



GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Zoom at 11
am on Thursday 22 September 2022

XX = Council relevance

Present (Ex officio):

Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*)

Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, Dean of Research

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:

Professor David Finlay, School of Biochemistry & Immunology

Professor Laurent Muzellec, Trinity Business School

Professor Stephen Connon, School of Chemistry

Professor Ivana Dusparic, School of Computer Science and Statistics

Professor Paula Quigley, School of Creative Arts

Professor Ioannis Polyzois, School of Dental Science

Professor Noel Ó Murchadha, School of Education

Professor Sarah McCormack, School of Engineering

Professor Bernice Murphy, School of English

Professor Russell McLaughlin, School of Genetics & Microbiology

Professor Ashley Clements, School of Histories & Humanities

Professor James Hadley, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies

Professor David Prendergast, School of Law

Professor Irene Walsh, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences

Professor Manuela Kulaxizi, School of Mathematics

Professor Catherine Darker, School of Medicine

Professor Cian O'Callaghan, School of Natural Sciences

Professor Hongzhou Zhang, School of Physics

Professor Ladislav Timulak, School of Psychology

Professor Gillian Wylie, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

Professor Marvin Suesse, School of Social Sciences & Philosophy

Professor Erna O'Connor, School of Social Work & Social Policy

Professor Jake Byrne, Academic Director, Tangent

Dr Geoffrey Bradley, Information Technology Services Representative

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

Dr Cormac Doran, Assistant Academic Secretary, Graduate Education, TT&L

Ms Ewa Sadowska Administrative Officer (Academic Affairs, TT&L)

In attendance for all items:

Ms Breda Walls, Director of Student Services

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



Ms Fedelma McNamara, Director of Internationalisation, TCD Global

Ms Leona Coady, Programme Director, Postgraduate Renewal Programme

Ms Ewa Adach, Administrative Officer, Graduate Education – IT support

Catherine Allen (Executive Office, Academic Secretariat) Zoom access support

Not in attendance (not invited):

Graduate Students' Union President

Graduate Students' Union Vice-President

Apologies:

Ms Patricia Callaghan, Academic Secretary, Head of Trinity Teaching & Learning, (TT&L)

Professor Mary Hughes, School of Nursing & Midwifery

Professor Carlos Medina Martin, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

In attendance for individual items:

Dr Graham Glanville, Recognition of Prior Learning Project Lead (TT&L), for item GS/22-23/011

The meeting commenced with a slight delay at 11.10, for which the Dean apologised. She clarified that the meeting had originally been scheduled in person in the Board Room but moved online to facilitate an extraordinary meeting of the Board called at short notice which she had just attended. She noted that the urgent matter of business discussed at the Board meeting was related to Agenda Item 10 and the minute is available at GS/22-23/010 Student Representation in Schools 2022/23 below.

The Dean welcomed all to the first meeting of the academic year 2022/23 and noted apologies. She extended a special word of thanks to those GSC members who had completed their terms and offered a warm welcome to those new and returning to the committee. She called out the names of new members who introduced themselves.

XX Section A

XX GS/22-23/001 Minutes of GSC of 19 May 2022

The minutes were approved as circulated.

XX GS/22-23/002 Matters arising

The Dean advised members that all actions from the previous meeting had been attended to. Actions with more specific updates provided by the Dean are referred to below. The Dean also noted that the last Council in June approved all GSC decisions recommended at the May meeting on Agenda A and B:

Agenda A:

- GS/21-22/084 Proposed model for defining workload distribution for external examiners:
The Dean noted that the Revenue Service appears to have rolled back on the PPSN



requirement for external examiners due to steep opposition from the IUA and individual universities, and the challenges of managing the application process. She undertook to continue updating members on the issue.

