

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 20 January 2010 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr C Laudet, Dr E O'Dell, Dr M Ó Siochrú, Dr J Wickham, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor J Fitzpatrick, Dr V Kelly, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr D Brennan, Professor M McCarron, Professor M Radomski, Dr H Mannan, Dr A O'Gara, Ms D Flynn, Professor G Whyte, Mr A Cooke, Ms M Furlong, Mr A O'Callaghan, Mr N Timmon.
<i>Apologies</i>	Senior Tutor, Dr M Lyons, Dr D O'Sullivan, Mr F Hughes, Ms A Murphy, Secretary to the Scholars (Mr B Devlin).
<i>In attendance</i>	Librarian, Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Interim Chief Operating Officer.
<i>Observers</i>	Ms M Uppal.
<i>By invitation</i>	Dr J Scattergood (for CL/09-10/087).

SECTION A

CL/09-10/084 Minutes of the meeting of 16th December 2009 were approved.

CL/09-10/085 **Matters Arising** In response to a query on Actum CL/09-10/069, the Interim Chief Operating Officer clarified that research staff members are included in the public pay reduction exercise effective from 1st January 2010. It is not clear whether Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) will recoup pay savings arising from the reduction in pay of SFI funded research staff. It was noted that there are several non-exchequer funded research projects and any reduction in pay would have a knock-on effect on the amount of grant that the College can draw down from such agencies.

CL/09-10/086 **Provost's Report** The Provost reported that an employment control framework (ECF) for the higher education sector has been issued by the Department of Finance. The Irish Universities Association (IUA) is assessing the implications for the university sector of this new ECF. While it appears to allow for greater freedom of decision-making by third level institutions, it remains inconsistent with university autonomy. Further clarification on promotions is necessary. In response to queries, the Provost commented that following discussion at the IUA and further internal consideration of

the new framework, he would bring a recommendation to Board. A copy of the new ECF would be circulated to Council members in due course.

The Provost also informed Council that College's Strategic Plan 2009-2014 was presented to the Higher Education Authority (HEA) on the 12th January 2010. The Plan was well received and it is expected that in the future, a university's Strategic Plan will constitute a more formal agreement between the university and the HEA, and may become a basis for funding. The HEA commented on the provision of part-time undergraduate education; the issue of the four-year degree versus a three-year degree in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences area; and inter-institutional linkages. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer added that the HEA also raised the issue of differentiation of provision across the sector, and the importance of innovation.

CL/09-10/087 Bologna Process: the National Framework of Qualifications and Legacy Awards A paper on the Bologna Process, the National Framework of Qualifications and Legacy Awards dated 12th January 2010 was circulated. Dr John Scattergood, present for this item, introduced the paper noting the background to the requirement to define legacy awards on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). Legacy awards are the last piece in the NFQ jigsaw and, when placed, will enable a comprehensive map to emerge of the Irish academic landscape. The Registrars' Group of the Irish Universities Association agreed in January 2009 to implement a taxonomy of the awards based on earlier taxonomies used in relation to the major and non-major awards which have been placed already on the NFQ. There are two types of awards to be addressed, namely, 'antecedent awards' and 'former awards.' Antecedent Awards are major awards which are forerunners of the Ordinary Bachelor, Honours Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral degrees, Higher Diploma and Postgraduate Diploma. The non-major awards are forerunners of minor, special purpose and supplemental awards. Former Awards are (i) awards that ceased to exist prior to the advent of the NFQ or prior to the major diploma and non-major awards, and (ii) awards that have ceased to exist that were included in the NFQ after 2003.

A preliminary list of awards by the University of Dublin and Trinity College which have changed their titles or have ceased to exist since 1950 has been compiled. The list comprises 53 undergraduate degrees, 5 postgraduate degrees, 11 undergraduate diplomas and 37 postgraduate diplomas. Recipients of these awards run into the thousands. It may prove difficult to describe accurately some of the courses involved for several reasons. Dr Scattergood brought Council through sample styles of certification for a major antecedent award and a major former award, highlighting some of the difficulties encountered and expected in completing the exercise.

