

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 9 April 2008 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost, Senior Lecturer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor B M Lucey, 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>	Registrar, Senior Tutor, Dr M H Adams, Dr M J F Brown, Ms F M Haffey, Mr C Reilly, Mr D Walsh.
<i>In attendance</i>	Librarian, Secretary, Academic Secretary.
<i>Observers</i>	Dr M L Brennan, Dr P Coleman, Mr D L Parris, Dr G Biehler, Professor D B Murray, Professor N M Claffey.
<i>Student observers</i>	Ms C Ní Dhubhda, Ms E Keaveney.
<i>By invitation</i>	Professor J Scattergood (CL/07-08/134); Professor D Little and Dr L Carson (for CL/07-08/135).

SECTION A

- CL/07-08/131 **Minutes - Meeting of 5 March 2008** A member of Council queried the accuracy of the minute on restructuring (CL/07-08/115 ii) in respect of the requirement that candidates for academic positions in Trinity College should have a PhD. It was confirmed that the minute was accurate. The minutes were approved and signed.
- CL/07-08/132 **Matters Arising from the Minutes** There were no matters arising.
- CL/07-08/133 **Provost's Report:** The Provost informed Council that interviews for the position of Chief Operating Officer were scheduled for the 10th April 2008.
- CL/07-08/134 **Learning Outcomes:** A memorandum dated 31st March 2008 from the Senior Lecturer, together with a report on the Implementation of the Bologna Process from Professor Scattergood, Bologna Desk, was circulated with papers for the meeting. Professor Scattergood attended Council to present this item. Professor Scattergood brought Council through the detail of the report and its recommendations. He noted that the objective of the Bologna Process is to have established, by 2010, a European Higher Education Area, characterised by a hitherto unknown level of comparability in third-level education across the 46 signatory states. Comparability is to be achieved

mainly through the use of common degree cycles (Bachelor, Master and Doctoral), together with a number of common 'instruments', chiefly a credit system (ECTS or ECTS-compatible), a common statement on qualifications awarded (the Diploma Supplement) and national qualifications frameworks linked by a common overarching framework and articulated in terms of levels determined by reference to learning outcomes. The effectiveness of these instruments is predicated on the widespread adoption of what is generally termed 'an outcomes-based approach' to learning.

In March 2006 Council approved level descriptors for degrees, and the Higher and Postgraduate Diploma were incorporated into the University Calendar consistent with the National Framework for Qualifications (NQF). A set of programme learning outcomes for all undergraduate Diplomas was subsequently approved by Council in November 2006 in order that these minor awards could be formally positioned on the NQF.

The further development of learning outcomes at the programme and module levels is a necessary extension of the implementation both of the ECTS credit system and the NQF. The requirement to complete this process in the context of the Bologna reforms has received new impetus arising from the HEA's determination that continuing recurrent funding will from now on be conditional upon compliance on the part of third-level institutions in relation to, *inter alia*, documenting learning outcomes at the programme and module levels.

Professor Scattergood advised Council that learning outcomes in themselves are limited, modest and prosaic devices for describing achievement, but they have attained importance because they are an essential part of a larger movement from the traditional 'input-based' description of educational entities to an 'output-based' system which concentrates on what the student has learned at the end of a period of instruction. He noted the importance of Trinity seriously engaging with the learning-outcomes based approach to third level education because learning outcomes is part of a broader agenda which is radical in its intentions. He proposed a plan of action to implement learning outcomes for all modules of all courses delivered by College.

Council in discussing this matter, noted that some programmes, especially professionally accredited ones, already articulate learning outcomes. It was suggested that there may be a conflict between the nature of learning outcomes expected by professional bodies and desired by College. Professor Scattergood commented that a rhetoric has emerged around learning outcomes, and advised that using acceptable vocabulary in articulating learning outcomes was important. It was pointed out that there would be a need to put in place a mechanism to monitor how learning outcomes are used. In response to a question, Professor Scattergood clarified that learning outcomes define for staff what they have to do, and define for students what they will learn. They also help external examiners to fully assess learning outcomes against assessments. In a response to a concern, the Senior Lecturer confirmed that it was not the intention to invite Directors of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Teaching and Learning to coordinate the activity at School level, and noted that his Office would consider the most efficient ways to implementing learning outcomes.

