



GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 10am on Thursday 21 November 2019
Trinity Boardroom, Trinity Business School

XX = Council relevance

Present: Professor Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies (Chair)

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:

Professor Sinéad Roden, Trinity Business School

Professor John Boland, School of Chemistry

Professor Owen Conlan, School of Computer Science and Statistics

Professor Paula Quigley, School of Creative Arts

Professor Ioannis Polyzois, School of Dental Science

Professor Keith Johnston, School of Education

Professor Biswajit Basu School of Engineering

Professor Philip Coleman, School of English

Professor Deirdre Ahern, School of Law

Professor John Saeed, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences

Professor Manuela Kulaxizi, School of Mathematics

Professor Kumlesh Dev, School of Medicine

Professor Mary Bourke, School of Natural Sciences

Professor Carlos Medina Martin, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

Professor Mauro Ferreira, School of Physics

Professor Jean Quigley, School of Psychology

Professor Thomas Chadeaux, School of Social Sciences & Philosophy

Professor Paula Mayock, School of Social Work and Social Policy

Ms Shaz Oye, Graduate Students' Union President

Ms Gisèle Scanlon, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President

(in attendance Ex officio)

Ms Siobhan Dunne, Sub Librarian for Teaching, Research and User Experience

Mr Geoffrey Bradley, Information Technology Services Representative

Ms Ewa Sadowska (Academic Affairs, Trinity Teaching and Learning)

Secretary to the committee

Apologies:

Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research

(Ex officio)

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:



Professor Nigel Stevenson, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor Matthew Campbell, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor Joseph Clarke, School of Histories & Humanities
Professor Justin Doherty, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Fiona Timmins, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Carlo Aldrovandi, School of Religion

Prof. Jake Byrne, Academic Director, Tangent

Martin McAndrew, Postgraduate Student Support Officer,
Senior Tutor's Office

Observers in attendance for all items:

Patricia Callaghan, Academic Secretary, Head of Trinity Teaching and Learning (TT&L)
Fedelma McNamara, Director of Internationalisation, TCD Global
Breda Walls, Director of Student Services
Marie Mc Peak, Education Support Officer, Academic Affairs, TT&L

In attendance for individual items:

Professor Michael O'Sullivan (School of Dental Science) for item GS/19-20/335
Rosemary Deneher (Senior Programme Manager in Tangent) and Dr Daniel Rogers,
(Head of Education from Tangent) for item GS/19-20/336

The Dean welcomed back to the committee Prof. Sinéad Roden returning from maternity leave.

GS/19-20/333 Minutes of 31 October 2019

The GSU President requested a correction to the October minutes under GS/19-20/322 *Review of PGT application process* regarding College rule that no unregistered persons are allowed to attend at lectures as follows: "The GSU President sought clarification on the requirement that 'no unregistered persons are allowed to attend at lectures'. She expressed concern that rigid adherence to this rule might negatively impact the ability of non-traditional learners to enter Trinity postgraduate degree programmes. Citing the example of her own entry to Trinity under RPL in 2017, she stated that her ability to attend a foundational summer school in the School of Education prior to registering proved to be an invaluable facility in enabling the Course Coordinators to observe and assess her ability to engage with the programme, and in supporting her to decide if she had the capacity for a level 9 degree." With that amendment the minutes were approved as circulated.

GS/19-20/334 Matters Arising

Re: GS/18-19/278(iii) In relation to the 2019 Provost's Project Awards (PPA) scheme, the Dean advised that the meeting to decide on the winners will be



held on 26 November. Thereafter he will email unsuccessful applicants and then the successful ones at which point the list of winners will be posted online.

Re: Action GS/18-19/294.3 Viva Guide: The Dean advised that the *Guide* had been emailed to Committee members and to all PGR students and was also uploaded. He was liaising with the AR to ascertain if PGR students who start submitting their thesis electronically from the following March can be automatically linked to the *Guide*.

Re: GS/19-20/317 MSc in Nursing: Specialist Nursing: a new strand proposal in Gerontological Nursing: The Dean advised that the strand had been approved by the University Council on 13 November 2019 via the GSC October minutes.

Re: GS/19-20/318 Postgraduate Certificate in Workplace Wellness: a new course proposal: The Dean advised that a positive report had been received from an external reviewer and the proposal would be submitted to the next Council.

