

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE**

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 1st November 2012
Boardroom, Provost's House

Present: Professor Veronica Campbell, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*),

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:

Professor Simon Wilson, School of Computer Science and Statistics

Professor Ebrahim Al Awadhi, School of Dental Science

Professor Sam Slote, School of English

Professor Tim Foster, School of Genetics and Microbiology

Professor Martine Cuypers, School of Histories & Humanities

Professor Jurgen Uhlich, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies

Professor Christer Gobl, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences

Professor Stefan Sint, School of Mathematics

Professor Lidia Tajber, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Professor Gillian Wylie, Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics

Professor Tim Hicks, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Professor Stephanie Holt, School of Social Work and Social Policy

Professor Vinny Cahill, Dean of Research

Mr Martin McAndrew, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)

Mr Andrew McEwan, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President (*Ex officio*)

Ms Alex Anderson, CAPSL Representative (*Ex officio*)

Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services (in attendance *Ex officio*)

Ms Lee Mills, Information System Services Representative

Apologies: Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:

Professor Derek Nolan, School of Biochemistry and Immunology

Professor Martin Fellenz, School of Business

Professor Isabel Rozas, School of Chemistry

Professor Melissa Sihra, School of Drama, Film & Music

Professor Anne-Marie Brady, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Professor John Gormley, School of Medicine

Professor Anna Davies, School of Natural Sciences

Professor Mauro Ferreira, School of Physics

In attendance: Ms Jennifer Hill, Graduate Studies Office, Secretary to the meeting (*Ex officio*)
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office

GS/12-13/08 Minutes of 4th October 2012

The minutes of the meeting of 4th October 2012 were approved by the Committee as circulated.

GS/12-13/09 Matters Arising

The Dean confirmed that as per item GS/12-13/05, she has raised the matter of the duration of College Awards with the Faculty Deans. One Faculty Dean had responded confirming a preference for keeping the College Awards at three years duration. It was confirmed to the Committee that awards can be reallocated and that a student who has reached the end of their three years of funding can apply for a further year of funding but is not eligible to receive a College Award beyond the end of their 4th year on the register. It was also confirmed that holders of College Awards may not earn in excess of €18,000 (inclusive of the award maintenance) by private tuition, demonstrating, etc., or from other funds.

The Dean informed the Committee that, as mentioned on 31st May 2012 (GS/11-12/057), the next meeting will include a discussion on the relationship between the funding model and issues around the provision of postgraduate courses. This will include a presentation to the committee by the Vice-Provost Chief Academic Officer on the current funding model. Course Coordinators / Directors from large courses will be invited to attend this first agenda item of the next meeting.

GS/12-13/10 Science Without Borders

The Dean introduced Sinéad Lucey, the International Education Manager from the Irish Universities Association (IUA). Ms Lucey explained that she had been invited to attend the meeting to provide an overview of the Science without Borders scheme, a joint programme implemented by CAPES (part of the Brazilian Ministry for Education) and CNPQ (part of the Brazilian Ministry for Science) and directly monitored by the President's Cabinet Office and which aims to place over 100,000 Brazilians in overseas higher education institutions by the end of 2014.

Ms Lucey explained that in June 2012, two MOU's were signed between SFI and CNPq and between the HEA and CAPES to bring 800 postgraduate research students from Brazil to Ireland to undertake fully-funded PhD programmes. Two types of programme will be offered: a PhD "sandwich" programme for one year of study abroad and a full PhD 4-year programme.

Brazilian students are encouraged to search for a project within an institution and then apply for the funding. They can apply for the funding at any time and will be notified if they are successful within three months. While the scheme was established to support PhD training in the STEM areas, creative arts and technologies is also being included.

The website www.euraxess.ie is a dedicated resource for Brazilian students who wish to pursue a PhD in Ireland under the Science without Borders programme. The portal includes detailed information on the application process and a research project search function that will give a detailed overview of the PhD projects that Brazilian researchers are eligible to apply for. Each institution is requested to provide details of the projects available to the prospective students.

