

*Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings*

**The University of Dublin**

**Trinity College**

**A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 24 September 2014 at 11.15 a.m. in the Board Room.**

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor M Junker-Kenny, Professor D Faas, Professor G Watson, Professor R Dahyot, Professor JP Spiers, Professor C Comiskey, Professor M Clarke, Professor P Cronin, Dr S Bloomfield, Ms D Alexander, Ms K Byrne, Ms S Baker, Ms M Kenny, Mr A Miller, Mr A Hanna.
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Research, Professor E O'Dell, Professor J Walsh, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor I Donohue, Dean of Health Sciences, Dean of Students, Mr N Slater, Secretary to the Scholars (Ms A P Worrall), Ms J Chaisson (GSU), Interim Chief Operating Officer.
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Librarian, Ms S De Brunner.
<i>Observers</i>	None.

**SECTION A**

The Provost welcomed members, and in particular new Council members, to the first meeting of the academic year. He requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda items. It was noted that the Dean of Graduate Studies would absent herself for consideration of agenda item D.2(iv) (Actum CL/14-15/026).

**CL/14-15/001 Statutory Declaration**

Those members attending Council for the first time made the statutory declaration.

**CL/14-15/002 Minutes**

- (i) The minutes of 11 June 2014 were approved and signed.
- (ii) The minutes of the joint meeting of Board and Council, dated 18 June 2014, were approved subject to the replacement of the fifth paragraph on page nine (BD/13-14/292 / CL/13-14/227) with the following:

‘The Provost noted the need for a Library Strategy as part of the implementation of the University’s Strategic Plan. The Librarian and College Archivist, noting the enabling role of the Library in the context of the new Strategic Plan, warmly welcomed the Provost’s suggestion and echoed the comments of the Bursar/Director of Strategic

Innovation in advising the meeting of the need to utilise existing resources more efficiently. She advised the meeting that the way in which undergraduate students were using the Library and study space had evolved in recent years and as a result the Library will need to re-organise its internal operations spaces to reflect this.'

The Secretary to the College confirmed that the revised minutes of the joint meeting would return to Board for noting and approval.

**CL/14-15/003 Matters Arising:**

- (i) **CL/13-14/194:** The Dean of Graduate Studies reminded members that the proposal for the integrated programme in Pharmacy had been approved at the last Council meeting subject to the incorporation of amendments subsequently required by the external reviewer. She confirmed that Professor David Jones of Queen's University had since returned a positive review, commenting favourably on the course's academic content and its ability to meet accreditation requirements, and had made suggestions in relation to the integration of subjects within modules and their assessments. In response, the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science submitted a comprehensive report to the Senior Lecturer and Dean of Graduate Studies in which it was noted that many aspects had been incorporated already into the course, though they were not explicit in the proposal document.
- (ii) **CL/13-14/190(ii)(b):** The Senior Lecturer noted that the Feasibility Study for an A-Level Admissions Mechanism, with Northern Ireland as its test case, was formally launched on 4 July 2014 and received widespread positive media coverage. She drew Council's attention to the revised criteria under the study which previously involved converting participating students' three A-Level results into CAO points and counting the weakest subject twice. The study will now simply look at participating students' best three A-Level results, without converting these into CAO points, and ranking the students according to merit. Available places will go to those with the highest combined results, subject to the achievement of a minimum A-Level performance profile of A, B, B.
- (iii) **CL/13-14/193:** The Dean of Graduate Studies advised the meeting that she was awaiting the external reviewer's report on the Professional Special Purpose Certificate in Academic Practice and would report on his comments at the next meeting of Council. The Provost noted that, if needed, a second reviewer could be approached.
- (iv) **CL/13-14/200:** The Senior Lecturer, referring to the policy approved by Council, and subsequently by Board (BD/13-14/331), in relation to course-level general papers in the Scholarship Examination, noted that this would be implemented in the 2015/2016 academic year rather than in the current academic year. The postponement would allow time to resolve implementation issues, especially those related to two-subject and multidisciplinary courses, and for consultation through the Undergraduate Studies Committee, with input from the Central Scholarship Committee. The Provost, whilst expressing some disappointment at the delay, noted that certain practical issues had to be addressed. He commented that the policy decision remained in place and that course-level general papers were essential to ensure that the Scholarship Examination is of an appropriately testing level.