Dr Scattergood proposed a work plan lead by the Bologna Desk for placing the College's Legacy Awards on the NFQ. He noted the need for the co-operation of the Registrar, Proctor's Office, Faculty and School Administrators and other members of the College in order to make accurate judgments about different courses. A preliminary progress report will be presented to Council during the course of the 2010/2011 academic year.

The Provost thanked Dr Scattergood for his work on this and on matters relating to the implementation of the Bologna process. Dr Scattergood in response to a query confirmed that while there is no prescribed level of description for legacy awards, the NQAI has suggested a brief rather than a lengthy description of the award.

Council noted and approved the proposed work plan for placing Trinity's legacy awards on the NFO.

CL/09-10/088 Graduate Studies A course proposal from the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy leading to the Award of an M.Sc. in European Employment Studies with a Postgraduate Diploma in European Employment Studies option was circulated. The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced this item. She informed Council that she is awaiting the outcome of an external assessment of the course proposal which is expected by the end of this week. The course aims to provide students with the necessary skills for a range of research-related careers, with a particular emphasis on the intersection between research and policy. The M.Sc. is suitable for students who wish to progress to doctoral research, or to pursue careers in social policy or applied policy research, and it thematically relates to the College's strategic emphasis on globalisation. The Postgraduate Diploma is a stand-alone course and responds to the need to offer up-skilling programmes by emphasising employment policy options rather than the development of research skills. The proposed M.Sc. in European Employment Studies complements the M.Phil. in Race, Ethnicity, and Conflict also delivered by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, and there is provision for sharing of modules across the two courses. The proposed M.Sc./PGradDip in European Employment Studies is offered over a period of one-year full time or two years part-time, commencing in October 2010.

The Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed, in response to a query, that the M.Sc. is not intended to lead to professional accreditation in the employment field. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, referring to a query on space, noted that the non-availability of space was a College-wide problem, adding that the use of space in Phoenix House will create additional capacity for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. It was pointed out that the Diploma option did not provide students with any module choice, and the Dean of Graduate Studies undertook to bring this to the attention of the Course Coordinator. The possibility for the proposed M.Sc. to pool resources with the new Masters in European Studies delivered by the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies was noted.

Council noted and approved, subject to the School addressing any concerns raised by the external assessor, the course proposal leading to the award of an M.Sc./PGradDip. in European Employment Studies.

CL/09-10/089 Research Quality Metrics A draft proposal from the Dean of Research dated 12th January 2010 was circulated. The Dean of Research noted that Council had discussed an earlier draft of proposed research quality metrics, and noted that the Working Group on Research Quality Metrics, established by Board, has redrafted the original proposal following input from appropriate committees and other fora, including the Directors of Research Forum. The Research Committee discussed the updated proposal at its meeting of the 11th January 2010 and made a number of specific recommendations that will be incorporated. The three proposed metrics are (i) % of a School's academic teaching staff meeting agreed criteria for research productivity; (ii) weighted competitive research income; (iii) attainment of School-selected research objectives. The Research Committee broadly accepted the first metric, but felt that the examples given to support the second metric should be removed, and there was some disquiet about the classification of different types of research productivity. There was also considerable discussion on the third proposed metric, especially on issues concerning the global research targets.