Re: GS/19-20/323 (i) AOB: The Dean advised that a call for applications for the 2019/20 Postgraduate Teaching Awards had already come out. He reminded members that the scheme runs through the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies and rewards Trinity's teaching assistants and demonstrators. Each School is entitled to nominate up to three students. The Dean encouraged members to link in with colleagues in Schools to nominate students for this important award as it is very good for students' CVs and there is also a cash prize.

Re: GS/19-20/324 and 325 New course entry/exit/progression routes: Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Christian Theology of existing MPhil in Christian Theology and of MPhil in Digital Humanities and Culture and corresponding Calendar III changes for 2020/2021: The Dean advised that the proposed changes had been approved by the University Council on 13 November 2019 via the GSC October minutes.

Re: GS/19-20/326 to 328 Stand-alone/Structured PhD module (Category 2) "Assessment and management of frailty in aging adults"; Stand-alone module "Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease: Foundational biological, clinical and socioeconomic factors" and Stand-alone module "Intervention & impact: leadership, communication, & research skills" (all modules in School of Medicine): The Dean advised that the proposed modules had been approved by the University Council on 13 November 2019 via the GSC October minutes.

GS/19-20/335 Postgraduate Certificate in Orofacial Pain: a new course proposal



Having noted that members had had an opportunity to review the new proposal in advance of the meeting, the Dean welcomed Professor Michael O'Sullivan from the School of Dental Science and provided a brief outline of the new course.

He noted that Trinity is proposing to establish a 30 ECTS one year Postgraduate Certificate course in Orofacial Pain to be delivered in collaboration with the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of the University of Southern California (USC). The School of Dental Science at the Dublin Dental University Hospital is the National Centre for dental education, research and patient care. It provides dental education at undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development (CPD) levels. The proposed new course, built up by three modules (Orofacial Pain/ Headache Disorders/Temporomandibular Disorders), is ideally placed to support dentists in general dental practice in further training. It will target primarily the holders of an Irish dental degree but will consider also holders of dental degrees from the UK and elsewhere in EU and non-EU countries. It is likely that during the next year or so there will be a new Dental Act as part of legislation changes in relation to the practice of dentistry. Therefore, Trinity and the Dublin Dental University Hospital place themselves in a position to align with but also to swiftly respond to the new dental landscape that such an Act will introduce, which will include compulsory CPD for all dentists.

Professor O'Sullivan explained that the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of the University of Southern California has been already delivering a certificate course in Orofacial Pain specifically designed for practicing dental professionals who want to improve skills and gain a world leading expertise to deliver the best care for patients with complex conditions. The Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry is a world leading provider of online and blended learning courses in dental science. Ten such courses are currently run by the School which has amassed significant expertise over the last decade in the development and delivery of postgraduate dental training and education. While the USC will continue to be running their current certificate course separately from Trinity's, they have allowed three of their modules to be used on the proposed course after substantial adjustment of their content to suit the needs of the Irish/EU market. The USC will provide some teaching on Trinity's course. In addition, by aligning Trinity's three module-postgraduate certificate with the USC Masters programme (i.e. Master of Orofacial Pain and Oral Medicine) students who complete Trinity's postgraduate certificate course will have accrued sufficient credits to enter year two of the USC three year specialist Masters training programme.

The Dean noted that the course proposal had already gone out for an external review and a report should be back by mid-December. Professor O'Sullivan left at that point. There were no questions from the floor, and the committee agreed to recommend the new course proposal to Council subject to a positive external review.

Decision GS/19-20/335.1: The committee recommended the new proposal for Council approval subject to a favourable external review.



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GS/19-20/336 Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership and Project Management: a new course proposal

The Dean noted that members had had an opportunity to review the new course in advance of the meeting. The Dean welcomed Rosemary Deneher (Senior Programme Manager in Tangent) and Dr Daniel Rogers (Head of Education from Tangent). The Dean outlined a structure of the new course. The proposed 30 ECTS Postgraduate Certificate will include three new 10 ECTS modules: Leadership Fundamentals, Team Development and Project Design which will use innovative assessment formats consisting of group reports, group pitch, individual assignments and reflective journals. Progression rules will be standard, and delivery will be blended i.e. half and half in class and online.