**CL/14-15/004 Provost's Report**

- (i) The Provost noted that the Irish Universities Association, under his chairmanship, will host a symposium '21<sup>st</sup> Century Universities – Performance and Sustainability' on 29 September 2014, in the Royal College of Physicians. The event has proved popular and is currently oversubscribed. It will be attended by the Minister for Education and Skills, the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills (DES) along with members of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and representatives from across the higher education sector as well as from industry. The symposium will include presentations from a number of international speakers and discussion panels. It is hoped that the event will contribute strongly to the quality of discourse in Ireland regarding the role of third-level education and how it should be funded.
  
- (ii) The Provost highlighted a number of action areas in the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 which will lead to policy developments for future consideration by Council. These include: a significant Trinity Education Project which will consolidate actions related to curriculum reform, dialogue with employers and the use of technology; Research with Impact, where it is expected that six to eight strong research themes will be identified; Online Education, it is hoped that Trinity will have 1,000 registered online learners by the start of the next strategic plan in 2019; and the Activation of Talents theme. In relation to the Activation of Talents, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) had launched its Research Professor Programme during June 2014. The programme will enable the recruitment of world-leading researchers and will attract up to €5 million in funding over a five-year programme of work for each successful candidate. Recruitment to these professorial posts will follow Trinity's standard procedures, however, in the first instance, successful candidates will receive a conditional offer which will convert to a full offer if deemed suitable for funding by the SFI. Shortlisting has commenced and it is hoped, by the end of the process, that Trinity will be able to make two to three firm appointments. Within Trinity, this process is being managed by the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, the Dean of Research and the Faculty Deans.
  
- (iii) The Provost provided an update on a number of capital projects. In relation to the new Business School he noted that Professor Andrew Burke had been appointed as Professor of Business Studies and would take up this position at the start of January 2015. Building work, as noted at previous meetings, is planned for the Luce Hall/Simon Perry/Pearse Street site. He commented on the scale of the project which will double the size of the School of Business and should raise the profile of the School. Commenting on the E3 project he confirmed that this would be located at the east end of College and would house the Schools of Natural Science and Engineering and part of the School of Computer Science and Statistics. He spoke of the need to initiate a National Cancer Institute building project, the final name of which is to be decided, at the St. James's Hospital site and he outlined plans for the future development of a Trinity Creative Institute. Responding to a question about the Institute for Population Health, it was confirmed that this project is going ahead following delays related to purchasing property from the National Asset Management Agency. It was noted that a revised business case will be submitted to the Executive Officers group for this project.

**CL/14-15/005 Strategic Plan 2014-2019**

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that considerable work had been carried out since the joint meeting of Board and Council on 18 June 2014. The final version of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 had been sent for translation into Irish and onwards for printing. In addition to the printed version, the plan will also be available online as an interactive document which will show updates and achievements. It was noted that the HEA and DES had received copies for information and that the Taoiseach had been invited to launch the plan in mid-October.

She outlined the main objectives and, in particular, spoke to the Trinity Education Project, which will involve curriculum reform, increasing flexibility, interacting with employers and greater levels of internationalisation and online learning, as being pivotal to the future success of College. This will impact significantly on both academic and administrative and support areas in College. In relation to the support of the actions, she will meet with heads of administrative areas to discuss their readiness.

The Provost noted that the College Secretary is chairing a group to oversee the formal launch of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019. Commenting on the enthusiasm to start work on the strategic objectives and actions, he confirmed that the launch would proceed in October even if the Taoiseach is unavailable.

