

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 5 February 2003 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

Present Provost, Vice-Provost, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts (Humanities), Dr M H Adams, Dean of Arts (Letters), Dr S J Matterson, Dr N McLelland, Dean of Business, Economic and Social Studies, Dr J C Stewart, Dr N Persram, Dean of Engineering and Systems Sciences, Dr J K Vij, Dr D W O'Dwyer, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr A W Kelly, Dean of Science, Dr B Espey, Ms G E Fallon, Dr C Benson, Mr J Walsh, Mr I Moynihan, Ms H Fychan, Dean of Dental Affairs.

Apologies Senior Lecturer, Registrar, Dr P C Conroy, Dr M G Barry, Dr P Coxon, Ms T Cox.

In attendance Librarian, Secretary, Academic Secretary.

28/A Minutes The Minutes of the meeting of 15 January 2003 were approved, subject to the following:

26/B Nominations for Appointment, Appendix 1 Amend title of Ms Anne Walsh-Daneshamandi's post from Research Fellow to Post-doctoral Teaching Fellowship.

28/B Matters Arising from the Minutes A number of matters arising from the Minutes were discussed and have been minuted under appropriate headings hereafter.

28/C Working Party on Teaching and Learning (see Actum 22/D of 15th January 2003) It was noted that a revised report would be available for the next meeting which would incorporate comments received and propose an implementation plan.

28/D Broad Curriculum – substitution (see Actum 24/A (i) of 15th January 2003) It was noted that the Senior Lecturer had written to Faculty Deans requesting that they collate responses from Departments on proposals to facilitate substitution of a broad curriculum course.

28/E Disciplinary Balance A response to the HEA had been forwarded by the Conference of Heads of Irish Universities (CHIU) and the Senior Lecturer had also sent a response on behalf of the College.

29/A Bachelor in Acting Studies Discussions were ongoing in relation to the financial provision for this course and it was hoped that the matter would be resolved by the end of February.

29/B Provost's Report

Financial Situation The Provost advised that he had had two meetings with staff to brief them on the current financial situation and he stressed the importance at this time of good communication within College and the need to deal with the situation in an open manner. In response to a question, the Vice-Provost outlined the respective roles of the Unit Cost Management Working Party (UCMWP) and the Personnel and Appointments Committee in relation to staffing plans and the approval of posts. It was noted that some funds will be available for emergency situations and that these will be managed by the Personnel and Appointments Committee.

Concern was expressed at the extent of the savings required and the potential consequences for teaching programmes and it was acknowledged that it may not be possible to offer a full range of options in certain courses. Reductions in part-time pay budgets may also have an impact both on the amount of small group teaching that is available and in turn on the earning potential of postgraduate students. It was considered inevitable that the reduced funding levels will have a negative impact on the quality of activities across the sector.

The Provost advised that it was not realistic for the College to consider entering into a deficit position for legal and other reasons. It was noted that if a deficit were incurred, it would be a first call on the following year's budget.

College had not yet been advised of its recurrent grant for 2003 although notification was expected towards the end of February. It was noted that CHIU is developing a paper on funding levels in the universities (which is not yet complete) and would be continuing to press the HEA regarding the decreased level of funding available to the universities. It would also be seeking to develop public awareness of the situation through improved media coverage.

It was suggested that it would be necessary to provide some flexibility to Faculty Deans to assist them in achievement of target savings, particularly in terms of arrangements and relationships with other institutions.

29/C Graduate Studies Annual Report 2001-02 A copy of the Graduate Studies Annual Report 2001-02 had been circulated. In introducing the Report, the Dean of Graduate Studies acknowledged the support of the Graduate Studies Office staff in preparing the report, and in particular the support provided by the Administrative Officer, Dr Liz Donnellan. The Dean of Graduate Studies stated that the purpose of the report is to inform Council on developments in Graduate Studies and also to provide statistical information on student numbers and other data. The Dean advised that following discussion of the report by the Graduate Studies Committee and by the Academic Affairs Committee, he proposed to modify future reports to incorporate more information on the range and type of courses offered. The Dean requested members of Council to advise him by email of any amendments that should be incorporated into the report in advance of it being made available on the website.

