



Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

XX = Board relevance

**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 4 April 2018 at 11.15 am 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, Dean of Students, Dean of Research, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor J Walsh, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor P Wyse Jackson, Professor C Gardiner, Professor E O Nuallain, Professor M Corry, Professor M Clarke, Dr S Chandra, Ms S Cameron-Coen, Mr P Shanahan, Mr R Doherty, Mr M Bhargav, Ms A Walsh.
<i>Apologies</i>	Professor D Faas, Professor S Garrigan, Professor A Holohan, Professor S Murphy, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor R A Kenny, Professor A M Brady, Professor A O’Gara, Ms A MacPherson, Mr C O’Halloran.
<i>In attendance</i>	Academic Secretary, Secretary to the College, Librarian and College Archivist, Ms Eileen McEvoy.
<i>Observers</i>	Secretary to the Scholars (Mr P Lavelle), Mr V R Paidimukkala.

SECTION A

The Provost requested that the Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary noted that Professor S Murphy and Professor S Garrigan declared interest in items A6.3 and A7 respectively, but as both had sent their apologies discussion could proceed in their absence.

CL/17-18/159 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7 March 2018 were approved and signed.

CL/17-18/160 Matters Arising

- (i) **CL/17-18/137:** With reference to the review of joint honours entry route, the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer alerted members to an error in the table of combinations with individual languages circulated at the previous Council. He clarified that there is no combination of Ancient History and Archaeology (AH&A) with Italian but the combination of AH&A with Russian should be included instead. A new table was circulated containing the correct subject combinations.

Decision

CL/17-18/160.1 Council approved the revision to the subject combination table showing AH&A with Russian and the removal of AH&A with Italian.

CL/17-18/161 Provost's Report

The Provost did not provide a report due to the comprehensive report provided at the last meeting of the Council.

CL/17-18/162 Trinity Education Project

- (i) **Update:** The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer provided the Council with a brief update on the Trinity Education Project (TEP), according to the circulated presentation, dated 4 April 2018. He reported that Schools are actively engaging with the various aspects of TEP implementation and that the Academic Secretary has been in communication with all Schools to establish compliance of programmes with TEP programme architecture for 2019/20. Schools have been asked to confirm for each programme/subject, as applicable, the common architecture type, compliance with pathway requirements, whether subjects will be offered as a major/joint/minor, and the degree title. Confirmation is to be received from all Schools in time for the April Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting and will be presented for Council approval at its May meeting.
- (ii) **Criteria for the Award of Gold Medal:** The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies gave a presentation on the circulated memorandum on the criteria for the award of a Gold Medal, dated 29 March 2018. She explained that Subgroup 6 of the Trinity Education Project - Progression and Awards, Fixed Timetable, Learning Spaces Design - had reviewed the criteria for the award of a Gold Medal in the context of the new progression and awards regulations. The discussions were rooted in an intention to ensure that guidelines for the award of Gold Medals should be standardised, simplified, fair, and transparent. Further, it was intended that the number of Gold Medal categories should be significantly reduced (from the current eight categories).

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that following extensive discussion, Subgroup 6 agreed principles on which criteria would be based and two proposed models for the award of Gold Medals. She explained that the minimum overall degree mark for the award of a Gold Medal had originally been proposed at 70% but it had been felt by members of the TEP Steering Group that this mark was too low to reflect the exceptionality of the award. Subgroup 6 had subsequently proposed that the threshold be raised to 75% during consultation. It was noted, however, that the Schools of Law, Dental Science and Medicine foresaw difficulty with the 75% minimum mark. Subgroup 6 considered each of these cases and concluded that in the cases of Law and Dental Science the 75% threshold was achievable with some adjustment. With regard to Medicine, Subgroup 6 agreed that Medicine should retain their current criteria for the award of a Gold Medal until such time as they have revised the calculation of the final degree award [ref. Derogation from Progression and Awards regulations as approved by the Council on 29 November 2017, CL/17-18/056 (ii)] to include Public Health and Primary Care. Medicine will be expected to align to the new Gold Medal criteria once it has completed its revisions to the calculation of the final degree award.