**CL/14-15/006 TCD-UCD Framework for Collaborative Taught Programmes/Courses**

A document concerning the TCD-UCD Framework for Collaborative Taught Programmes, dated September 2014, was circulated. The Dean of Graduate Studies, speaking to the item, noted that an earlier version of the framework document was considered by Council in May 2014 (CL/13-14/168) and that following further work it was being presented now for approval.

The purpose of this framework is to support the development of good quality taught postgraduate courses, which lead to joint degrees, through the pooling of academic expertise with counterparts in UCD. The document provides information on decisions agreed at an institutional level on matters which include the administrative hub, course committees, course directors, admissions procedures, registration, module ownership, assessment, marking scales used in each institution, module results and their conversion, conferral protocols, and the dual but equivalent classification of degrees awarded. The designation of either TCD or UCD as the administrative hub for each course will be jointly agreed by both Deans of Graduate Studies. The creation of this framework means that these matters do not have to be re-visited each time a proposal for a new joint degree course is developed with UCD. She noted that course proposals arising from this framework agreement would have to be approved through the normal channels in each university. Further documents related to operational matters are to be drawn-up with UCD in respect of the financial framework and administrative details.

Referring to the previous queries at Council she confirmed that, following legal advice, students will be required to sign additional terms and conditions, upon registration, to confirm their agreement to provisions put in place for student appeals.

The Provost suggested that Trinity could proactively encourage the development of additional joint postgraduate degree courses with UCD. The Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that when course proposals are initiated, proposing Schools are asked to consider if collaboration

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with UCD would be beneficial, however, further discussions could take place with the Dean of Graduate Studies in UCD to discuss the best way to promote collaborations.

The Registrar commented that it would be sensible to use this framework as a template for similar collaborations with other institutions

The Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Academic Secretary and all staff members who had contributed to the process to date. Council approved the UCD-TCD Framework for Collaborative Postgraduate Taught Programmes/Courses, as circulated.

#### **CL/14-15/007 Library Annual Report 2012-2013**

The Library Annual Report 2012-2013 and Strategic Targets 2013/14 document, dated 18 September 2014, from the Deputy Librarian was circulated. The Librarian introduced the item by advising that a strategy document covering the next five years would be presented at the next meeting of Council. The circulated document provides a comprehensive snapshot of the activities in the Library during the 2012/13 academic year.

She brought the meeting through the report and highlighted the following:

- (i) many of the stated strategic objectives outlined in the document have been incorporated into the new five-year Library strategy;
- (ii) the non-pay allocation to the Library had decreased by 21.75% since the 2007/08 academic year and the number of staff members had reduced by 13.5% since 2008/09;
- (iii) when the use of e-resources were considered, in addition to the use of books and other printed works, it can be seen that the Library is used by all faculties in almost equal proportions;
- (iv) whilst the overall usage of e-resources has increased, the cost per use has decreased from €1.36 in 2007 to €0.81 in 2012;
- (v) the level of Legal Deposit intake has stabilised following a dramatic increase during 2010/11;
- (vi) the '24/7' pilot, along with a welcomed donation, has led to the inclusion of a further three floor of the Ussher Library as 24-hour study spaces;
- (vii) the success of HITS (Helpful Information for Trinity Students/Staff) project with 60 presentations to students and staff and their continued use in subsequent years;
- (viii) the use of online exhibitions and the development of new strategy in this regard to ensure that all physical exhibitions will have an online counterpart; and
- (ix) following the external quality review of the Library in 2012, many of the reviewers' recommendations have been addressed.