- GS/21-22/115 New proposal for dual PG degree arrangement with Columbia University for Integrated Engineering and Engineering with Management programmes
- GS/21-22/116 Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report for 2020/21
- GS/21-22/117 MCs: Recommendations on MC Award Pathways: Critical system dependency was augmented in the revised memorandum and this aspect was discussed and acknowledged at Council.
- GS/21-22/120 Curriculum Glossary

Agenda B:

- GS/21-22/122 PG course/strand title changes from 2022/23
- GS/21-22/123 Pg Cert in Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- GS/21-22/124 MSc Global Mental Health – fee change – an updated MSc financial statement for 2022/23
- GS/21-22/125 Cessation of Orthopaedic Nursing stand on multiple PG nursing programmes from September 2022/23
- GS/21-22/126 MCs: Academic Registry Memo on retrospective and prospective approvals of Micro-credential intakes
- GS/21-22/127 MCs: rescheduling changes
- GS/21-22/128 MCs: Minor USC and GSC Sub-committee ToR/membership changes on HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credentials
- GS/21-22/129 MCs: two new TBS proposals and Memo from Chair of USC & GSC Sub-committee on Micro-credentials
- GS/21-22/130 Calendar III changes 2022/23 for validated PG courses from MIE and RIAM:
- GS/21-22/131 Calendar III changes 2022/23: revision of Plagiarism section

XX GS/22-23/003 Graduate Studies handbooks 2022/23: Research Student Handbook and Supervision Guidelines

The Dean thanked members for their feedback as requested at the May meeting, which was incorporated into the circulated updated versions of the Research Student Handbook and the Supervision Guidelines. She invited members to bring to the attention of colleagues in Schools that further feedback from supervisors and students on how to enhance the two publications would still be welcome. The circulated memo provided online links to the Research Student Handbook and the Supervision Guidelines. The Dean encouraged members to have the links to the two resources published on their Schools' websites. Hard copies of the publications are also available to members upon request from her Office. In conclusion, the Dean advised that WP2 group is working on Supervision Guidelines within the Postgraduate Renewal Programme and would be shortly contacting Schools for information.

Decision GS/22-23/003: The committee recommended the revised Research Student Handbook and the Supervision Guidelines for Council approval.



Action GS/22-23/003: Hard copies of the revised Research Student Handbook and the Supervision Guidelines will be sent out to Schools from Dean's Office upon request.

XX **GS/22-23/004 Review of the Award for Excellence in the Supervision of Research Students for 2021/22**

The Dean spoke to her circulated report reviewing the implementation of the first iteration of the Award for Excellence in the Supervision of Research Students launched in 2021/22. She noted a warm welcome for the award but in light of subsequent concerns raised (timelines, clarity of criteria for nomination and for selection of award recipients) from staff across College, she acknowledged that changes would be incorporated into the 2022/23 roll out of the award. She called out the names of awardees whom she congratulated. She extended special thanks to the Provost for hosting the award ceremony, to the Vice Provost for providing the funding and to Ms Ewa Adach, Administrative Officer from her Office, for coordinating the whole process.

The Dean went over the received feedback. As timing was deemed too tight, she proposed that issuing the next year's call should be moved from March to January. A robust mechanism should be put in place to ensure that all nominees receive the text of their nominations. A suggestion was made whether the number of nominations for any one academic should be considered. The Dean's view was that the student voice should be heard strongly, and a nomination supported by one student should be equally valid as the one supported by multiple students. Larger Schools requested recognition of the challenge of selecting only one winning candidate, especially in multidisciplinary Schools. The Dean agreed with the existing assessment criteria but noted that across award nominees, the number of PhD candidates supervised through to completion varied greatly, sometimes reflecting disciplinary differences. These differences made the final award selection process challenging, as there was no criterion that referenced this explicitly.

In a short discussion which ensued the following issues were raised:

- i) In response to a query about eligibility of academics with a track record of supervision in HEIs other than Trinity, the Dean clarified that in order to be eligible to apply for the award the applicant must have supervised to completion at least one PhD student in Trinity (since this is a Trinity-based award). The same applies to academics who supervise professional doctorate research, which might be the norm in some disciplines such as Education – they may apply so long as they have supervised to completion at least one PhD student. *Supervising at least one PhD student to completion in Trinity* is the one common factor underpinning the award scheme.
- ii) Some members expressed discomfiture having had to account how they had supported students to complete their PhDs, particularly if the assistance might have involved bespoke personal measures that might potentially compromise confidentiality.
- iii) Unease was expressed that prize money was different for junior and senior awardees – the Dean noted that as she could not identify any rationale for the difference and with both categories equally deserving, she undertook to recommend the removal of the difference.