The TEP Subgroup 6 proposed that Gold Medals should be awarded on the basis of the final, overall degree award mark (which will be calculated on a 30/70 basis over the final two years); all attempts at assessment (Semester 1, Semester 2, reassessment and deferrals) may be counted towards the award of a Gold Medal; only two models for the award of a Gold Medal are proposed, namely: (i) Model 1: Overall degree award mark only (with the overall degree mark set at 75% or above). Programmes to determine the mark at which a Gold Medal is recommended; (ii) Model 2: Overall degree award mark (with the overall degree mark set at 75% or above), and a minimum of 70% in each named component of the degree award (e.g., Major Subject and Minor Subject, or Subject 1 and Subject 2 in Joint Honors programmes).

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained that, pending Council approval, Board approval would be sought and the new criteria would be implemented in

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line with 30/70 degree award calculation (18/19 for Phase 1 and 19/20 for Phase 2). Once approved, Schools/Programme Offices would be asked to confirm the choice of model for each undergraduate programme.

The Council members were invited to comment on the proposal from Subgroup 6, presented by the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

The Provost suggested that there is not a need for two models. Rather, Model 1 could apply to all courses with the additional stipulation that, in the case of Joint Honors/Major with Minor, a minimum of 70% in each named component of the degree award is required.

Some members expressed concern that, from the perspective of equity, the choice to allow reassessment to be counted towards the award of a Gold Medal would mean that some students would have more time to prepare for a higher grade than other students. It was also pointed out by a number of members that progression by reassessment is and should be distinct from the achievement of a Gold Medal through reassessment. It was further noted that to have a transcript include both a Gold Medal and a failed module may be somewhat contradictory, given the exceptionality represented by the Gold Medal.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained that the underlying principle that all attempts at assessment may be counted towards the award was the subject of some debate both within Subgroup 6, Undergraduate Studies Committee and at the TEP Steering Group. Some felt that allowing reassessment to count towards the award of a Gold Medal might be unfair to students who had been deemed ineligible for a Gold Medal based on their performance at the first annual sitting, compared to students who had had an additional assessment opportunity. There was also concern that allowing reassessment to count towards a Gold Medal might create a moral hazard, encouraging students to split their effort over two examination sessions. Other members felt that the achievement of learning overall was more important than the timing of that achievement and that drilling down to the level of modules was overly prescriptive. It was thought that the option to require students to pass all modules in the final two years at the first attempt was too rigid. Further, it was argued that this requirement might mitigate against students taking a breadth of modules, including those outside their comfort zone, which carry some element of risk. It was suggested that the moral hazard mentioned above already existed, with the introduction of supplemental exams in the final year, in terms of students trying to maximise their degree grade.

There was extensive discussion on the matter of equity, and it was questioned whether it was fair that a student who receives a passing grade of 40% is advantaged over a student who receives a marginally lower grade and fails. A member argued that in a delineated system such cases are common and accepted.

Considering all points made, it was agreed that reassessments should not count towards the award of Gold Medal.

Decisions

CL/17-18/162.ii.1: The Council:

- a) Approved that Gold Medals should be awarded on the basis of the final, overall degree award (which will be calculated on a 30/70 basis over the final two years) commencing in 2018/19 for TEP Phase 1 programmes and in 2019/20 for TEP Phase 2 programmes.
- b) Approved Model 1: Overall degree award mark only (with the overall degree mark set at 75% or above). Programmes to determine the mark at which a Gold Medal is recommended.

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- c) Approved Model 2: Overall degree award mark only (with the overall degree mark set at 75% or above) and a minimum of 70% in each named component of the degree award (e.g. major subject and minor subject, or subject 1 and subject 2 in joint honor programmes)
 - d) Did not approve the proposal that all attempts at assessment (Semester 1, Semester 2, reassessment and deferrals) may be counted toward the Award of Gold Medal.
 - e) Approved that Medicine will be required to align to the new Gold Medal criteria once it has completed its revisions to the calculation of the final degree award.
- (iii) **Nomenclature of Awards:** The Registrar presented on the circulated memorandum regarding nomenclature of awards in the new programme architecture, dated 29 March 2018. She explained that five recommendations were proposed, as follows:

Recommendation 1: It is proposed that the pathways towards a Major with Minor and Single Honors with Minor award are merged and are named Major with Minor.

The Registrar explained that these awards were originally distinguished because the pathways are distinct but since the approval of the common architecture in June 2016, there have been queries in relation to the credit distinction between the Major with Minor and Single Honors with Minor awards. Following consideration, the Subgroup recommends using one title, Major with Minor, for these two pathways.