Council noted and approved the recommendation that the Senior Lecturer's Office scope and implement the project on learning outcomes, to commence with immediate effect.

The Provost thanked Professor Scattergood for his leadership in this important matter for College.

CL/07-08/135 Broad Curriculum Languages Modules: a report on the 12th, 13th and 14th years of the extracurricular (Broad Curriculum) languages modules from the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, Centre for Language and Communication Studies, was circulated with papers for the meeting. The report covers the period 1st of October 2004 to 30th September 2007. Professor D Little and Dr L Carson attended Council to present the report. Introducing this item, Professor Little noted the funding history of the programme. The language modules were introduced in 1993-04 thanks to a special grant of IR£100,000 from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) made from its European Social Fund allocation. The HEA wishing to give the learning of languages a central role in the undergraduate curriculum, continued to make separate provision in the grant to College for language modules, and in 1999 indicated that what had been previously an annual ESF allocation would henceforth be part of the College's recurrent grant. The introduction of the B.A. (Mod.) in Information and Communication Technologies in 1997-08 boosted the language modules scheme. However, due to a rapid decline in student interest in computer science courses, this scheme finally died in 2003-04.

Professor Little noted the commitment and skill of a team of part-time teachers on the language modules scheme, and drew Council's attention to the problem of integrating the scheme. The Broad Curriculum modules, by contrast to the short-lived ICT language modules, have always been extra-curricular. In principle, the language modules are subject to the same substitution arrangements as other Broad Curriculum modules. However, the language modules are offered principally to Junior Freshman students, and other Broad curriculum courses are not. Existing substitution arrangements for Broad Curriculum courses are in place for Senior Freshman and Junior Sophister students. The extra-curricular status of the language modules guarantees a high rate of attrition and makes it difficult to deliver them in a cost effective way. The integration of language modules will only happen if College as a whole adopts a more positive stance than hitherto towards modularisation and the Broad Curriculum.

Professor Little drew Council's attention to the statistical data presented as part of the report in respect of recruitment and rates of participation, and assessment results, noting in particular the positive reports by external examiners of the different modules. Concluding his presentation, Professor Little noted that while Trinity is proud of its position in European and world rankings and makes much of its status as an international university, it lags far behind its European rivals when it comes to preparing students to play a role in international contexts where English is not the dominant language. He strongly encouraged Council and College to embrace the Broad Curriculum and make provision for this through modularisation of its programmes.

Council in discussing this item, acknowledged the need to integrate the Broad Curriculum language modules into the curriculum, and supported the continuation of the language scheme in College. Student representatives supported full substitution for Broad Curriculum language modules, and stressed the importance of language modules being available to students not only in Junior Freshman but in other years also. It was noted that the implementation of the ECTS has prepared the ground for the introduction of greater choice and modularisation, and already provides greater transparency of student workload. There was some discussion about whether students should be obliged or entitled to take modules outside their home programme. Professor Little stressed the importance of properly facilitating students to take electives, and commented that if students were obliged to take modules outside their home programme, then Schools would be obliged to facilitate this. If, however, the scheme is designed to give students an entitlement, then there

is no obligation on Schools to facilitate this entitlement. One Council member felt that making the scheme obligatory would be too prescriptive and suggested that it might be optional. The Senior Lecturer noted that the scheme is currently optional as it is extra-curricular, and for this reason the language scheme is at risk. He also informed Council that proposals on modularisation and a revised academic year structure would be brought to the next meeting of Council for decision.

In concluding the discussion, the Provost warmly thanked Professor Little and his team for developing the language scheme to a very high standard, despite funding and other difficulties. He commented on the need for College to address the problems identified in the report and to fully embrace the opportunities that modularisation can provide to ensure student choice and the continuation of such schemes.

CL/07-08/136 Review of the School of Chemistry: A report dated 28th March 2008 from the Provost on the review of the School of Chemistry was circulated. The Provost in introducing this item noted the very positive observations of the reviewers on developments since the last School review in 1999. The reviewers stated that the School of Chemistry at Trinity College is the foremost centre in Ireland and has made significant advances since the last review through increases in research active staff, postgraduate numbers, publications and research income and in bringing teaching and research facilities up to modern standards. They also note that particular progress has been made in the conversion of short-term positions to permanent contracts. Notwithstanding this progress, however, the reviewers also feel that the School faces significant issues with regard to availability of space and the relationship between the School and CRANN. They strongly urge the School and the College to agree plans for the future development of the School, which they feel are critical if it is to retain its National pre-eminence and its international credibility.