- iv) In relation to the suggestion that students' views should be explicitly sought if only one nomination was received for any candidate, some members expressed unease about School DTLPs canvassing such student support.

The Dean thanked members for their feedback and advised them that she would be putting together a working group comprising four DTLPs to review the application process, assessment criteria and the selection of final awardees with a view to bringing the revised proposal to the November GSC and subsequently to Council to enable a roll out in January 2023. She asked for volunteers.

Action GS/22-23/004: Four DTLP volunteers to join the WP reviewing the Award for Excellence in Research Supervision for 2022/23 to email their readiness to Genadgso genadgso@tcd.ie.

GS/22-23/005 Trinity Teaching Awards for Postgraduate Research Students 2021

The Dean noted that the teaching award scheme was another means that showcased some of the extraordinary efforts of PGR students to contribute towards UG and PG teaching in College. There were 30 submissions made from across the three Faculties. Seventeen candidates were shortlisted and invited to submit 'lightning talks' where they could speak to their teaching practices, followed by a panel interview with the awards committee. Out of that shortlist, fourteen candidates completed both requirements. The award ceremony took place on the 29th June. The award winner was presented with a trophy and certificate by the Dean of Graduate Studies. The shortlisted candidates were presented with certificates. A short reception with refreshments followed. The Dean noted that the next call for the Calendar year 2023 will go out in November. The Dean thanked Ms Catherine Allen, Dean's Secretary, for her administrative support.

GS/22-23/006 Situation in relation to students from Ukraine

The Dean thanked members for their responses about places. She stated that the information from the National Help Desk was coming in very slowly, and it was challenging to get clarity on numbers, applications and funding. The scheme is now closed for 2022/23. As the teaching term was now well under way, students registering now were already at a disadvantage. Thirteen eligible applications were received, and the AR was in the process of finalising with Schools if they had a match between applications and free spaces. Responding to a member's query about funding of fees, the Dean explained that all applications were classified at an EU fee level, with an allocation from the HEA of €6250 supplemented by an additional €2,000 per applicant through the Office for Global Engagement. Where course fees exceeded this combined sum, Schools were requested to cover the shortfall. She undertook to further update members at the next meeting.

GS/22-23/007 GSC work schedule 2022/23 and PG Renewal workplan

The Dean noted that as the PG Renewal Programme accelerates, the committee will have to make decisions on a number of proposals over the coming year. She invited Ms Leona Coady, Programme Director, PG Renewal Programme, to share the timeline anticipated for business coming to the committee in 2022/23. Speaking to her circulated slides, Ms Coady invited members to engage with



relevant WPs on each of the target deliverables. The plan is that the committee will consider financially linked issues before Christmas and WP-related activities in the 2nd Semester. The proposed timelines are subject to the approval of a business case for Horizon 1 by the Planning Group due to meet the following week.

GS/22-23/008 Research supervision seminar survey 2022/23

The Dean noted that each year her Office links with Academic Practice to offer a series of workshops for research supervisors. She thanked Ms Ewa Adach, Administrative Officer from her Office, for supporting the project in Trinity in 2021/22, when the Research Supervisor Development Programme was delivered as a collaborative IUA online webinar series with UCD, UL, RCSI, DCU, MU, NUIG, UCC and Trinity. Following the practice from previous years, the Dean was seeking suggestions for new topics to be delivered and topics to be repeated. A couple of sessions have been planned already. It is intended that in addition to “Trinity only” slots, the collaboration with IUA institutions will continue. One member suggested a possible topic around the specific “Trinity style” of research supervision for academics coming to Trinity from other HEIs.

A short survey was made available online to all academics. The Dean asked members to assist in encouraging research and PhD supervisors to fill out the survey to establish what supervisors would like in the forthcoming seminars. The Dean also sought volunteer supervisors willing to support the delivery of the programme as guest speakers and panel members. The Dean asked members to reach out to colleagues in their Schools for ideas.