Ms Lucey confirmed that through the Dean of Graduate Studies she would ensure that both her presentation and a template for providing the project details would be circulated to the Committee members. It was confirmed that a list of weblinks to TCD Schools' pages has already been made available but that it will be important to make the specific project details available before the official launch in early December. Directors of Teaching and Learning (postgraduate) were asked to ensure circulation of the project template to staff in their School so that there could be a high visibility of potential TCD PhD projects on the portal.

The Dean urged Schools to consider providing projects for this scheme as the students are fully funded, including consumable costs and tuition costs towards English language support. Prospective students would be required to meet TCD criteria for entry to a

research degree.

GS/12-13/11 TCD-UCD-QUB Inter-Institutional Arrangements for the Joint Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Dean explained that Queen's University Belfast has now been approved as a partner in the TCD-UCD Innovation Academy and that QUB was to have a role in the academic programme provided by the Innovation Academy.

The document circulated to the Committee outlines the rationale for engagement with QUB and the inter-institutional arrangements (similar to the arrangement previously approved between TCD and UCD) for the reconfiguration of the existing TCD-UCD Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship towards a joint award of a TCD-UCD-QUB Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The five modules that have already been approved for the Postgraduate Certificate (Creative Thinking and Innovation; Opportunity Recognition; Protecting your Idea?; Planning your Venture and Creative Capital) will run from 2012-13 with additional input from QUB and a new 5 ECTS elective module developed by QUB on Leadership Development will be available to PhD students in each institution.

The Committee approved the inter-institutional arrangements and the module descriptor for the new Innovation Academy module in Leadership Development, subject to review by the learning outcomes triage group.

GS/12-13/12 Inter-Institutional Agreement on Collaborative Graduate Programmes

The Dean explained that the document circulated outlines the administrative arrangements for a postgraduate student registered at one institution taking modules at another. She requested the Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) to circulate the document within their Schools to ensure all staff members are aware of these arrangements. It was agreed that the document would be made available on the Graduate Studies Office website also. The Dean confirmed that while modules may be made available to all postgraduate research students for a fee, students on agreed inter-institutional thematic or structured PhD programmes may not need to pay a fee to attend modules in another institution.

GS/12-13/13 Structured PhD

The Dean reminded the Committee that the Structured PhD was approved by Council in 2009, that the same core funding is provided to all Irish Universities for students on structured PhDs and that all Schools and PhD students need to be engaging with this.

She thanked those Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) who have submitted information on the structured elements that are available to PhD students in their Schools.

Many Schools are already offering training to PhD students that involves a considerable amount of student effort but at present these are not credit-bearing. If Schools wish to do so they can prepare a module descriptor for review by the learning outcomes triage group and subsequent approval by the Graduate Studies Committee which will enable appropriate ECTS to be assigned to these modules.

The Dean advised that some Schools within the same faculty are in the process of developing a research skills module and that it may be desirable to liaise to see if collaboration is possible.

Further to discussion at the previous meeting (GS/12-13/06) the Committee approved a minimum of 10 ECTS for a PhD student to take over the course of their PhD.

In answer to queries raised the following was confirmed:

- If a PhD student participates in a module from a taught postgraduate course they can be provided with a transcript locally. In order to obtain the credit the PhD student should either complete the same assessment as a taught course student taking the same module or they could be set a different assessment (which would require a new module code approved by GSC)
- A number of college initiatives continue to offer modules suitable for a structured (CAPSL; Innovation Academy; Careers)
- The Dean agreed to follow up regarding whether credit can be assigned to ISS courses where assessment is included
- The Dean will interact with School who may not have any structured elements at present.
- The School of Computer Science & Statistics offers a 'tailored' module for PhD students and that type of module may be of interest to other Schools who wish to award credit for skills training to meet individual student needs.

GS/12-13/14 AOB

It was noted by one School that their Postgraduate student numbers are dramatically lower this year than in previous years and expressed concern that this may be related to issues with the implementation of SITS and the my.tcd.ie online application. The Dean noted that College would be closely monitoring postgraduate student numbers for 2012-13 given the economic climate,

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.15am.

Prof. Veronica Campbell

Date: 9th November 2012