The Provost, addressing Council, commented that the task is to design a model that is better than the current one for allocating 30% of the core grant to research. It is

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

important to avoid building an overly bureaucratic system, but to achieve a system that best represents the depth and type of research productivity across the College. Council is invited to consider the academic implications of the principles of the research quality metrics being proposed. There was considerable discussion on this item, and clarification was sought on several points. Council felt that there should be greater correlation between the deliberations of the Working Group on Academic Freedom, established by Council, and the principles emerging from the Research Quality Metrics Working Group. The input of the Directors of Research was considered important and it was requested that a final draft of the proposed metrics be brought to the Directors of Research Forum for consideration. The Dean of Research noted in response that the redrafted proposal reflects a high level of contribution from the Directors of Research Forum. He also confirmed that the academic staff cited in the first metric, referred to staff funded from the core grant, but that the third metric allowed Schools to include the research productivity of staff funded from other sources. Referring to the second metric, the Dean of Research commented that the principle takes into account the competitive funding environment, and, consistent with the ARAM principle, is domain weighted to reflect the availability of funds for different disciplines.

In considering the individual researcher, the second metric seeks evidence of publication in journals of high standing, recognising that some research output may not necessarily have international impact. The Dean of Research clarified that it is not the intention of the proposal to direct individual's research into the College's strategic research objectives. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that targets put forward by Schools should be linked to the College's Strategic Plan, and that the research carried out by staff is not constrained by this. Considering the first metric, Council noted the importance of including the output of staff who are editors or co-editors of scholarly text. There was considerable discussion about the value of artistic production, and it was felt that this must be included as a criterion in its own right and not as a special case. Considering the third component, the Dean of Graduate Studies commented it may be difficult for some Schools to increase their PhD student numbers as they are already operating at full capacity. She suggested the use of a baseline for PhD student numbers and the target for Schools on this baseline could be to maintain existing PhD student numbers.

Addressing a request by the Dean of Research to run a simulation model using the proposed metrics to assess the impact on Schools, the Provost invited Council to consider each of the three components separately and to propose any adjustments. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stressed the need for consistency in defining research productivity between the work of the Academic Freedom Working Group and the work of the Research Quality Metrics Working Group. He commented on the need to integrate creative work, policy related work, and innovation and commercial creativity.

Council considered each component and approved each subject to the recommended adjustments being made and to the revised proposal being considered by the Working Group on Academic Freedom.

- (i) *Percentage of Schools' academic staff meeting agreed criteria for research productivity:* the criteria should integrate artistic and other outputs, and should include 'Editor of scholarly texts.'
- (ii) *Weighted competitive research income:* approved as presented.
- (iii) *Attainment of School selected research objectives:* a baseline number for PhD students should be included and maintaining this baseline where it is reached should be a legitimate target.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

CL/09-10/090 Any other urgent business In response to a query on SFI sponsored e-journals, the Dean of Research informed Council that the HEA was in negotiations with the publishers with a view to reducing the annual cost of e-journals for the sector from €7million to €5million. The HEA, recognising the importance of e-journals, is committed to making provision to ensure continued access.

The Provost agreed, in response to a request, to circulate Board papers to Council members, and to considering holding joint meetings of the Board and Council from time to time. He noted that a joint meeting is scheduled to take place on the 10th March 2010 to review the Statutes.

The Education Officer of the Students' Union was advised to address his query about the notification to students of second registration to the Academic Secretary outside of Council business.

SECTION B

No business under this section.

SECTION C

CL/09-10/091 School of English - Acting Head of Discipline The Council noted and approved the nomination of Dr A Piesse as Acting Head of Discipline from 4 January 2010 to 12 April 2010 during Dr E Patten's leave of absence in Hilary term 2010.

CL/09-10/092 School of Education - Acting Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) The Council noted and approved the nomination of Dr M Shevlin as Acting Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) for Hilary and Trinity Terms 2010 during Dr D Murchan's leave of absence.

CL/09-10/093 Consolidated List of Teaching Assistants and Assistant Examiners including Demonstrators 2009-2010 The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Senior Lecturer, circulated, dated 13 January 2010.

CL/09-10/094 Graduate Studies - Business of the Graduate Studies Committee requiring Council approval The Council noted a memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, circulated, dated 11 January 2010 and approved the change of title from 'MPhil in Reformation and Enlightenment Studies' (course code 171) to 'MPhil in Early Modern History', from September 2010.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