Action GS/22-23/008: DTLPs were asked to liaise with their colleagues in Schools for ideas and to remind colleagues to complete the survey. Suggestions to be emailed to Genadgso genadgso@tcd.ie.

XX GS/22-23/009 Academic Integrity Working Group 2022/23

The Dean noted that after Council had approved the statement on core principles on integrity the previous year, the steering group, which met several times before the summer, reconfigured into 3 smaller groups. Each group is working separately, under the oversight of the steering committee, but adhering to an agreed guiding principle, that is, that all initiatives related to academic integrity should be framed through a developmental, pedagogical approach, rather than a punitive, disciplinary perspective. The three groups are:

1. Policies, processes and procedures, largely student-facing in its focus, and currently reviewing existing documentation with a view to clarifying, aligning, and enhancing relevant policies, procedures and processes;
2. Pedagogical practices to support integrity;
3. Research structures and governance.

The Dean noted that the Student Union is planning a week on academic integrity commencing on the 17th October. A short survey on academic integrity will be launched shortly to collect data to plan next steps. The Dean invited members to share their experiences with this issue in the survey and to encourage colleagues to likewise respond.



Some members were satisfied that in their particular disciplines e.g., Mathematics and Physics, academic cheating does not appear to be an issue. Diverting staff resources to academic integrity might not therefore be justified. The Dean veered on the side of caution to note that the potential to cheat exists in every discipline. Academics need to be vigilant and watch out for academic malpractice and misconduct manifesting itself not only as plagiarism but also as student collusion or fabrication of data. Academic integrity still needs to be defined. The Dean undertook to provide regular updates at future meetings.

Action GS/22-23/009: The Dean to provide regular updates on the three Academic Integrity sub-groups at future meetings. Members of the GSC to respond to the survey and encourage colleagues to do likewise.

GS/22-23/010 Student representation in Schools 2022/23

The Dean clarified that she had been called to attend a special Board meeting that morning which necessitated shifting the GSC fully online and delaying it by an hour. The Board meeting was called at the request of the Capitation Committee, a sub-committee of the Student Life Committee, which brings together the five capitated bodies: Dublin University central Athletic Club (DUCAC), the Student Union, the Central Societies Committee, the Graduate Student Union (GSU) and College Publications. One role of the Capitation Committee is to oversee the distribution of funds to the five student bodies.

The special meeting of Board noted that the Capitation Committee, at their meeting of the 20 September 2022, agreed by consensus to (a) suspend funding to the GSU due to their failure to comply with requirements to file accounts with the Capitation Committee for the financial year ending August 2021, and to (b) re-allocate the funding to the Students' Union for the purposes of supporting the postgraduate community. In light of this, the Board has decided that College will suspend its engagement with, and services provided to, the GSU, including having GSU representatives on College committees until its financial matters were resolved. The Dean noted that elections for PG student representation at all levels were affected. She advised members to contact their Schools to ensure that they have a mechanism to link directly with students to get their voice heard. She further noted that the recently elected GSU President had resigned earlier in the week.

A thoroughgoing discussion of concerned members ensued, and the following issues were raised:

- (i) The Dean noted that the Board had acknowledged at the special meeting the importance of ensuring postgraduate students were represented in all relevant committees and forums. The University was due to shortly issue a communication to PG students and members should wait for that communication before discussing the issue locally with relevant staff in their Schools. She would follow that communication with her own email to PG students.
- (ii) Normally, students run their own elections to choose their representatives at course, School and College level and hence Schools should not be involved in taking over that role. However,