Recommendation 2: It is proposed that a Major with Minor degree be awarded where one subject at entry (major) is studied continuously over the course of the four years of the programme and a second subject (minor) is studied continuously over at least three years of the programme (Min 60 ECTS in Subject 2, with a minimum 20 ECTS at level 3 or above). The degree will be awarded as Subject 1 and Subject 2. The transcript will indicate the major subject and the minor subject and clarify that the award title as major with minor.

Recommendation 3: It is proposed that a Joint Honors degree be awarded where the two subjects at entry are studied continuously over the course of the four years of the programme (Min 100 ECTS in Subject 1 and in Subject 2 (subjects at entry); and Min 50 ECTS in Subject 1 and Subject 2 in Sophister years at level 3/4). The degree will be awarded as Subject 1 and Subject 2. The transcript will indicate the two subjects and clarify that the award is a joint honors award.

The Registrar explained that the proposed recommendations 1-3 would simplify the requirements for various award categories by setting a minimum total ECTS and ECTS at level 3/4 for a second subject to reach "Minor" status and a higher level for it to reach "Joint Honors" status. It leaves open to disciplines how to construct their curriculum choices within the overall common architecture in order to offer students these options.

Recommendation 4: It is proposed that the named Science subject (e.g., Chemistry) be included on the degree parchment as is the case in programmes in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in the following format: B.A. in Science – {Subject}.

It was explained that the purpose of this recommendation was to add clarity to the degree parchment regarding subject specialisation in the Science Architecture.

Recommendation 5: It is proposed that the results from the JS year in Moderatorship programmes be referred to as Moderatorship Part 1 and results from the SS year as Moderatorship Part 2.

The Registrar explained that within the new programme architecture, degree awards are a function of the number and level of credits accumulated in one or more subjects in the last

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two years of study. In this context, it is important to consider how credits are distributed across the JS and SS years and the impact that this distribution will have on their proportionate representation in the final degree calculation. Aligned with the phasing in of the new programme architecture, the calculation of the degree award will be based on the final two years (JS+SS) on a 30/70 basis.

Decision

CL/17-18/162.iii.2: The Council approved all five recommendations listed above regarding nomenclature of awards in the new programme architecture.

CL/17-18/163 CAO Application Statistics 2018

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer and Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies gave a presentation to inform the Council of trends apparent from the official March 2018 CAO data in respect of applications to Trinity College Dublin and the Irish university sector. It was noted that the figures presented, in the circulated memorandum dated 4 April 2018, supersede the Preliminary CAO Application Statistics circulated for consideration by the Council at the meeting of March 7, but deferred due to time constraints [CL/17-18/141]. The following key trends were highlighted:

- An overall 4.5% drop in the number of applicants to the CAO – the first such drop in a number of years. This is consistent with past periods of high employment, during which a significant number of school-leavers choose employment over further education.
- Two contextual factors for consideration; firstly, in the overall population there has been an increase in the school-leaving population. Secondly, the fall in applications at times of high employment tends to impact disproportionately on the Institute of Technology sector, as compared to the university sector. Nonetheless, with some caveats, any drop of less than 4.5% might be considered as an increase in overall market share.
- A fall across the sector in the less-vocationally oriented subjects: Arts/Social Science (-7.66%); Science/Applied Science (-7.20%); Administration/Business (-4.05%). Conversely, there have been increases in applications for Education (+3.82%) and Law (+1.11%).
- Decreases in first preference applications across all of the seven universities (and DIT) and five universities experienced decreases of 4.5% or less: UCD (1.30%); UCC (-3.01%); DCU (4.52%), MU (-1.46%), and NUIG (-0.83%). Apart from DIT, the two universities with the highest rates of decrease, in excess of 4.5%, were UL (-7.53%) and TCD (-8.41%).
- Within Trinity, History has seen a rate of decline of -27.84%, bringing applications from 97 to 70 applicants. While it was pointed out that, with a quota of 39, History still has an almost two to one ratio of first preference applicants to available spaces, it was cautioned that this rate of decline could only be sustained for two more years before first preferences would fall below quota. Other programmes in a similar situation are Mathematics (-25.26% from 95 to 71; quota of 30) and Political Science and Geography (-26.42%; 53 to 39; quota of 15).
- First preference applications for the new Science programme have been strong, with a total of 673 first preferences for 414 places. By contrast, applications to TSM have fallen by 13.07%.
- The most marked decline in applications to Trinity was among applicants from Northern Ireland (NI) (-20%) and from the rest of the UK (-10%). One possible explanation suggested was that the uncertainty about the fees to be charged to UK and NI students post-Brexit is a contributing factor. It was further suggested that the fact that Trinity has a significant share of UK/NI students in the Republic may help account for the University's higher than average decrease in first preferences sectorally. By contrast, it was noted that applications to Trinity from other EU countries are up significantly (+10.1%); this was seen as also possibly related to the Brexit uncertainty.
- Finally, it was explained that Trinity's weighted RGAM student FTEs have reduced by 3.8% from 2015/16 to 2016/17 (used for the 2018 grant allocation). Reductions in RGAM