The Provost drew Council's attention to specific comments in respect of teaching, research, postgraduates, staffing, the School's relationship with CRANN, space constraints, the management structure, and staff appointments. He noted the School's positive response to the review report, and invited Council to consider the reviewers' recommendations together with his specific recommendations to Council.

Council noted the very positive review of the School of Chemistry and the School's response. It was further noted that some of the recommendations of the report have been addressed already. The reviewers' comment and recommendation in respect of the 'research tail' in the School was discussed, and noted that this is a problem not only for the School of Chemistry but for all other Schools also. The importance of addressing poor research performance across the College and the need to achieve a balance in academic-workload was stressed. The Provost, in response to a query, noted that the recommendation in respect of reviewing the ARAM was being addressed by Board.

Council noted and approved the following review recommendations in respect of the School of Chemistry:

1. *That the School and the College should define the contribution and value of Chemistry to the College Strategic Plan.*
2. *That the School and the College should develop a 5-year plan for Chemistry that addresses short and long term space issues and that facilitates expansion of staff and students.*

3. *That the College should develop a financial and organisational strategy to develop Schools and Institutes that resolves recruitment, appointment and budget conflicts.*
4. *That a representative be appointed from Chemistry and CRANN to each others decision making (not overview) body.*
5. *That the College should communicate how ARAM will be applied in future and define responsibilities and accountability of College, Deans and Heads with respect to, budgets, hiring and other significant issues.*
6. *That the College should consider appointment of internal candidates of international stature to Inorganic and Physical chairs followed by two new lecturers.*
7. *That the College should create competitive start up packages for new staff.*
8. *That the School should reward internationally performing staff with appropriate promotion and teaching loads, and address research tail.*
9. *That the probation process for new staff is examined and applied more rigorously.*
10. *That the School should develop stronger interactions with industry.*
11. *That the School should expand outreach to maintain numbers and quality of science entrants.*
12. *That the School should improve conversion rates to chemistry at Year 3.*
13. *That the School should establish consistent safety practice and standards throughout the School.*
14. *That the School should consider whether the current organisational structure could be simplified to avoid over management and duplication within a school of 20 staff.*
15. *That the current administrator should be formalised as the School Administrator.*
16. *That communication within the School and across College should be improved.*
17. *That the College should introduce a tenure track system.*
18. *That the School should introduce solvent purification columns.*
19. *That the School should address the question of degree results versus entry level qualifications.*
20. *That the impact of lack of funding for Dublin Postgraduate Chemistry should be clarified*

Council also approved the following recommendations from the Provost.

The School of Chemistry should:

1. *Working closely with the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, consider the detailed recommendations (1-20) of the Reviewers, and make arrangements to address these as far as practicable.*
2. *Prepare a ten-year needs assessment of space, and from this develop a two year and a five year space plan.*
3. *Develop a plan for involvement of industry, and consider the establishment of a School Advisory Board.*

College should:

4. *Develop, as a matter of priority, guidelines for financial governance of research institutes.*
5. *Review the ARAM to ensure that the resource allocation model supports financial devolution to academic units.*

CL/07-08/137 Graduate Studies Annual Report 2006-07: the Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report 2006/07, including Postgraduate Admissions for 2007/08, was circulated with

papers for the meeting. The Dean of Graduate Studies spoke to this report, highlighting for Council the main issues and statistical trends over a number of years. In particular, she drew Council's attention to the Graduate Research Education Programme (GREP), the newly created award of Taught Masters with Distinction, the financial implications for Schools arising from the HEA new funding allocation model in respect of research students, modularisation and ECTS. She noted the increase in the number of proposals being processed for taught postgraduate programmes, and commented that one in every three students registered in Trinity is a postgraduate student.

The report provides data on the breakdown of postgraduate student numbers in the three major classes of research, taught masters, and postgraduate diplomas. The Dean noted that the number of postgraduate research students (full-time and part-time) has increased by 94 from the academic year 2005-06. She noted that Trinity appears to have a high number of part-time research students relative to other Irish universities. Overall, 55.8% of the postgraduate student population is female. The Dean highlighted the examination period of research theses, and commented that the majority of theses are examined within a six to seven month period. There is, however, a steady increase in the number of theses being referred back for major revision, and this is something that needs monitoring. The number of PhD awards is steadily increasing, and has grown by almost 29% within the last three years. She drew Council's attention to developments in respect of the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), research supervision rates, awards, and postgraduate admissions data.