- Schools could liaise with course coordinators to invite students to nominate peers to ensure student feedback at the course level is effectively communicated and issues can be resolved. School Admin staff can assist course coordinators upon request.
- (iii) A related question which arose was how PG reps can be chosen to attend committees at the College level, and if there would be any students willing to act in this capacity in the current situation. Locally elected PG reps in Schools are legitimate conveyors of student voice in carrying out their duties. This role would need to be clearly explained to PG students who might be concerned that it lacks legitimacy, as it sits outside the normal election process. Some members suggested that the term “PG student rep” could be temporarily substituted by “PG student attendee” to transparently indicate the difference between elections organised via the Students’ Union and local arrangements within Schools. Training should also be provided to the new role holders to ease them into their duties. The Postgraduate Student Support Officer offered to provide support for students who were willing to represent the views of postgraduate students within Schools. The Dean further clarified that Board had no mandate to disband or otherwise interfere with the GSU. However, the Board has a responsibility in relation to governance and financial oversight and therefore was disengaging with the GSU until financial matters were resolved.
 - (iv) Concern was expressed about the GSU situation being picked up on by external media. It was agreed that any queries from the media should be forwarded to the Trinity Communications (Public Affairs) office.
 - (v) As it might be relatively straightforward for PGT students to ensure their views are represented at course level, the situation is more complex with the PGR student cohort. The Dean advised that Schools should link directly with their PGR students after she had sent her email to them. The locally agreed student nominees could then be invited into relevant School committees as “PG student observers” until the formal process for ensuring postgraduate student representation is resolved by the Students’ Union. At that point the Postgraduate Student Support Officer from the Senior Tutor’s Office advised members that the QQI was running a national project on PGR engagement and that he is its inter-institutional liaison person for Trinity. He noted that QQI’s view is that PGR students should have a distinct representation from that of PGT and UG students, and that any existing gaps will need to be addressed in Trinity to align with national practices.
 - (vi) A query was raised whether the outcome of any School-based elections or selection process would be valid for the whole academic year or only until a new student election procedure was agreed. The Dean suggested that any students who agree to take on this responsibility in the current situation could put themselves forward for new roles when and if a new procedure becomes available.
 - (vii) As it looks likely that the resolution of the GSU situation might not be prompt and straightforward, the Students’ Union will be organising a wide ranging consultation process with the postgraduate student community to determine how students themselves wish to be represented and supported for the current year and in the future.
 - (viii) It was suggested that the Students’ Union which has a mandate to represent both UG and PG students in Trinity could run PG elections on behalf of PG students. The SU will be consulted



about next steps regarding postgraduate student representation on committees.

- (ix) It was suggested that the GSU could run new elections, but the Dean advised that it would not be appropriate for the University to engage with the GSU until all financial issues were settled and the Board is satisfied that the GSU is compliant with all legal requirements.
- (x) A concern was raised that it might be more constructive to proceed uniformly across all Schools rather than leaving the issue of choosing reps to PG students in individual Schools. However, the Dean expressed the view that Schools may differ in the support structures available and that as long as representation is ensured, a diversity of practice to support that engagement is acceptable.
- (xi) The Dean noted that running a GSC committee without a PG rep is extremely unsatisfactory and that she aims to ensure that the next GSC will have a PG student representation.

Action GS/22-23/010: DTLPs to urgently contact their Schools to ensure that they have a mechanism to link directly with PG students. DTLPs to liaise with course directors to secure two course reps would be in place for taught programmes and that separate representation of PGR students is facilitated.

GS/22-23/011 HCI RPL Initiative

The Dean invited Dr Graham Glanville, the Trinity project lead on the HCI-funded project on Recognition of Prior Learning to update the GSC on progress to date. Dr Glanville clarified that the initiative is an HCI funded project co-sponsored by the Technological Higher Education Authority (THEA) and the Irish Universities Association (IUA). Each HEI has an RPL Project Lead to examine RPL practice across the institution. Institutional leads then meet together nationally to see if they can align their policies and practice. The project should lead to new ways of facilitating access to third level programmes through recognition of prior experiential learning, and therefore should support those who have been working in industry or elsewhere but who do not have a formal degree.

Dr Glanville spoke to his circulated slides and presented some of the work completed to date. Many of the ambitions of the initiative impact on the postgraduate side, and many Schools are already active in the space. Dr Glanville noted that an RPL questionnaire had been circulated to Schools. However, only ten Schools and Tangent responded. Of those who responded, five Schools plus Tangent have an active RPL application process and decision making system. Four of the other five Schools which do not engage in RPL application processing expressed an interest in exploring it further. For completeness, the questionnaire has been re-opened for the remaining Schools until November 1st, 2022.

The Dean invited members to engage with Dr Glanville in identifying how their Schools share their current RPL practice as Trinity seeks to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with RPL requests across all the HEI sector. Members asked Dr Glanville to let them know which Schools had already taken part in the questionnaire in order to follow up within their own School.