weighted EU Postgraduate Research- and Taught-student FTEs represent over 90% of this decline.

In conclusion, the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised the Council that Trinity is facing ever-greater competition for students from across the third-level. He made the case that a more strategic approach to marketing and recruitment may have to be taken if Trinity is to maintain its traditionally high percentage of first preference applicants.

The Provost invited the Council members to comment on the reported trends.

The Vice President for Global Relations indicated that, in the short term, with the upcoming CAO change of mind process in mind, her office is working to respond to the decrease in applications through initiatives such as having alumni and student ambassadors visit schools and share experiences with prospective students. She reiterated, however, the need for stronger emphasis on EU and domestic marketing and student recruitment activities.

Several members supported the case that effective marketing and recruitment initiatives are crucial, particularly with respect to digital marketing, the University website and more face-to-face marketing to potential applicants. The Dean of Research suggested that a decrease in Computer Science applications should be closely monitored and the business model of Trinity's Engineering, Energy & Environment Institute (E3) may need to pay greater attention to marketing and attracting greater student numbers. The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science in response commented that the trend for the last five years shows that, with the exception of 2016-17, there isn't a significant change in the overall first preference applications. He also felt that where prospective students perceive a relative sameness between courses across universities, the ability to highlight the distinctiveness of Trinity courses is essential. The Chief Operating Officer suggested that, while marketing and recruitment are important considerations, communications more generally, especially communications with students, should receive particular attention. The Dean of Graduate Students noted that the recent strong performance registered by Trinity in the QS Subject Rankings for 2018 may positively impact next year's CAO figures.

The cost and availability of accommodation in Dublin was also highlighted as a possible factor for the decrease in applications to Trinity.

It was argued that the figures presented indicated that interest in Trinity's offering was still very healthy, and while it was important not to be complacent, it was equally important not to drive points up by increasing applications and not simultaneously increasing places available.

Taking into account all points raised, there was overall consensus that investment is necessary in Trinity's marketing and recruitment efforts, particularly with respect to digital marketing, the University website and more face-to-face marketing to potential applicants.

Decision

163.1: The Council noted the report on CAO Application Statistics 2018 and recommended that an increase in resource allocation for marketing and recruitment be facilitated.

CL/17-18/164 Postgraduate Course Proposals

- (i) **M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering:** The Dean of Graduate Studies presented on the circulated memorandum, dated 27 March 2018, pertaining to a proposal for a course leading to the award of M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering. The course was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee on 25 January 2018. He explained that the proposed course is a development of the existing M.Sc. in Engineering by Module which will be unavailable for entry as a separate course when the new course commences in 2018. The curriculum focuses on mechanical, biomedical and energy engineering and includes an enhanced

dissertation module, which makes up 40 of the 90 ECTS for the course. This new course is a key element of the School's Strategic Plan for 2014-2019 and the E3 expansion plan.

The Dean of Graduate Studies explained that the proposed course allows students to select modules to the value of 10 ECTS from masters-level modules offered outside of the M.Sc programme, such as modules in Computing or in the Innovation Academy, and includes a 10 ECTS engineering project for those students who choose to take the 60 ECTS diploma pathway instead of completing the dissertation and M.Sc.

He also reported that the proposal received a positive external review from Professor Sean Leen, Head of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering and Informatics, NUI Galway. Some suggested enhancements were made to the proposal and others will be implemented in the future.

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science recommended the proposal to Council, stating that, from a student perspective, it offered increased clarity of options and pathways.