The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences commended the report and commented that it was interesting to see the near equal levels of Library usage in each of the Faculties and asked that Council be mindful of this if, in future, suggestions are made that the Library serves only the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic drew Council's attention to the financial information presented concerning the Library's pay and non-pay allocations. Whilst noting that the Library, along with other areas in College, had been affected by reduced funding levels, she commented that the figures presented did not include the special allocation made by the Faculty Deans

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from strategic funding in 2012/13 to augment the purchasing power of the Library. She also noted that the Library has been allocated additional funds of €3.2 million over 2013/14 and 2014/15; €1.5 million of which was to address lost income from the Old Library and €1.78 million of which relates to staffing. This additional allocation was provided in cognisance of the time required to recruit a new Librarian and to allow some leeway to the post holder to address certain resources issues.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Librarian undertook to clarify the budget allocations presented in the report and to make amendments if necessary for the official record. The Librarian concluded by acknowledging the excellent work carried out by the Acting Librarian over the last two years.

#### **CL/14-15/008 Trinity Admission Feasibility Study**

A memorandum from the Senior Lecturer providing an update on the Trinity Admissions Feasibility Study, dated 16 September 2014, was circulated. The Senior Lecturer explained that the two-year study was launched to examine a more holistic method of admitting undergraduate students, rather than simply relying on Leaving Certificate results. Under this study, 25 places were made available across courses in Law, History and Ancient and Medieval History and Culture and students were appraised using three modalities:

- (i) Leaving Certificate/CAO points
- (ii) Relative performance rank
- (iii) Personal and contextual data

In total, 243 candidates completed an application and made 270 unique applications. Applications came from 145 different secondary schools, 23% of which came from fee-paying and 57% were from non-fee paying, with 12% coming from DEIS schools (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools). Of those receiving offers, 38% were from fee paying schools and 62% were from non-fee paying, with 19% coming from designated DEIS schools (also included in non-fee paying figure). She outlined the process used to assess applications and score students which involved anonymising applications, using trained readers to assess applicants' essays, the convening of two committee meetings, chaired by an independent judge, with a number of invited external attendees. Whilst the process was complex, she noted that external members were satisfied that it was sufficiently robust.

There were questions and comments concerning the proportions of applicants from fee-paying, non fee-paying and DEIS schools and the Senior Lecturer clarified that that figures related to DEIS were also included in the non-fee paying figures. She confirmed that the purpose of the study was not necessarily to counter the advantages gained by those attending fee-paying schools, rather, it was designed to provide a more holistic method for admission.

In response to a question, the Academic Secretary confirmed that none of the successful applicants under this study would have been admitted on their CAO points alone since applicants with sufficient points were taken out of the study and admitted in the standard way.

Council noted the update on the Trinity Admissions Feasibility Study.

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**CL/14-15/009 Quality Assurance and Improvement Reports**

A memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, dated 16 September 2014, concerning a proposal to streamline processes with respect to quality assurance and quality improvement reporting, was circulated.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer outlined a number of procedural changes related to the Quality Committee which were implemented in 2013/14 following recommendations arising from the Institutional Quality Review in 2012. These included amendments to the Quality Committee's terms of reference and membership to include the Faculty Deans; the consideration of external reviewers' reports along with responses presented by the relevant Head of School/Area and Faculty Dean/Chief Operating Officer; the subsequent consideration of implementation plans and progress reports prepared and presented by the relevant Head of School/Area. In addition each of these reports and plans were considered by Council.

She outlined proposals related to streamlining the reporting processes and the implementation of an annual quality report from each Faculty. Council approved the following recommendations, to commence in the 2014/15 academic year:

- (a) external reviewers' reports will continue to be considered by both the Quality Committee and Council, as appropriate;
- (b) the implementation plans and the progress reports will be considered by the Quality Committee only, and that these reports are to be appended to the minutes of the Quality Committee, which should highlight any matter that would need the direction from Council;
- (c) an annual report on quality assurance and quality improvement will be submitted to Council incorporating the annual quality reports from each Faculty.

**CL/14-15/010 Postgraduate Course Proposal – M.Phil. in Chinese Studies**

A proposal from the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences for a new course in Chinese Studies leading to an award of Master in Philosophy, dated 17 September 2014, was circulated. A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 24 September, was tabled. The Dean of Graduate Studies, speaking to the proposal, noted that the course would be delivered in collaboration with the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy and will be based in the newly established Trinity Centre for Asian Studies. Initial support of the programme has been made possible by a philanthropic donation.