The Dean opened the floor for discussion. Dr Rogers confirmed that PGR students can apply for the course which has 45 places and upon its successful completion are eligible for a postgraduate certificate award. In response to a query about double counting of credits, the Dean clarified that once a PGR student completes a postgraduate course for a qualification (such as a PGT certificate or diploma award) while on the research register s/he may not claim the credits towards fulfilment of the structured PhD requirements as there is no double counting of credits.

The Director of Student Services advised that clarification should be provided on how the HEA funding of the proposed course as part of the Springboard initiative flows via Tangent into College to pay for services available to students registered on Tangent courses.

The DTLP from TBS raised a substantive objection against the proposed course on the grounds that it would conflict with two existing Masters programmes on leadership and project management in her School. She further noted that the Tangent-proposed course crosses into the realm of business education which is the reserved PGT domain of TBS on the basis of which it maintains the validation of its business courses with accrediting professional bodies. Indeed she suggested that to the extent that Tangent was offering 'business education' this would compromise the ability of TBS to secure external accreditation. The DTLP from the School of Engineering expressed a similar concern with respect to the potential conflict of the proposed course with the existing Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management in his School. Dr Rogers clarified that the Dean of TBS is a member of Tangent Board and would have been kept fully abreast of the Tangent plan to apply for Springboard funding for a course in leadership and project management. Tangent's intention to apply for funding for this programme was detailed to Tangent Board in April 2019.

Dr Rogers further noted that, as with other Springboard funded courses, approval of this course was necessarily time sensitive. Thus he clarified that March 27th, 2020 is a final day for commencing the new programme in order to have it funded by the HEA Springboard scheme. To ensure that happens and there is still time for marketing the proposal would need to be considered by the January Council.



Members were content with the academic content of the course, thus the discussion which followed after the Tangent representatives left focused primarily on the concerns expressed by the DTLPs from Engineering and, especially, TBS. The DTLP from TBS reiterated her concerns that there had not been meaningful consultation with the School prior to the course being proposed, that one College unit should not encroach on the capacity of another to attract PGT students, and that, if Tangent were to engage in 'business education' this would imperil the capacity of TBS to attract and retain external accreditation.

In the discussion that ensued, the following points were made and discussed.

- (i) It was suggested that concepts such as project management and leadership represent generic skills and have been embedded in courses offered by various academic units across College for many years. Thus, they should not be viewed as an exclusive domain of TBS.
- (ii) Tangent is aiming at a specific market of people who want to upskill themselves as part of the government- and European Social Fund employability initiative and who would be unlikely to be applying for TBS offerings anyway. This view was, however, challenged by the DTLP from TBS who advised the Committee that Tangent and TBS would be competing in the same market for the same applicants.
- (iii) There are no offerings at the postgraduate certificate level currently in place in TBS and the proposed course could be taken as a stepping stone into the existing Masters in the School.
- (iv) If TBS were to have, in effect, a veto on Tangent offering courses in the business area, this would threaten the ongoing existence of and justification for Tangent.
- (v) The DTLP from the School of Engineering stated that discipline boundaries should be respected, and a future availability of the proposed course might entice applicants away from the Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management as the Tangent's course is shorter and will have no fee or a lower fee than the engineering course but would still offer a comparable professional qualification. In financial terms the situation would result in a net loss of income to College. The external market is not that big, and Trinity needs to maintain synergies across Schools to maximise its financial gains as an institution.

The Dean noted that members raised no objections about the contents of the proposed course, and should there have been no issues raised to do with its scope the proposal would have been recommended to Council. However, given the strongly voiced views from the two DTLPs against the scope of the Tangent course the Dean outlined two possible ways forward, namely that

- 1) GSC would decline to recommend the course – in which case, the representatives from Tangent would need to revisit it and in the context of meaningful discussions with TBS and the School of Engineering and, thereafter, present it again at the next available meeting of GSC in January.



This approach would however prevent Tangent from availing of the allocated Springboard funding as there would not be sufficient time to revise the course proposal and re-apply for new funding under the current scheme. In other words, should this approach be taken, it would mean that the course could not be offered.

- 2) GSC might approve the current course proposal but on the strict condition that the two DTLPs who raised the issues referenced above, confirm that the course proposal had been sufficiently amended that they were content that such issues were satisfactorily resolved. The DTLP from the School of Engineering was happy with this approach but the DTLP from TBS reasoned that the changes that it would require were so significant and fundamental that it would represent, in effect, a new course – and hence would need fresh approval by GSC. In this context the Dean noted that he had contacted, but had not yet heard back from a potential external reviewer, and, obviously, that reviewer would need to focus on the amended course document – something that would, again, take time.