Decision

CL/17-18/164.i.1: The Council approved the proposal in Mechanical Engineering leading to a M.Sc. to commence in September 2018/19.

- (ii) **M.Sc. in Addiction Recovery:** The Dean of Graduate Studies presented on the circulated memorandum, dated 8 March 2018, pertaining to a proposal for a course leading to the award of M.Sc. in Addiction Recovery. He explained that, in line with the School of Medicine's Strategic Plan 2015-2020, the overall aim of this new course is to provide high-quality training for health and social care practitioners in the theoretical and practical aspects of Addiction Recovery. It is intended that the course will have a strong workplace-learning component. He also stressed that, in addition to the course having a strong academic and practice-oriented focus, it responds to an important issue for Irish society and is the first course of its kind in Ireland with no identical course offered internationally. The course will be run in the newly developed Institute of Population Health in Tallaght. The course was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee on 25 January 2018.

The Dean of Graduate Studies also reported that an external review of the proposed course was conducted by Professor Michael Farrell, Director of National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. The review was highly positive and no changes to the proposal were suggested.

In response to a query, the Dean confirmed that the course will be targeting frontline and management staff from various treatment settings via course committee networks and collaborators including HSE Addiction, Mental Health and Wellbeing Services. The course is designed in three-day blocks of teaching to facilitate practitioner entry.

The Provost commended the development of the new course and particularly endorsed the collaboration with the Institute of Population Health in Tallaght.

Decision

CL/17-18/164.ii.2: The Council approved the course proposal in Addiction Recovery leading to a M.Sc. to commence in September 2018/19.

- (iii) **M.Sc. in Development Practice:** The Dean of Graduate Studies presented on the circulated memorandum, dated 28 March 2018, pertaining to a proposal for a revision to a course leading to a new award of M.Sc. in Development Practice. Trinity College was advised in November 2017 that UCD was withdrawing from the course, with effect from September

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2018 citing the reason that UCD wished to develop its own distinctive approach to the field and to do this in the context of an independent UCD programme.

The Dean of Graduate Studies explained that the joint TCD-UCD delivery of the two-year M.Sc. in Development Practice will be discontinued for new entrants in 2018/2019. The joint degree award by the University of Dublin and the University College Dublin, M.Sc./PGradDip (exit only) (120ECTS/60ECTS), will cease following completion of the course by the current student cohort in August 2019. This joint degree award will be replaced with a single degree award of M.Sc./PGradDip (exit only) (120ECTS/60ECTS) by the University of Dublin for students entering the revised Masters course in September 2018. Duration of the revised M.Sc. course is two years full-time and all modules will be coordinated and delivered by Trinity College. Existing students on the joint Masters course will complete their studies under the existing joint delivery mode until August 2019. The circulated proposal contains a revised approach to enable Trinity to deliver the full programme.

The Dean of Graduate Studies commented that although there had not yet been an opportunity to market the revised course, applications had already been received. In response to a query, it was confirmed that students registered on the jointly delivered programme were registered as students of both UCD and Trinity.

The Dean of Graduate Studies also confirmed that there is no significant differences between the two courses, adding that the revised course will continue to enjoy the support of the national and international organisations that were involved in the joint course with UCD. However, he did acknowledge that the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy is unable to contribute to the course because of costs. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences explained that the Department of Economics had done a cost-benefit analysis regarding the possibility of some of its staff teaching on the course but that the costs were seen to outweigh the benefits. He pointed out that this was not an isolated case as it is not uncommon for Schools/Departments to withdraw or refuse service teaching on courses due to high costs.

The Provost and several members of Council expressed disappointment with the discontinuation of the Joint Masters with UCD. Following some discussion on the need to ensure quality of delivery of all courses, it was felt recruitment of external staff to teach on courses where there was in-house expertise meant that students did not benefit from the internationally respected expertise that currently exists within Trinity.

The Dean of Students retired from the meeting.

Decisions/Actions

CL/17-18/164.iii.1: The Council approved the revised course proposal in Development Practice leading to the new award of a M.Sc. to commence in 2018/19.

CL/17-18/164.iii.2: The Council approved the discontinuation of the joint course in Development Practice with UCD and the discontinuation of the joint award of M.Sc. Development with UCD.