Unlike other courses in Chinese/Asian studies in Ireland, which focus strongly on language, this course will concentrate on contemporary Chinese history and thought, politics and governance, and culture and society. Language modules in Mandarin will also be delivered, with a different course strand offered to complete beginners compared to those with some prior knowledge of the language. The course is full-time and will carry 120 ECTS, which is greater than the 90 ECTS norm because students will be required to undertake a four-month study abroad module in one of four partner institutions: Fudan University, Beijing; Tsinghua University, Shanghai; the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong; National Taiwan University, Taipei. It is due to commence in September 2015. Student will undertake written assessments and presentations in modules and will be required to complete a compulsory 30 ECTS dissertation. She advised that the proposal had been reviewed by Professor George X Zhang of the Centre for Modern Languages, Richmond, the American International University in London, who commented positively on the emphasis of the course.

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In response to queries the Dean of Graduate Studies noted that the course is quite different from other such courses offered in Ireland, therefore, it is expected that it will meet its quota. She noted that the increasing pressure on student services must be discussed more broadly in College with related costs built into fees. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer adding to these comments noted that a number of secondary schools have introduced Chinese Studies recently which is likely to lead to interest in this course from teachers. It was noted that the second Global Relations Strategy will incorporate a different funding model which should help to address some issues faced by student support services.

The proposal was commended by members. Council approved the new course in Chinese Studies, leading to an award of M. Phil., with an exit award of P.Grad. Dip in Chinese Studies, and noted that it would commence in September 2015,

**CL/14-15/011 Any Other Urgent Business**

The Provost noted that circulation of committee papers by electronic means only would be introduced for Council in the near future. The College Secretary and Academic Secretary would discuss implementation matters.

See Actum CL/14-15/026 below related to recommendations for Personal Chairs titles and with respect to promotion to Professor and gender analysis of applicants

**SECTION B**

**CL/14-15/012 International Committee**

The Vice-President for Global Relations highlighted recent discussions at the International Committee and noted items that will come forward to Council.

Responding to comments about the use of student services and of language supports by international students, the Vice-President for Global Relations signalled the development of a revised Global Relations financial model and suggested that there be a future discussion about English language requirements.

The draft minutes of the meetings of 22 May and 26 June 2014 were noted and approved.

**SECTION C**

**CL/14-15/013 University Council 2014-2015**

The Council noted the membership for 2014-2015, as circulated.

**CL/14-15/014 Administrative Arrangements in the Summer Session**

The Council noted a memorandum from the Secretary to the College, circulated, dated 25 August 2014.

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**CL/14-15/015 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 11 June 2014 and noted by Board on 25 June 2014.

**(i) Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

**MD** Melanie Cotter; Aoife Laffan.

**(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

**DEd** Eamon Costello; Colleen Dorothy Horn.

**MAI (Recurrent Education)**

Owen Wynne

**PhD** Mohammad Rajab Alnufaie; Sarah Arduin; Corelia Baibarac; Peter Bede; David Breakey; Niall Byrne; David Carr; Thomas Colgan; Janet Convery; Marese Antoinette Cooney; Joanne Crean; Hilary Cronin; Sean Curneen; Paul Joseph Dawson; Emer Eilean Delaney; Eileen Diskin; Laura Carmel Diver; William Joseph Dowling; Paul Duffy; Lisa Egan; Darina Elizabeth Errity; Colin Flynn; Aaron Gerow; Marcin Gorzel; Robert Grealy; Sarah Mercy Gubbins; Cormac Hanley; Alan Hunt; Andrew Jackson; Matthew Kennedy; Aisling Kenny; Ream Isalhin Langhe; Ted Mc Cormack; John Martin Noel McDonagh; Shane Mc Guinness; Aoife Malone; Damien Mannion; Ann-Marie Mongan; Andrew Maria Mulligan; Mairead Ni Choine; Lorraine O'Reilly; Sean O'Reilly; Shane O Sullivan; Aude Cecile Marie Perdereau; Adam Pritchard; Ciaran Reilly; Abigail Rooney; Daniel Ryan; Jennifer Ryan; Robert Ryan; William Stephen Sheridan; Martin Cornelis Frederick Slot; Ronan Smith; Beata Sokolowska; Yuqian Song; Michael Takaza; Benjamin Thebaudeau; Pol Vilaseca.