Action GS/22-23/011 (i): Dr Glanville to advise members which Schools took part in the RPL



questionnaire.

Action GS/22-23/011 (ii): DTLPs to liaise with their Schools to ask them to fill out the RPL questionnaire even if they do not engage in RPL application processing.

GS/22-23/012 Covid-related update

The Dean noted that even though there is not much new to update, Covid has not gone away. All should be encouraged to wear masks in crowded spaces, students and staff who test positive should stay away. Efforts should continue to make teaching materials available to students who have to stay at home when testing positive, although mandatory recording of lectures is not required; where recordings are available from the previous two years and if the content of the course in question has not changed radically, they can be uploaded for the current year's students who are unable to attend due to illness. The Dean noted that there will be no additional assessment session during the current academic year but facing the challenge that a combined winter flu and Covid impact might bring, it would be helpful for course coordinators to review assessment plans to ensure they do not create unnecessary challenges for staff and students. In response to a query the Dean clarified that it was still allowed for lecturing staff to switch to an online delivery on a short-term basis if they were not fit to come into College for an in person lecture.

GS/22-23/013 GSC Survey 2021/22

The Dean thanked members for completion of an anonymous online Annual Survey 2021/22 evaluating the effectiveness of the GSC in conducting its business. She noted that the survey results were all positive. She plans to continue with her VIM memo and to hold an in-person GSC meeting each semester with other meetings online. She thanked Ms Ewa Sadowska, Administrative Officer from Academic Affairs in TTL, for her support in organising GSC meetings.

XX GS/22-23/014 Any Other Business

(i) The Dean referred to a concern from one member who had reported that PhD students in her School had not yet been invited to register in spite of complying with the AR deadline. Members from other Schools (e.g., Physics, Mathematics, English) shared similar feedback. The Dean advised that members should check locally with PGR students if they completed their registration.

Action GS/22-23/014 (i): DTLPs to reach out to their PGR students to check if they had registered and to advise the Dean of any particular difficulties experienced.

(ii) Members wondered if it might be possible to change the practice in the AR whereby all PGR students were returned to Schools set up by default as "progressing" for registration and Schools could advise the AR of only "problem" cases. The Dean confirmed that she would support such a system and would liaise with the AR to implement it. She also noted the WP2, 3 and 6 would be dealing with the issue as part of the PG Renewal process.



Action GS/22-23/014 (ii): Dean to liaise with AR to implement setting up by default PGR student as “progressing” for registration.

- (iii) Some members sought clarification whether PGR progress reports were to be passed on to the AR or retain in Schools. The Dean clarified that PGR progress reports were to be retained in Schools.

Action GS/22-23/014 (iii): Dean to confirm with AR that PGR progress reports were to be retained in Schools.

- (iv) A concern was raised that PGR theses in shared folders emailed to external examiners sometimes end up in their spam unbeknown to them which is causing unacceptable delays in the examination process. The Dean confirmed that the practice should be that such emails should also be copied to internal examiners and supervisors who should immediately contact the external examiner to ensure that they receive the email and can retrieve the thesis.

Action GS/22-23/014 (iv): Dean to liaise with AR thesis section to ensure that the practice is implemented.

XX Section B for noting and approval

XX GS/22-23/015 Amendment to MD by publication proposal from School of Medicine

A revised “Proposal [dated 1 September 2022] for a transparent procedure concerning the special case of graduates of the University of Dublin who wish to submit a thesis for the degree of M.D./M.Ch./M.A.O. which is based solely on published work” (originally dated to 1 May 2022) and considered by the committee on 7 October 2021, was noted. The amendment introduced into the revised version rectifies the original stipulation that the School of Medicine appoints the examiners. The amendment brings it back in line with College practices set out in the policy on external examiners that the School nominates but the Dean of Graduate Studies appoints the examiners.

Decision GS/22-23/015: GSC recommended for Council approval an amendment to the already approved proposal for a transparent procedure concerning the special case of graduates of the University of Dublin who wish to submit a thesis for the degree of M.D./M.Ch./M.A.O. which is based solely on published work that the School nominates but the Dean of Graduate Studies appoints the examiners.