Council in discussing the Graduate Studies Annual Report queried the delay in examining theses. The Dean commented that the delay can occur at several stages in the process, starting with receiving nominations, appointing examiners, securing suitable dates to conduct *a viva*, receiving the examiners report, and so on. The Dean undertook to raise this matter at a meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee to consider ways to increase efficiencies. Addressing the issue of non-EU students and the HEA funding allocation model, it was suggested that since students from developing countries cannot afford to pay high fees, College should consider the provision of a scholarship scheme for such students. In response to a query, the Dean confirmed that the report did not contain a table showing staff:student active research supervisory rates per School, as provided in the 2005/06 annual report, because there is a question as to the reliability of these data. While acknowledging the importance of these data to management and strategic decisions, the Dean nonetheless stressed the importance of accuracy, and noted that a system is being developed to provide data on active research supervisors per School that can be verified by individual staff members and the Head of School.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies and the administrative staff for preparing the annual report, commenting that together with the Senior Lecturer's Report, it provided a rich source of very valuable information for reference and other purposes.

- CL/07-08/138 Draft Statutes on Council Composition:** A memorandum from the Registrar dated 2nd April 2008 was circulated with papers for the meeting. The Senior Lecturer presented this item on behalf of the Registrar who was not able to attend Council due to external commitments. Council had discussed a first draft of the proposal at its meeting of 13th February 2008. The Senior Lecturer brought Council through the revised proposal, noting in respect of membership of Council that on balance the Working Party on Council Composition recommends (i) that the Council membership of the Dean of Students not be written into the Statutes at this point, but the Dean of

Students, for the time being, be co-opted as a full member onto Council: (ii) six student representatives, four undergraduates and two postgraduates be full members, with a further two students, the Secretary to the Scholars and one postgraduate student, as observers; (iii) the Chief Operating Officer should attend Council on the same basis as currently the Secretary, the Academic Secretary and the Librarian; up to two other specified members of the College should be entitled to attend meetings or be observers. The Working Party also recommends that the suggested definition of full-time members of the academic staff take into account the implications of the Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act, 2001 as interpreted in the regulations for Elections to Board approved by Board on the 27th February 2008. As a result, the suggested electorate for Council is the same as the academic staff entitled to vote in Board elections. The Senior Lecturer drew Council's attention to the transitional arrangements, noting that for the purpose of the 2008 Council elections only, the time window during which elections have to be held is defined as June. This gives the College the required time for getting assent from the Fellows and Visitors after decisions on these provisions by Council and Board and prior to holding elections. Furthermore, it separates Council and Board elections both to be held in 2008. For future timeframes for elections, implications of the new proposed semester structure will have to be taken into account. The Statutes Review Working Party will consider this for all elections, and relevant sections will be revised in the overall restatement of the Statutes.

Council members sought clarification on a number of points. Council discussed the proposal in respect of the membership of the Dean of Students, and there was some support for the Dean of Students as a full member of Council. One member referring to the argument that a larger Council membership would pose physical constraints and therefore co-option was the preferred option for the Dean of Students, pointed out that either way the Dean of Students would require a seat. It was clarified, that the proposal intended to include the Dean of Students as one of the proposed two members entitled to attend meetings of Council. The Provost clarified that the role of the Dean of Students was evolving, commenting that he had created this position with the specific purpose of advising him on the student experience outside the classroom, and noted that whole area of student services support would be under review as part of the reform of the administrative and student support services. The Provost did not want that this reform be constrained by premature decisions on the role of the Dean of Students in the new structures.

Council approved, with Dr H Gibbons dissenting on the recommendation in respect of the Dean of Students, the recommendations as presented subject to any minor changes by Fellows who would be meeting on the 10th April 2008 to consider, among other things, this proposal.

