

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 16 January 2008 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Vice-Provost (in the chair), Senior Lecturer, Registrar, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr M H Adams, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Dr M E G Lyons, Dr H Gibbons, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr V A Campbell, Dr J P Gormley, Dr A O'Gara, Mr B Rock, Mr C Hallworth, Mr H Sullivan, Mr G Magee.
<i>Apologies</i>	Provost, Professor B M Lucey, Dr G Biehler, Mr D L Parris, Dr M J F Brown, Ms F M Haffey, Ms C Ní Dhubhda, Mr C Reilly, Professor N M Claffey.
<i>In attendance</i>	Librarian, Secretary, Academic Secretary.
<i>Observers</i>	Dr M L Brennan, Dr P Coleman.
<i>Student observers</i>	Mr D Walsh, Ms E Keaveney.

SECTION A

The Vice-Provost welcomed the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor M Marsh and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor C Williams to Council. She also welcomed the Dean of Health Sciences, Professor C O Moráin, in his new role to Council.

Statutory Declaration. Professor C Williams, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science (EMS) made the statutory declaration.

CL/07-08/074 Minutes The minutes of the meeting of the 5th December 2007 were circulated with papers for the meeting. The accuracy of Actum CL/07-08/057 in relation to the policy to recruit only at the lecturer grade was disputed. It was held that staff representative bodies were not consulted and following some discussion on this, Council concluded that the minute was an accurate record of the meeting.

CL/07-08/075 Matters Arising In response to a query on the performance of female candidates in the Foundation Scholarship examinations (Actum CL/07-08/056), the Senior Lecturer informed Council that his Office did an analysis of trends over the past five years which shows that there is no fixed trend. For example, in 2007 proportionally more males were awarded a Foundation Scholarship than females in the Faculty of Health Science, but the reverse was the case in 2006 and 2005. In the case of the then Faculty of Arts and Humanities, proportionally more females were awarded a Foundation Scholarship than males, but the reverse was the case in 2006 and 2005.

The Senior Lecturer noted the importance of encouraging females to sit the examination as proportionally fewer females present for the examination than males. He noted that this matter should be kept under review.

Referring to Actum CL/07-08/057 and the change to the policy to recruit only to lecturer grade, it was commented that this change restricts career and promotion opportunities for Trinity staff at lecturer grade. It was reiterated that staff representative bodies were not consulted on this matter. Council recommended that this matter be addressed by the Partnership Committee.

Referring to Actum CL/07-08/036 on the Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy, the Secretary invited Council's approval for the wording of the minute for publication on the College web pages. Council approved the minute as presented.

CL/07-08/076 Provost's Report The Vice-Provost informed Council that the Board of Tallaght Hospital is positively disposed to the Academic Medical Centre and that discussions are progressing well. She further informed Council that the Science Gallery will be launched in February 2008.

CL/07-08/077 Restructuring The Senior Lecturer informed Council on progress to-date on the restructuring implementation schedule noting that proposals from the Restructuring Implementation Oversight Group would be presented in due course for consideration by Council. The Deans of the three Faculties are now in place representing a significant step towards embedding the second and final stage of academic restructuring.

Council enquired about the location of the Faculty and Course Offices. The Senior Lecturer commented that Course Offices have not been relocated. The Dean of EMS and Acting Bursar commented that he anticipated achieving agreement on space for the three Faculty Offices soon.

CL/07-08/078 Intermission of Studies A copy of the report on Intermission of Studies for Extra-Curricular reasons dated 9th July 2007 was circulated. The Senior Tutor introduced this report explaining that a small Working Group was established to examine the issues, and this Group comprised the Dean of Students, the Senior Lecturer, the Students' Union Education Officer and the Director of Careers Advisory Services as secretary to the Group. She explained the background to the report, the terms of reference of the Working Group, and expanded on the seven recommendations outlined in the report.