To conclude the discussion the Dean advised that he would liaise with Dr Rogers and TBS to ascertain available ways forward.

Decision GS/19-20/336.1: The committee was not in a position to recommend the new course proposal for Council due to issues raised by DTLPs from the School of Engineering and TBS.

Action GS/19-20/336.1: The Dean to liaise with interested parties to seek to identify a constructive way forward.

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GS/19-20/337 MPhil in Film Studies: a new strand proposal in Screenwriting

The Dean thanked members for reviewing the new course in advance of the meeting. The Dean noted a proposed title change of the “parent” MPhil course to MPhil in Film Studies, provided an outline of the new strand proposal and invited Professor Paula Quigley, DTLP from the School of Creative Arts to take questions from the floor.

Members noted that the proposed *Screenwriting* strand will be taught full-time over one year or part-time over two years and will comprise 60 ECTS of taught modules and a 30-ECTS research component. The new strand will incorporate three new modules to the tune of 30 ECTS. It will allow students to develop the skills required to write successfully for a range of different screens in a critically informed and creative context. Its objective is to prepare screenwriters who can adapt to an industry that recreates itself regularly around technological advances. Students will select their chosen platforms when preparing their portfolio, bring their writing to industry standard and complete their studies with a research project screenplay in their chosen area of interest: feature film, television, on-demand broadcast, documentary, or adaptation. The course combines the technical and creative skills needed to write for a range of different formats with an emphasis on critical thinking and independent research.



In a short discussion which followed, the DTLP from the School of Creative Arts noted in response to queries that

- (i) academic modules have split assessments into various components of participatory elements;
- (ii) in the future the School would be willing to open some of the modules on the course as stand-alone ones for external participants as part of any micro credentialing scheme of the kind envisaged in the new strategic plan;
- (iii) part time format would make it difficult for external applicants to apply for a visa, but the course offers also a full time format of delivery;
- (iv) the School would be happy to allow students from other courses e.g. MPhil in Creative Writing in the School of English to take some of this strand's modules.

Members were happy to approve the “strandification” of the previously homogenous course, its proposed new title of MPhil in Film Studies, two formats of delivery (full time and part time), academic merit of the new strand and recommended that it should go to Council without an external review.

Decision GS/19-20/337.1: The committee recommended the new strand for Council approval without the need to go for an external review.

Finally, and at the end of a calendar year of GSC meetings, members noted their sincere thanks to Ms Ewa Sadowska for all her work in getting course proposals ready or, in a term developed by GSC over the year, for ‘Ewa-fying’ them. It was noted how effective her work is in this area, and how indebted the academic community is for her work.

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GS/19-20/338 PG Strategic Reform/PGR Examination Documentation

Firstly, the Dean noted that the project reviewing PG offerings in Trinity under the new revised College strategic plan will commence in September 2020 but advance conversations on what the reform might entail have already been initiated. Three working groups to review respectively PGT, PGR and entrepreneurship and career readiness have been put in place and some members have volunteered to join them. The Dean has also contacted students directly for focus groups. He also proposed that in order to start a conversation in earnest about how the PG education might be renewed he would meet with all DTLPs individually and with their PG committees over the next months to collect the views from within members’ disciplines on what the planned reform should seek to achieve. The Dean underlined that he was not looking for short term fixes that might suit individual Schools but would target the big picture changes. He would also undertake some analysis of the approach to PG education in competitor universities against which Trinity should be benchmarked. The Dean stressed that any renewal of PG education would only take place *after* September 2020 and that what might emerge from these preliminary conversations would not bind or be intended to bind the university. Rather it might be a useful point of departure for those charged with the implementation of the next strategic plan.



Secondly, the Dean referred to the revised drafts of PGR-related examination documents circulated in advance of the meeting. These related back to matters discussed at previous meetings.

The Dean had circulated:

- (a) *Draft guidelines for examiners of PhD and Research Masters theses*
- (b) *Draft guidelines for re-examination of PhD and Research Masters theses*
- (c) *Draft individual pre-viva report form*
- (d) *Draft post-viva joint form*
- (e) *Draft individual report form in relation to such re-examination.*
- (f) a revised form for nominating examiners for postgraduate research students (to be used instead of the old one);
- (g) a new thesis progression form for PhD students whose course of study began on or after September 2019 (The only difference is that this one has space for the thesis committee to insert their views.)