CL/07-08/139 Admissions

- (i) **Undergraduate Admissions 2008-09:** Council noted statistical data on undergraduate admissions for 2008-09 as circulated.
- (ii) **European Bacallaureate:** A memorandum dated 25th March 2008 from the Senior Lecturer was circulated. The Academic Secretary introducing this item, provided a brief background on discussions by the Department of Education and Science, the Irish Universities Association (IUA), and the European Schools Parents Group on the status of the European Bacallaureate vis-à-vis the Higher Irish Leaving Certificate. A review of the Higher Leaving Certificate (LC) scripts was undertaken to establish whether or not current

provisions relating to admissions requirements in the Irish universities were equitable. Arising from this review, a number of minor changes are required in order for students presenting the EB to satisfy the University's matriculation requirements.

Council approved that students presenting the EB for admissions to undergraduate programme should be required to present a minimum of three grade 6s. Where a Higher C3 is stipulated as a specific course requirement, a grade 6 should be required, and a grade 7 where a Higher B3 is stipulated. The changes will be implemented for the 2008 admissions session.

CL/07-08/140 Higher Degrees A proposal leading to the award of Master in Philosophy in Musicology and Music Theory, and a proposal leading to the award of Master in Philosophy in Irish Film, Music and Theatre were circulated with papers for the meeting.

- (i) **Master in Philosophy in Musicology and Music Theory:** The Dean of Graduate Studies provided a brief overview of the course proposal, noting it received a positive external review. The proposed course is one year full-time, and caters for a maximum of fifteen and a minimum of eight students. The course is designed to offer a grounding in two core areas (Musicology and Music Theory) within the academic study of music. A significant number of Irish music graduates go abroad to take up postgraduate taught options in this area, and this course should attract such students as well as international students. The course complies with College's ECTS regulations and the School has rationalised as far as practicable the delivery of modules within its current suite of M.Phil programmes. Council noted and approved the proposal leading to the award of Master in Philosophy in Musicology and Music Theory.
- (ii) **Master in Philosophy in Irish Film, Music and Theatre:** The Dean of Graduate Studies provided a brief overview of the course proposal, noting it received a very positive review from two external reviewers. The proposed course is one year full-time, and caters for a maximum of fifteen and a minimum of seven full-time students. The course proposal is unique not just in Ireland, but internationally. The interdisciplinary programme provides the opportunity for students to study three popular disciplines, Irish Film, Music, and Theatre at an advanced level. The course complies with College's ECTS regulations. Council noted and approved the proposal leading to the award of Master in Philosophy in Irish Film, Music and Theatre.

CL/07-08/141 Junior Promotions Committee - Membership Under Other Business the Council approved the following changes to the membership, as set out in a memorandum from the Secretary to the Junior Promotions Committee, tabled dated 7 April 2008:

Dr P Murphy (School of Natural Sciences) to replace to Dr Marples
 Dr M O Siochru (School of Histories and Humanities) to replace Dr M Adams.

CL/07-08/142 Graduate Studies Matter Under Other Business the Secretary reported to Council that a named post-graduate student had lodged an appeal regarding his result to the Dean of Graduate Studies, who, having considered this under the relevant regulation [*Calendar* Part 2, 1.22 (5) and (6)] decided that there was no case to be referred to

the Academic Appeals Committee for Graduate Students. The Council supported the Dean’s decision.

SECTION B

CL/07-08/143 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 4 March 2008, which had been circulated.

CL/07-08/144 Research Committee The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Research Committee from its meetings of 21 February and 12 March 2008 which had been circulated.

SECTION C

CL/07-08/145 Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners 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 February 2008 and noted by Board on 2 April 2008.

(i) Higher Degrees by Published Work

ScD John Moffatt Kelly.

(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

PhD Paola Bisicchia; Margaret Josephine Bleach; Gráinne Cleary; John Joseph Colleran; Zehanne Maria Kenny; Eimear Long; Juan Marquez; Aonghus Mc Nabola; Pdraig James Moore; John Piggott; Julie Anne Rodgers; Aileen Rowan.

MSc Lorraine Carroll; Sarah Louise Gibson; Ryan Hanley; Simon John Langran; Carole Florence Joan McGloughlin; Anne Michelle Spirtos.

CL/07-08/146 Schedule of Board and Council Meetings 2008-2009 The Council noted a memorandum from the Secretary to the College, circulated dated 26 March 2008.

CL/07-08/147 Reclassification of Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Behaviour Analysis to a part-time course The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, circulated dated 27 March 2008.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date