Over the past number of years there has been an increasing number of student requests to the Senior Lecturer seeking to go off-books for reasons of their involvement in extra-curricular activities such as leading a club or society. Granting such requests off books status was deemed inappropriate because students are granted off books status for particular reasons usually relating to events outside their control. Intermission of studies was deemed to be the most appropriate consideration and the Working Group developed its recommendations on this basis. While appreciating the workload and value to both students and College, the Working Group felt that there should not be an automatic entitlement for students to intermit their studies because they are leading a society, a club or a publication. In order to encourage engagement in student leadership, however, the Group felt that applications to intermit one's study for reasons of involvement in extra curricular

activities should be considered on an individual basis. The Senior Tutor outlined the proposed procedure and recommended the report to Council.

Council welcomed the report and discussed the recommendations at length. In response to questions of clarification, the Senior Tutor confirmed that current policies in respect of student sabbatical officers were not affected by this new policy, and that the policy does not include an entitlement to College rooms. The view was expressed that members put their trust in the person to lead a society and the process should not undermine this trust: the timing of an application and speed of decision are important. There was some discussion about the role of the Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning and the course director in the process. It was concluded that all such applications must be supported by the relevant Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning as there may be occasions when intermission of studies would not be possible for academic and/or professional reasons. Council also agreed that a former Senior Tutor should be a member of the review panel. It was also noted that the policy should not be confined to heads of large societies only as there may be occasions where a student may need to intermit her/his studies to lead and develop a small society.

Subject to the inclusion of the need for written support from the relevant Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning as part of the application process, and that a former Senior Tutor be a member of the review panel, Council approved the recommendations in respect of students seeking to intermit their studies for extra-curricular reasons as follows:

1. Applications from students to intermit for extra-curricular reasons should be examined on an individual basis and decided using a set of clear criteria, including the proposed work plan for the year and the student's personal circumstances in respect of being able to achieve this work programme if he or she were not able to interrupt their studies. Students who apply must be in good academic standing. Before applying, they should have consulted with their Director of Teaching and Learning to check e.g. that there are no curriculum changes envisaged for their course during their proposed period of intermission.
2. Applications should be submitted to the Dean of Students by the end of Trinity term of the academic year preceding the student taking up his/her leadership role. The application should include a work plan for the proposed activities in Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity terms of their proposed year of intermission. As this is a new procedure, in terms of evaluating its effectiveness, successful applicants should prepare a brief activities report at the end of the academic year. In seeking such a report it would not be the intention of a panel assessing applications to interfere in the operation of a club or society; subsequently, the panel may review whether or not there is a need for such reports in the future.
3. The applications for intermission of studies for extra-curricular reasons should be reviewed by a panel comprising the Dean of Students the Junior Dean and a former College Officer. Recommendations by the panel would be forwarded to the Senior Lecturer for final decision. Applications for off books status would continue to be decided by the Senior Lecturer.
4. Students who are permitted to intermit their studies should be entitled to retain their student card and e-mail account. In the event that a student is not registered with a student card, the need for financial accountability as well as the student's status in relation to the College's disciplinary regulations would have to be addressed, for example through signing a particular bond.

5. In respect of accommodation, there should remain a separate application for accommodation either on-campus or at Trinity Hall, which would be determined on its merits by the Registrar of Chambers and Warden of Trinity Hall, respectively. The current conditions of occupancy for student rooms should be reviewed in respect of students who intermit their studies, and their legal right to reside in College accommodation.

The Vice Provost thanked the Senior Tutor and the Working Group for bringing forward the proposal noting that the policy would serve to enhance the student experience and equip participating students for a life of leadership and civic participation.