The Dean of Graduate Studies invited Council's attention to a number of points including the following:

- postgraduate student numbers had increased by 6% over the previous year
- the number of postgraduate students from outside the state had increased significantly to 20% of the total student body (13% in 2000/01)

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- the gender balance of the postgraduate student body was 59% female and 41% male, although there were slightly more male than female research students
- the number of taught courses increased to 125 (121 in 2000/01) although not all courses were available in a given year
- very high academic standards were being maintained in Trinity's research degrees, as evidenced by reports from external examiners
- there had been discussion at the Academic Affairs Committee regarding the very high proportion of theses (83%) that required minor amendments and the burden that this placed on examiners. This issue would be returned to by the Graduate Studies Committee later in the year
- the average examination period for research theses (from the time of first submission to Council approval of award) averaged seven months
- average completion times for research degrees had reduced overall : PhD 4.01 years (4.9 years in 2000/01); MSc 2.16 years (2.9 years in 2000/01); MLitt 2.75 years (2.8 years in 2000/01)
- reviews of taught courses continued to be conducted as part of the departmental review process
- applications for postgraduate research student awards had increased significantly over the previous year for all three categories of awards
- the Graduate Studies website had been improved and development will be continued as resources are available.

In the discussion that followed, the Provost welcomed the endorsement by external examiners of the very high standard of our research degrees. Council members also welcomed the reduction in completion times for research degrees and in particular the PhD. In response to a comment regarding the importance of ensuring the participation of postgraduate students in any review process, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that external reviewers of postgraduate taught courses spent a fairly significant proportion of their time with postgraduate students. The Dean acknowledged that a system was not yet in place to obtain feedback from research students. There was a brief discussion regarding the role that Graduate Schools might have and it was noted that the Graduate Studies Committee had discussed this matter on several occasions. The Dean of Graduate Studies stated his view that Graduate Schools could have a significant role in co-ordination of activity however there would be a need to consider whether Faculties represented the appropriate co-ordinating level. Council acknowledged the need to ensure that any progress regarding the further development of Graduate Schools should proceed in a co-ordinated manner and with appropriate consultation.

On behalf of Council, the Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies and his staff for preparing the report.

- 30/A Graduate Studies - Proposal for MPhil in Irish Art History** A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies dated 23rd January 2003 had been circulated together with supporting documentation. The proposed MPhil programme will be a core component of the Irish Art Research Centre, funding for which had been secured through a benefaction. The course will enable suitably qualified candidates to undertake an intensive course of study specialising in aspects of Irish art and will be the only dedicated postgraduate course in the country in this area.

The Dean of Graduate Studies indicated that the introduction of the proposed MPhil would add an important element to the College's portfolio of courses concerned with cultural studies. It will be central to research and teaching in the Department of the History of Art and it is envisaged that it will provide a stream of students into research areas. He noted that in its consideration of this proposal, the Graduate Studies Committee had been of the

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view that the course would be particularly attractive to students coming from abroad and the committee had invited the Department to consider this matter further.

The course will be offered as a one-year full-time programme with an intake of approximately eight students per annum.

Council welcomed the proposal, noting that it will build on existing strengths in this area, and approved the introduction of an MPhil in Irish Art History with effect from October 2003, subject to approval by the Finance Committee of the financial arrangements.

31/A Nominations for Appointment Council noted and approved the circulated information (see Appendix 1).

31/B Chair of Theology (1980) Under Other Business the College Secretary reminded Council members that interviews for the Chair of Theology (1980) will be held on Thursday 13th February 2003 and he encouraged a full attendance at the meeting.

31/C Graduate Studies Committee—Minutes of 14 November 2002 The Council noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee of 14 November 2002.

31/D Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners - Higher Degrees by Research Alone The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 7 January 2003.

PhD Eamonn Cantwell; Michael James Curran; Kerry Scott Houston; David Andrew Magee.

MSc Kali Dunne; Matthew Gilbert Hislop; Maria Veronica McEvoy.

MLitt Raphael Francis McElligott; Louise Moriarty; Nicolas Salamin; Patricia Anne Walsh.

31/E Leave of Absence The Council noted and approved the following applications recommended by Deans and Heads of Department concerned on the usual basis, satisfactory proposals having been made for provision for teaching and other needs:

Classics

- (a) Dr Hazel Dodge, academic year 2003-04;
- (b) Professor John M Dillon, Michaelmas term 2003;
- (c) Professor Brian C McGing, Hilary term 2004.