The Dean noted that the GSC had previously agreed to recommend to Council *pre-viva* examiners' exchange and a *post-viva* combined examiners' report on the day. From the point at which the concept of electronic submission of PGR theses came into effect (and the Director of the Academic Registry had assured members that this would be no later than March 2020), examiners would be asked to complete and exchange *pre-viva* reports and then to complete, immediately following the *viva* exam, a joint report summarising the candidate's performance at *viva*, indicating the result to be awarded, and outlining any minor changes/substantive revisions that were required. He noted that this change would (a) ensure that examination reports were more robust than had previously been the case and (b) that the 'waiting time' for students between *viva* and ultimate submission would be reduced – and often very significantly reduced.

On the basis of the draft guidelines circulated prior to the meeting and which sought to give clarification on the difference between 'minor changes' and 'revisions that require resubmission', he proposed

- (i) that there be no change to the existing results nomenclature for PGR students
- (ii) the normal two month time limit for minor changes should be retained but examiners should be given a discretion to recommend that this period be extended to four months.

Members were happy to recommend those changes to the next Council. Thus the Dean would submit the new proposed PGR exam reports and the relevant amended guidelines for examiners to the next meeting of Council. If accepted by Council they would come into effect from March 2020 to coincide with the implementation of electronic thesis submission.

Finally, the Dean reminded members that there is also a revised progress report format in place for students coming onto the register since last September which reflects the input of thesis committee. He also drew members attention to the new



nomination forms for PGR examiners. Both forms would be uploaded to the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies' website.

Decision GS/19-20/338.1: The Dean to submit revised PGR examination forms to next Council.

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GS/19-20/339 AOB

- (i) 1252 awards 2020: The Dean advised members that he wanted to get their views on how the 1252 awards should be allocated for the following year. During the current year each School was given one award. The remaining one was kept by the Dean to be allocated on a hardship basis. The Dean reminded members that the 2019 "Dean's award" of three year's duration, should be given for three successive years to a student going into his or her fourth year. Members confirmed the wish to retain the current arrangement for the following year. The Dean noted that the former VP/CAO had agreed to recommend to the finance committee that the fees component of these awards would cover four rather than three years (as recommended by GSC during the year). He undertook to check with the current VP/CAO as to the current status of this proposal.

Decision GS/19-20/339(i): Members agreed to retain the current allocation of awards for the following year.

Action GS/19-20/339(i) The Dean to check with the VP/CAO as to the current status of the proposal that the fees component of these awards would extend for the full four years of the student's time on the Trinity structured PhD register.

- (ii) *Re CA700:* The Dean advised that Trinity had made a successful application for and received around €100,000 in funding from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education to build up the mandatory structured PhD module in *Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era*. The funding will enable reworking the existing module over the next nine months in the hope that a top of the range research training will be available for students from the following September. The Dean expressed huge thanks to Stephanie Reilly (Senior Executive Officer) and Linda Darbey (Assistant Academic Secretary) in Academic Affairs in Trinity Teaching & Learning and Niamh Brennan (Assistant Librarian) in the Library and Gisèle Scanlon the GSU VP for having contributed to the success of the project.

In response to a query raised at the previous meeting, the Dean advised that, if there were PGR students on the register prior to September 2019 who wished to participate in aspects of this module beyond merely the aspect dealing with research integrity, the relevant DTLP should contact Niamh Brennan directly to request that such students should be added manually to the current module. The Dean also confirmed that he was in contact with the AR to see whether named persons within Schools could



have SITS visibility in relation to students in their Schools who were participating in the module.