CL/07-08/079 Any other business

- (i) **Council Membership** A memorandum from the Registrar was tabled proposing the membership of the University Council from 1st January 2008 to the end of the academic year 2007-08. The Registrar introduced this item noting that the new three-Faculty structure in College came into effect on the 1st January 2008. In order to achieve Council and Board policy in respect of transitional arrangements for Council representation within this new structure for the remainder of this academic year, Council and Board (see Actum CL/07-08/005 and Board Minute BD/07-08/045) agreed not to dilute representation of academic units during this period, and therefore the current number of Faculty representatives attending Council meetings should not change. It was further agreed that in order to comply with the statutory requirement that each Faculty should have two elected members, the number of elected members for the Faculties would have to be reduced, where necessary. Following a consultative process with elected members in the new Faculties of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Engineering, Mathematics and Science to decide which of these should continue as elected members and which should continue on Council as observers for the transition period, an agreement was reached as follows:

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences¹	Senior Representative	Dr M H Adams
	Junior Representative	Dr B M Lucey
	Observer	Dr M L Brennan
	Observer	Dr P Coleman
Engineering, Mathematics and Science²	Senior Representative	Dr M E G Lyons
	Junior Representative	Dr H Gibbons
	Observer	Dr M J F Brown

In response to questions, the Registrar confirmed that elected members of Council could serve on Council twice only, and clarified that the junior

¹ Mr D L Parris and Dr G Biehler will continue as observers.

² Vacancy arising from the retirement of Dr M Stuart.

academic member of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was promoted to Associate Professor during the process. It was observed that Council membership in the new arrangement was reduced by two Deans. The view was expressed that it was unlikely that changes to the Statutes would be voted on before July 2008, as it would be necessary to have extensive consultation on proposed statutory changes. The Registrar commented that the Statutes Review Working Party was aware of the importance to complete the process in a timely fashion.

Council approved as presented the revised full membership of the University Council, including in attendance the Librarian, the Secretary and the Academic Secretary, for the remainder of the academic year 2007-08.

ex officio	Provost	Dr J Hegarty
	Vice-Provost	Professor R M J Byrne
	Senior Lecturer	Professor C Kearney
	Registrar	Professor J Barkhoff
	Senior Tutor	Dr M O'Regan
	Dean of Graduate Studies	Professor C O'Sullivan
Faculties		
Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	Dean	Professor M A Marsh
	Senior Representative	Dr M H Adams
	Junior Representative	Dr B M Lucey
	Observer	Dr M L Brennan
	Observer	Dr P Coleman
	Observer	Mr D L Parris
	Observer	Dr G Biehler
Engineering, Mathematics and Science	Dean	Professor D C Williams
	Senior Representative	Dr M E G Lyons
	Junior Representative	Dr H Gibbons
	Observer	Dr M J F Brown
	Vacant	(1)
Health Sciences	Dean	Professor C A O'Moráin
	Senior Representative	Dr V A Campbell
	Junior Representative	Dr J P Gormley
Co-opted members	(2)	Vacant
Students members	Education Officer SU	Mr B Rock
	<i>ex officio</i>	
	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	Mr C Hallworth
	Engineering, Mathematics and Science	Mr H Sullivan
	Graduate Students' Union	Mr G Magee
<i>observers</i>	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences	Ms C Ní Dhubhda
	Engineering, Mathematics and Science	Mr C Reilly
	Health Sciences	Mr D Walsh

	Two-subject	Ms E Keaveney
	Moderatorship	
In attendance	Librarian	
	Secretary	
	Academic Secretary	

- (ii) **Filling of Chairs** A memorandum from the Secretary to the College outlining revised general procedures and protocol for the filling of Chairs and membership of search committees was tabled. Commenting on the proposal, the Secretary noted that the establishment of the three-Faculty structure in College, and the role of Faculty Deans in Professorial Search Committees necessitated changes to the previously approved membership of Professorial Search Committees. He outlined the proposed changes and their rationale, and noted that the current practice in respect of clinical professorial appointments in the Faculty of Health Sciences would not change.

Following a short discussion on the proposed changes, Council approved the revised membership of Search Committees as follows:

Provost (Chair)
 Senior Lecturer
 Dean of the Faculty
 Head of School
 Professor from a cognate discipline within the Faculty, not within the School
 One member of the department/discipline concerned
 External assessors.

