Sports Centre and in the College mobile Security van.

The annual sports brochure and term sports magazines the "Campanile" were again published last academic year. DUCAC received a generous supply of College rooms, eight in all, through the good offices of the Junior Dean / Registrar of Chambers. Thanks were recorded to all the Staff in the Department of Sport and DUCAC, all the Honorary Officers of DUCAC and

all the sports students for their enthusiasm and co-operation throughout 2005/2006.

**SS/06-07/73**

**College Health Service Annual Report 2005-2006** This report covers the period October 2005-September 2006, and includes an assessment by the new Director, Dr David McGrath, of the current situation in College Health Service. Ambulatory health care service is available to all undergraduate and postgraduate students on campus, Monday to Friday, 9 to 5. Basic consultation is free of charge, with modest charges for vaccinations, laboratory tests, physiotherapy and routine medicals. Five consultant psychiatric sessions per week for students are also provided free of charge. A 5.1% increase in numbers attending had occurred, with an increase in activity of 3% in the year. A 24% increase in workload in the past 5 years was noted. The Health Promotion Officer has two sessions per week. The new website with an emphasis on Health Promotion had been launched in 2005. College Health Week had been very successful. Successful transfer to a new GP software package had occurred.

The College Health Service is at a crossroads on a number of fronts. Within 12 months of each other, the Director (Dr Thomas GP) and Assistant Director (Dr O'Brien Consultant Psychiatrist) will have retired (Dr O'Brien is due to retire at the end of June). The issue of replacing the psychiatrists is the core immediate priority that must be tackled positively and proactively by College.

The Medical Director stressed that the existing premises are now wholly inadequate for the delivery of modern day health-care and fall well behind the standards of our nearest competitors in the City. He noted that a major area in which College is judged by prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students and their families, in particular in the international student market, is in the quality of student services, where expectations of a College Health Service greatly outweigh the available provision at Trinity.

Increases in the numbers of postgraduate and doctoral students from all international backgrounds, along with the increase in the numbers of students with disabilities, who are well recognised as heavy users of student services, will have major workload implications for the service. To service these diverse groups of students, the College Health Service will require access to a portion of the income that these groups generate for College.

Maintenance of the GMS List at the College Health Service is crucial as it provides a mechanism whereby the service can generate income through the European Health Card system and liaison between the HSE and College would be very helpful in this regard.

The Director expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the staff of the service, particularly to David Thomas, Sinead O'Brien and Maeve Daly. The Dean thanked the Director for the comprehensive report, commenting that the most significant issues will be highlighted in the Student Services Committee Annual Report to Board.

**SS/06-07/74**     **Careers Advisory Service Annual Report** The report was divided into two main parts, covering the employment situation and the work of the service.

*First destinations questionnaires:* graduate unemployment is at its lowest level, broadly similar numbers are going on to further study, with a high proportion gaining employment in Ireland, with a low level of emigration. Graduate salaries are increasing with 72% earning €25K or more. Increased Government investment in research was good news for Science, Engineering and Technology graduates. The doubling of postgraduate number presents a challenge to CAS, as does the delivery of career management skills training.

*The work of the CAS:* personal meetings were slightly down in number, matched by increased email activity and a new email advice centre. The website is an important student resource. A 22% increase in the number of vacancies advertised had occurred. Increased numbers attended the various information events. Careers education in the Personal Development Programme was provided additionally by means of an online version, with mixed reactions.

The VACWORK work experience facility continues to be offered. Research experience through the SURE programme was restricted but the new international exchange element was successful. Funding is being sought through SIF for the expansion of SURE. The accumulated surplus was applied to the appointment of an EO to work on VACWORK and web maintenance.

The Dean thanked the Director for the comprehensive report, commenting that the most significant issues will be highlighted in the Student Services Committee Annual Report to Board.

**SS/06-07/75**     **Any Other Business**

The Senior Lecturer had written recently to the Dean of Students requesting feedback from the Student Services Committee on the proposals of the working party on modularisation and academic year structure. The Senior Lecturer briefed the committee on the proposals. He thanked the Dean of Students and the Senior Tutor for their work on the working party and the preparation of the report. The Dean of Students asked members of the committee to give feedback on the report directly to the Senior Lecturer, as the Committee would not be meeting again prior to the deadline for responses.

A short discussion on the Trinity College Academic Diary concluded that the diary should be produced as previously for provision to all students at registration, and for distribution to staff.

**SS/06-07/76**     **Date of Next Meeting**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 4 pm

## **SECTION B**

*There were no items in this section*

## SECTION C

- SS/06-07/77 Capitation Committee**  
The Committee noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007.
- SS/06-07/78 College Day Nursery Committee**  
The Committee noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007.
- SS/06-07/79 Financial Assistance Committee**  
The Committee noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007.
- SS/06-07/80 Student Disability Service Committee**  
The Committee noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007.