

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE**

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 9a.m. on Thursday 25th April 2013
Boardroom, Provost's House

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

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:

Professor Derek Nolan, School of Biochemistry and Immunology

Professor Martin Fellenz, School of Business

Professor Simon Wilson, School of Computer Science and Statistics

Professor Ebrahim Al Awadi, School of Dental Science

Professor Melissa Sihra, School of Drama, Film & Music

Professor Conor McGuckin, School of Education

Professor Sam Slote, School of English

Professor Martine Cuypers, School of Histories & Humanities

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

Professor John Stalker, School of Mathematics

Professor Anna Davies, School of Natural Sciences

Professor Anne-Marie Brady, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Professor Lidia Tajber, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Professor Kevin Tierney, School of Psychology

Professor Andrew Pierce, Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics

Professor Stephanie Holt, School of Social Work and Social Policy

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

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

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

Professor Timothy Foster, School of Genetics and Microbiology

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

Professor Mauro Ferreira, School of Physics

Professor Tim Hicks, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

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

Ms Lee Mills, Information System Services Representative

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

GS/12-13/35 Minutes of 21st March 2013

The minutes of the meeting of 21st March 2013 were approved by the Committee as circulated.

GS/12-13/36 Matters Arising

The Dean informed the Committee that the Doctorate of Music in Performance

(GS/12-13/31) is currently under external review and the Professional Diploma in Education (Further Education) received a positive external review and has now been approved by the University Council.

The Dean noted that discussions are currently taking place in Schools in both TCD and UCD in relation to new academic collaborations **(GS/12-13/34)**

GS/12-13/37 Postgraduate Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy

The Dean introduced Professor June Nunn and asked her to speak to the circulated proposal.

Professor Nunn explained to the Committee that in addition to University approval this course will also require approval of the Dental Council.

Professor Nunn informed the Committee that the aim of the proposed course is to train orthodontic therapists to a suitable level of clinical competence, with the allied requisite academic knowledge, to allow them to support and advance the provision of orthodontic services in Ireland. The academic component of the training will be carried out within the Dublin Dental University Hospital and the clinical aspect of the training will take place in the workplace.

In answer to a query about the apparent low level of assessment it was explained that the Dental School offers integrated learning throughout its programmes. Students are not assessed at the end of each module but they will receive formative assessment.

It was explained that a Programme Director and Course Coordinator need to be appointed and the Dean queried whether the School would be in a position to advertise for these posts prior to the proposal being approved by the University Council as she felt it necessary for someone to be in place to work on the details of the proposal.

The Dean explained to the Committee that the request for approval of this course without full details is unusual but was necessary as the School are in negotiation with the Department of Health for funding for the additional posts.

The Committee decided that the course proposal cannot be submitted to the University Council in its current form. The proposal will be sent out for external review for feedback and the Dean suggested that the School should continue to engage with the Dental Council to set an accreditation visit and recruit the required staff. A sub-committee of the GSC will then re-review the proposal, particularly the assessment arrangements, once it has been developed further and the Dean will then update the Graduate Studies Committee.

GS/12-13/38 Publication of End of Year Results

The Dean notified the Committee that the document circulated which outlines recommendations for the publication of end of year results. Recommendation 8 reverses a decision previously taken by the Committee where it had been decided to publish anonymously by examination number; for this year the usual process of publishing results anonymously by student number will be retained.

In answer to a query regarding the changing of marks on SITS and whether more detail on the audit trail could be made available in SITS from a quality assurance perspective the Dean confirmed that she would raise the issue with the GeneSIS project team.

GS/12-13/39 Student Evaluation

The Dean confirmed that a recent institutional review raised concerns over the evaluation of students. A Working Group was set up and chaired by the Vice Provost. The

Committee were asked to note the section on evaluation of postgraduate students. The Dean noted that for evaluation of taught postgraduate students the recommendation was to continue evaluation as previously approved by the GSC and Council. She added that Directors of Teaching & Learning (Postgraduate) would ensure that Course Directors of taught postgraduate courses are informing their students of the results of the evaluation. The Working Group also recommended that feedback on PhD programmes be sought from research students.

The next step is to develop an implementation plan to and consideration of resource issues, question design, communication with students, publication of results and reporting to local and College committees.

In answer to a query on the timeline of this the Dean confirmed that the Working Group have already begun to consider the implementation of the recommendations.

Concern was raised over the response rates associated with online surveys as experience from previous evaluations indicates that only a small percentage of responses will be received making it difficult to assess how representative is the feedback is and leading to further work required at School level to obtain feedback. It was suggested that students should be expected to provide feedback (but not for it to be made mandatory) and then given an option to opt out.

Consideration should also be given to student motivation / incentivisation to do this and one suggestion would be closing the feedback loop and providing incoming students with details on what has changed as a result of previous evaluations of students.

GS/12-13/40 Update from IUA

The Dean provided an update from the most recent IUA meeting where each of the Deans of Graduate Studies from the seven Irish universities meet.

At the last meeting the Chair of the Irish Research Council, Professor Orla Feely, gave a presentation on the new IRC funding scheme and expressed that she is keen to engage with Irish universities. She noted that the IRC are aware of the technical issues with the new online application system. She informed the Deans that the IRC intends to track IRC-funded students over a 10 year period and reiterated that IRC funding is to be provided to highly qualified students from across *all* disciplines (although it was noted by some Committee members that the more science-oriented application does not support this).

The Dean reminded the Committee that the Science Without Borders funding does not cover a fee for a Sandwich PhD student but does cover full fees for four years for a PhD student.

The National Framework on Doctoral Education is due to come out in the next few weeks for review and will be brought to the next GSC meeting if possible.

GS/12-13/41 Trinity Teaching Award for Postgraduate Students

The Dean provided an update on the Trinity Teaching Award for Postgraduate Students, which has been introduced this year on a pilot basis, and noted that the calibre of applications received was excellent. The applicants had presented to the reviewing panel yesterday and the five successful students have now been notified that they are to receive one of the awards. The 2013 recipients are Cathal Cadogen (Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences), Brian O'Beirne (Law), Paul Candon (Social Sciences & Philosophy), Muireann O'Sullivan (English) and Sean O'Reilly (TAP). An award ceremony will be held in the next few weeks.

GS/12-13/42 AOB

The Dean informed the Committee that at the recent PostGrad Ireland awards ceremony TCD won the award for best student marketing campaign and thanked Helen Thornbury for her work in coordinating this.

Jennifer Hill provided an update on submission of Calendar Part 2 changes and reminded the Committee of the deadline of 13th May but asked that they submit sooner if possible to provide sufficient time for review of these before circulation for the final Graduate Studies Committee meeting on 23rd May.

Professor Tajber requested clarification on whether the teaching KPIs associated with resource allocation included postgraduate courses and a discussion ensued about the ABC resource model and the problem associated with incentivising Schools to continue to run taught Masters programmes.

Section B for noting and approval

1. The Committee noted and approved the memo from the School of Psychology regarding new modules for the changes to the M.Sc. in ABA and M.Sc. in Psychology (ABA).
2. The Committee noted and approved the restructuring of the M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology – which will permit direct entry to the Masters course (aligning the course with the majority of taught postgraduate courses).
3. The Committee noted and approved the Calendar Part 2 changes from the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.25am.

Prof. Veronica Campbell

Date: 26th April 2013