SECTION B

- CL/07-08/080 Heads of School Committee** Draft minutes of the Heads' of School Committee meeting of the 18th December 2007 were circulated with papers for the meeting. Referring to Actum HC/07-08/25, Council cautioned against defining a standard academic week as this may result in attempts to homogenise academic activity. The introduction of a full economic costing (FEC) model would require some degree of measuring academic activity, and the FEC exercise was more about documenting existing practices than adopting externally imposed definitions of what constitute academic workloads. The Bursar informed Council that he was invited to chair a working group on the FEC which will be established shortly.
- CL/07-08/081 Information Policy Committee** The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Information Policy Committee from its meeting of 11 December 2007, which had been circulated.
- CL/07-08/082 Research Committee** The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Research Committee from its meeting of 13 December 2007, which had been circulated.
- CL/07-08/083 Student Services Committee** The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Student Services Committee from its meeting of 13 November 2007 and 4 December 2007, which had been circulated.

SECTION C

CL/07-08/084 Deanship The Council noted that the following were elected to Deanship with effect from 1 January 2008, for a period of five years:

- (i) Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Professor M Marsh;
- (ii) Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science Professor D C Williams
- (iii) Faculty of Health Sciences Professor C O'Moráin.

CL/07-08/085 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 26 November 2007 and noted by Board on 11 December 2007.

PhD Yanis Bouchenak-Khelladi; Jonathan Edward Corcoran; Vahagn Galstyan; Matthias Gerlach; Anne Marie Gleeson; Anne-Laure Marie Françoise Humbert; John Colin Hunt; Brian Stewart Jackson; Timothy Paul Kissane; Colm Mac Oireachtaigh; Ian Maher; Kirsty Andrea McFarland; Deirdre McFeely; Bernard Patrick James Mulligan; Elaine Murphy; Niamh Catherine Nowlan; Carl Séan O'Brien; Geraldine O'Connor; Ciarán O'Dálaigh; Titiksh Patel; Adam Edward Strevens; Amanda Weimer.

MSc Michelle Bready; Edoardo Maria Dell'Amico; Tobias Joyce; Yvette Anne Kavanagh; Pdraig Looney; Alejandro Palacio Alonso.

MLitt William Hynes; Pat Rooney.

MDentCh Andrew Norris.

CL/07-08/086 Senior Promotions Committee - Membership The Council noted and approved the following changes in membership to the committee for the academic years 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010:

<u>Outgoing Member</u>	<u>Proposed Replacement</u>
Mr T Merriman	Mr J Murphy (Administrative Staff Association)
Professor C Brady	Dr J Stewart (IFUT)
Dr D MacDonaill	Ms A Fitzgibbon (IFUT)
Dr J Redmond	Dr D O'Dwyer (non-Fellows)

CL/07-08/087 Senior Promotions Committee - Sub-committee on Personal Chairs The Council noted and approved the following membership:

Provost (Chair)
 Vice-Provost
 Senior Lecturer
 Secretary to the College
 Representatives of the Academic Staff (Dr J Stewart and Ms A Fitzgibbon)
 Representing Council:
 Professor M O'Mahony
 Professor T Brown
 Professor I Robertson
 Professor M Radomski

CL/07-08/088 Schools - Directorships The Council noted and approved the following changes in School directorships:

- (i) **Computer Science and Statistics** Dr J Jones to replace Dr M Brady from 1 January 2008 to 12 July 2010 as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate).
- (ii) **Histories and Humanities**
 - (a) Dr H Dodge to replace Professor E O’Halpin as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) from 1 January 2008 to 12 July 2010;
 - (b) Professor D Dickson to replace Professor R Stalley as Director of Research from 1 January 2008 until 12 July 2008 (during Professor Stalley’s leave of absence).

SECTION D

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts this information is restricted.

Signed

Date