31/F Student Cases The Council noted and approved the Senior Lecturer's requests in respect of the following:

- (i) **Calendar G10, section 46, - Repetition of Year – Ref 2002-3/08** retrospective permission that a student be permitted to repeat the Junior Freshman year in the academic year 2001-02, constituting a third attempt and permission for the student to take the Junior Freshman year in a different course in the academic year 2002-03, constituting a fourth attempt.

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- (ii) **Calendar, O2 section 6 - BA Degree** that the BA degree be conferred on a student (99110202) on the basis of satisfactory completion of the second and third medical years.

32/A Committees – Academic Affairs Committee The Council noted that Professor Johnnie Gratton has been added to the membership of this committee.

32/B Nominating Committees The Council approved the following:

Lecturer – Economics (4-year contract)
Dean of Business, Economic and Social Studies
Professor Antoin E Murphy
Professor Philip R Lane
Mr Michael J Harrison
Dr Evelyn Mahon
Professor Patrick Geary (NUI Maynooth)

Signed

Date

Appendix 1 to Actum 31/A

Nominations for Council – 5 February 2003

Department	Post	Name & Qualifications	Start date	Termination date (if contract)
B.E.S.S.	Visiting Research Fellow	KLEMMENSEN, Robert, MSc. (Copen.), BA (Copen.)	01.02.2003	30.05.2003
Biochemistry	Research Fellow	DAVEY, Gavin, BA (Dubl.), PhD (Dubl.)	01.02.2003	31.01.2007
Biochemistry	Research Fellow	McDONALD, Andrew Grieg, BA (Dubl.), PhD (Dubl.)	01.02.2003	31.01.2007
Chemistry	Research Fellow	WU, Bin, PhD (Beijing)	01.01.2003	31.01.2003
Computer Science	Research Associate	BURKE, Michael, BA (Dubl.)	01.02.2003	31.01.2004
Geology	Research Associate	GOODHUE, Robert John Day, BA (Dubl.), PhD (Dubl.)	Renewal of Appointment	
IIS	Research Assistant	GOMEZ-ARANA, Maria Aranzazu, BA (Spain)	20.01.2003	20.09.2003
Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering	Temporary Lecturer	CATER, Edward John, Beng (Auckland), PhD (Monash)	01.01.2003	31.01.2003
Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering	Temporary Lecturer	HANN, David Brian, BSc (Edin.), PhD (Edin.)	01.01.2003	30.06.2003
Microbiology	Research Fellow	JERUSALMI, Alan, MS Virology (Flor.)	01.01.2003	31.09.2003
Microbiology	Research Fellow	MANGAN, Michael, BSc (DCU), MSc (IT Tallaght), PhD (NUI)	01.04.2003	Annually renewable for up to 4 yrs
Physics	Research Fellow	BRENNAN, Margaret, BSc Experimental Physics (N.U.I.), PhD (Dubl.)	06.01.2003	05.07.2003
Physics	Research Fellow	JONES, Benjamin James, MPhys (Oxon.), PhD (Dubl.)	01.02.2003	31.01.2004
Physics	Research Fellow	LIPSON, Stephen Malcolm, BA Mod, PhD (Dubl.)	01.01.2003	31.12.2003
Physics	Research Fellow	MINETT, Andrew, PhD (W'gong), BSc (W'gong)	01.01.2003	31.12.2004
Psychiatry	Clinical Tutor	KELLY, Fionnuala, BA, MB, BCh, BAO (Dubl.)	01.2003	05.2003

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Surgery	Lecturer	BORTON, David, MB, BCh, BAO, (Dubl.), FRCSI, MCh (Dubl.), FRCSI (Orth.)		Ongoing
Surgery	Lecturer	BOYLE, Terence, MB, BCh, BAO, BSc. (N.U.I.), FRCSI, FRCSI (Gen)		Ongoing
Surgery	Lecturer	O'Riordan, Diarmuid, MB, BCh, BAO, (NUI/UCC), MD (NUI/UCC), FRCSI		Ongoing
Surgery	Lecturer	ORR, David John Alexander, MB, BCh, BAO, (Dubl.), MD (Dubl.), FRCSI (Plast.)		Ongoing
Surgery / Health Sciences	Lecturer in Health Sciences Education Research	PATTERSON, Aileen, BSc (Dubl.)	02.01.2003	01.01.08
Zoology	Research Fellow	JENNINGS, Eleanor	01.01.2003	31.12.2005