- (iii) The DTLP from the School of Natural Sciences asked whether, if a GSC member was unavailable on the date of a meeting, it would be possible for her or him to recommend a substitute to attend. The Academic Secretary clarified that such provision is not in place for Council and its main academic committees such as GSC. The DTLP from the School of Law advised that Statutes do not provide for it. The Dean undertook to obtain further clarification from the Registrar.
- (iv) The DTLP from the School of Computer Science and Statistics raised an issue to do with a procedural requirement that two external examiners need to be appointed to deal with a PhD thesis of a staff member in the School even when they were junior staff or research assistants appointed *after* they had submitted their theses. This was costly to the School and quickly exhausting the examiners' pool. The Dean clarified that the requirement was there to ensure that the examination process was fully independent, but if no conflict of interest is confirmed he has discretion to deal with requests that an internal and one external examiner be appointed for such students on an individual basis.
- (v) The GSU VP raised the issue of hourly rates of pay of PGR students who act as Demonstrators and Teaching Assistants (TA). She reported that PGR students make twofold demands, firstly that the TA and Demonstrator pay should be increased and equalised across Schools and secondly, that the rate should cover not only teaching hours but preparation time. Members expressed sympathy for PGR student demands noting high rents in Dublin as contributory factor to student hardship, but they also noted that different pay rates can result from the fact that some Schools are under more financial pressure than others and may not afford higher rates. In some Schools PGR students receive a School stipend which stipulates "free" teaching. The Dean asked DTLPs to gather information on the rate and Demonstrator/TA teaching hours in their Schools and email it to him. The GSU VP emphasised that such intelligence will allow for transparency across Schools and enable meaningful discussions.

Action GS/19-20/339(v): DTLPs to email Dean data from Schools on Demonstrator/TA rate and teaching hours.

- (vi) The Director of Internationalisation advised members that there was a difficulty in categorising certain group of visitors coming into Trinity who are *de facto* neither staff/visiting researchers nor students. As examples she referred to a PhD researcher from another university who is invited by a Trinity academic to come for a short visit. This is usually accompanied by an invitation letter of some sorts from the academic or School to be used for a scholarship application or a visa if they are Non-EU. This letter



usually needs to state that the receiver is happy with the level of English of the incoming guest and no fees will be required to be paid to Trinity. If the invitee is successful in getting funding from either their home institution or a scholarship body, they come to Trinity, register via the Associate/Visitor application form on HR website, and get a staff card of sorts. However, given that insurance and access to services and facilities such as library and laboratories are linked to a specific staff or student category the current provisions for such visitors are not adequate as they are neither students nor researchers (who are employees) of Trinity. A third category of “visiting research students” appears to be required. That category could also be used for Trinity’s own new PGR students who frequently arrive earlier before the research register opens and their standing needs to be regularised for insurance and access purposes.

Action GS/19-20/339(vi): DTLPs to email Dean data from Schools in relation to the approximate numbers of such ‘visiting research students’ that might, annually, be based in their Schools.

- (vii) The Dean advised that Postgraduate Open Day will take place on Thursday 13th February from 3pm to 6pm and asked them for support of their Schools by attending the event and manning a School stand on the day.
- (viii) The Dean advised that Trinity will be hosting the 10th LERU Doctoral Summer School from 28 June to 3 July. The theme of the prestigious annual event will be on the role of junior researchers and doctoral students for the re-establishing the value of experts in the increasingly populist Europe.
- (ix) Ms Mc Peak, Education Support Officer, advised members of the SFI Maternity/Adoptive Leave Policy. The policy indicates that SFI may provide additional funding for salaried staff with or without PRSI eligibility and PGR students with a studentship of 24 months or more for maternity and/or adoptive leave. They may also allow no-cost extensions of up to 12 months for maternity/adoptive leave. All applications must be made through SESAME and maternity@sfi.ie. The policy provides for no retrospective entitlement to benefits nor does it provide for compensation for the project affected by staff availing of maternity/adoptive leave. The Education Support Officer noted that the policy is currently being reviewed by the HR and the AR in order to adjust local arrangements where necessary.

XX Section B for noting and approval

GS/19-20/340 Dean’s Basket module (Category 5) LAST-Ireland (Laboratory Animal Science Training) delivered by LAST-Ireland Ltd (“non-school body outside of Trinity)

Decision GS/19-20/340:



The committee approved the new external 5 ECTS LAST (Laboratory Animal Science Training) module to be made available free of charge from 2019/20 to PGR students in Trinity as part of their structured PhD requirement.

GS/19-20/341 Changes to Doctor in Medicine (M.D.) Degree and revised Calendar III entry for 2020/21

Decision GS/19-20/341:

The committee approved the proposed changes to the MD and recommended them to the Planning Group for financial approval and Council for academic approval.

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Section C for noting

GS/19-20/342 The committee noted the Minutes of the Marino Institute of Education Associated College Degrees Committee (MIE ACDC) of 9th May 2019.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11.50am.

Prof. Neville Cox

Date: 21 November 2019