**MSc** Ealga Beary; Chris Bligh; Margaret Eleanor Dee; Eoin Patrick Gillen; Fionnan Howard; Hamid Reza Khatami.

**MLitt** Patrick Matthews.

**CL/14-15/016 Abridged Entry and the Award of the B.A. Degree**

The Council noted a memorandum from the Administrator of the School of Engineering, circulated, dated 30 June 2014 and approved the award of the BA degree to Engineering students listed in the memorandum who gained abridged entry in 2013/2013 to the Junior Sophister years of their respective programmes, in accordance with Calendar M21, section 24.

**CL/14-15/017 Heads of School**

The Council noted that the Board, at its meeting of 25 June 2014, had approved the following nominations to headship of Schools for three years, except where noted below, item (iii):

- (i) School of Law: Professor Oran Doyle, Associate Professor in Law;

- (ii) School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences: Professor Martine M Smith, Associate Professor in Speech and Language Pathology;
- (iii) School of Psychology (2014-2015): Professor Ian H Robertson, Professor of Psychology (1968);
- (iv) School of Social Work and Social Policy: Professor T Eoin O’Sullivan, Associate Professor in Social Policy.

**CL/14-15/018 School Directors**

- (i) **Drama, Film and Music**  
The Council noted and approved the extension of the following nominations for a further year, for 2014-2015:
  - (a) Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate): Professor C M Poulter
  - (b) Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate): Professor M Sihra;
  - (c) Director of Research: Professor M H Adams.
- (ii) **Social Sciences and Philosophy – Director of Research**  
The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor P Scanlon for 2014-2016.

**CL/14-15/019 Headship of Discipline**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) **Microbiology**  
Professor U Bond, 2014-2017;
- (ii) **Music**  
Professor S J Trezise for a further year, 2014-2015.

**CL/14-15/020 Academic Directors (2014-2017)**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) **BA Moderatorship in Economics and Social Studies (BESS) Programme**  
Professor M Wycherley;
- (ii) **Two-subject Moderatorship**  
Professor S Smyth.

**CL/14-15/021 Senior Promotions – *Ad Hoc* Appeals Committee**

The Council noted a memorandum from the Senior Dean, circulated, dated 16 September 2014 and approved the nomination of Professor L Doyle as the Council’s representative on this committee for 2014-2015.

**CL/14-15/022 Strategic Plan 2014-2019 – Engagement Advisory Group**

The Council noted a memorandum from the Registrar, circulated, dated 17 September 2014 and approved the Terms of Reference of the Engagement Advisory Group together with a list of members, as follows:

Registrar *Chair*  
Trinity Foundation representative  
Dean of Students  
Senior Lecturer

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Dean of Graduate Studies  
 Civic Engagement Officer *Secretary*  
 Director, Trinity Research and Innovation  
 Faculty nominee for engagement (3)  
 Community Liaison Officer  
 SU representative  
 GSU representative  
 Trinity Volunteering (chair of)  
 SUAS representative  
 Up to 2 co-opted members  
 In attendance as required: representative from Communications Office, Global Relations Office,  
 Human Resources

**CL/14-15/023 Examinations outside the formal annual and supplemental examination sessions – 2014-2015**

The Council noted a memorandum from the Examinations and Timetables Officer, circulated, dated 17 September 2014. Council noted the increase in the number of courses seeking derogation to schedule their examinations outside the standard examinations sessions and approved the request from the School of Computer Science and Statistics.

**SECTION D**

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Signed .....

Date .....

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