XX GS/22-23/016 Change of format to MSc in Entrepreneurship of Smart Medicines from 2022/23

A memorandum from Prof. Kumlesh Dev was noted which outlined changes to three modules on the existing MSc in Entrepreneurship of Smart Medicines from 2022/23: M01 (PG7201) - Development of this Online Module as planned and initiated in 2022 as approved; M02 (PG7202) - Early Development of this Online Module will allow it to be initiated in 2022, and M07 (PG7208) - New



Online Module Development and Request to initiate in 2022.

Decision GS/22-23/016: GSC recommended for Council approval the proposed changes to the three modules M01 (PG7201), M02 (PG7202) and M07 (PG7208) on the MSc in Entrepreneurship of Smart Medicines from 2022/23.

XX GS/22-23/017 MSCA European Joint Doctorates Approval Process in Trinity – a proposal

The Office of the Dean of Research has worked with the Dean of Graduate Studies over the summer to streamline the process for approving MSCA applications. Because the timeline between notification of successful applicants and rollout of the programme itself is very tight, pre-approval is required to ensure applications can be processed quickly in Trinity if needed. Consequently, an indicative timeline and revised approval process in Trinity for applications under the MSCA European Joint Doctorates call for 2022 open until 15 November has been noted by members.

The Dean of Graduate Studies has to date been the signatory to Letters of Commitment from previous Trinity applicants to the MSCA Doctoral Network programme, with the last successful application in 2017. In recent years, there have been a number of application requirement changes to the European programme. First, the text of the template Letter of Commitment ('pre-agreement letter') has become more binding, including the requirement that it is signed by an authorised legal representative. Second, European Joint Doctorates is due to support a cohort of 15 PhD students in comparison to the 10 PhDs supported by a 'regular' European Doctoral Network which may significantly increase their popularity in the coming years. Applications to the MSCA programme have previously been relatively rare but may therefore become more numerous. The Research and Development Office reviewed the current application process in Trinity and recommended some changes including fee implications noted by members. The financial considerations require further discussion with Faculty Deans in order to ensure that the financial underpinning of the programmes is sustainable. The Dean noted that the funding under the forthcoming call would cover 4 years of study which should generate more interest. Once awardees are selected there is normally a very short window for them to put in legal documentation required. It is for that reason that some of the legal aspects are to be dealt with in the pre-approval stage in College.

Decision GS/22-23/017: GSC recommended for Council approval the revised approval process in Trinity for submissions under MSCA European Joint Doctorates scheme.

Action GS/22-23/017: Committee members were invited to consider the circulated documents and to forward them to colleagues who may be considering submitting an application.

XX GS/22-23/018 Examination Sessions in 2022/23: Operational Update and Contingency Days

A memorandum from the Director of Academic Registry and the Manager (Assessment and Progression) on the 2022/23 examination sessions and contingency days was noted by members. It outlined that the Academic Registry will centrally manage the hybrid examination timetable for each



of the three main examination sessions in 2022/23. Both online exams and in-person exams will be scheduled, as requested by Schools through their assessment strategies. The memo also outlined the operational details for the conduct of 2022/23 Semester 1, Semester 2, and Reassessment examination sessions. The Dean noted that the arrangements would mainly affect UG students. The Dean also noted the departure of Ms Grainne de Bhulbh, the Manager (Assessment and Progression) from the AR. On members' behalf she has extended appreciation for her work over many difficult exam sessions.

Decision GS/22-23/018: GSC recommended for Council approval the proposed Examination Sessions and Contingency Days in 2022/23 with revised operational arrangements.

XX Section C for noting

XX GS/22-23/019 Minutes from USC/GSC Sub-committee on Micro-credentials [HCI Pillar 3] (7 February and 9 May 2022)

The minutes of 7 February 2022 and draft minutes of the 9th of May 2022 of the USC/GSC Sub-committee on Micro-credentials [HCI Pillar 3] were circulated to members.

The Dean thanked all the committee members. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1 pm.

Prof. Martine Smith

Date: 22 September 2022