CL/17-18/164.iii.3: The Dean of Graduate Studies and Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences are requested to endeavour to obtain agreement from the School of Social Science and Philosophy to provide expert teaching support for the revised M.Sc. Development Practice and update Council at a future meeting.

CL/17-18/164.iii.4: The Council agreed that, where relevant, courses should be staffed by existing expertise within Trinity and agreed that a working group, chaired by the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, should be set up to address and recommend on this matter.

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CL/17-18/165 Undergraduate Course Proposals

- (i) **B.A. in Religion:** The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented on the circulated memorandum, dated 28 March 2018, pertaining to a proposal for a new undergraduate course leading to a B.A. in Religion. She explained that, historically, the Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology has offered two Single Honors awards at undergraduate level: the Moderatorship in World Religions and Theology and the Moderatorship in Catholic Theological Studies. Following the Quality Review of the School in March 2017, the University Council at its meeting in June 2017 (CL/16-17/208) established a taskforce, chaired by the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, to develop a plan to implement the review recommendations. A core recommendation was to introduce a unified undergraduate degree structure based on a single entry route but with multiple exits, which allows for specialisation in the later years. The new undergraduate programme in Religion addresses this recommendation, and will align with the Single Subject entry route to be introduced as part of the Trinity Education Project in 2019-20. Students will be awarded a B.A. in Religion or may opt to pursue a B.A. in Religion with a minor subject. Students will choose from one of three specialisations within the degree programme. The specialisations afford students the opportunity to focus on Theology, or on the cultural study of Religion, or to pursue a broad-based degree in the study of Religion and Theology. The chosen specialisation will be recorded on the student's transcript. The proposal was approved by the School Executive on 21 February 2018 and the Faculty Dean on 22 February 2018.

The Undergraduate Studies Committee approved the course proposal at its meeting of 20 March 2018 and recommended that it be sent out for external review. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the new course has now been considered by Professor Mike Higton of the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University, who provided clear and enthusiastic support for the proposal and commended the range of assessment modalities, noting that "it does not represent variety for variety's sake".

She also clarified that although the eight-student intake may seem small for three specialisms, the three specialisms are an integral part of the course, essential to the academic reputation of the School and core to the advancement of postgraduate studies in the School. Further, those students entering Trinity via Joint Honours have the option to take modules in these areas, and the modules are also offered as Trinity Approved Modules. There is no comparable B.A. in Ireland and equivalent courses in the UK enjoy a high level of recruitment.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer commended the elegant architecture of the programme and the considerable work invested by the Academic Secretary, the Head of School and others in supporting the development of the programme over a very short time period.

It was mentioned that it is important that the distinction between the specialisms is clear to prospective students to inform their course and subject choices.

The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences voiced his strong support for the programme and the cohesion it represents among three previously disparate units of the School. He commented, in response to a query, that the choice of title for the programme followed lengthy discussion and was intended to be as simple as possible and not preclude students choosing whatever specialism they wished.

The Provost commended the effort of all those involved in developing the course proposal and recommended it to Council for approval.

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Decision

CL/17-18/165.i.1: The Council approved the proposal for a new undergraduate course in Religion leading to a B.A. commencing in September 2019-20.

- (ii) **Catholic Theological Studies:** The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented on the circulated memorandum, dated 15 March 2018, pertaining to a proposal to cease new student intake into the Catholic Theological Studies undergraduate course and TSM subject from 2018-19. She explained that the proposal is based on challenges in recruitment, and in light of the fact that the Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology proposes to launch a new singular undergraduate degree – B.A. in Religion in September 2019. Theology will be studied as part of this programme and the intention is to offer three specialisation pathways, to include Theology, which will appear on student transcripts upon graduation.

She explained that the preliminary CAO figures for September 2018 entry indicate that there are 3 first preferences and 16 total applications for the Single Honors course (TR030) and only 1 first preference and 9 total applications for the TSM course. The CAO figures for September 2017 were 6 first preferences and 46 total applications for the Single Honors programme and for TSM, there were 2 first preferences and 17 total applications, which resulted in an intake of 2 to the Single Honors programme and none to TSM.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted that if the proposal is approved, CAO will be notified in early April so that those potential applicants who have selected the B.A. in Catholic Theological Studies as their first choice in CAO 2018 can be informed and can avail of the CAO change of mind facility. It was questioned whether any alternatives were available to such students but the change of mind facility was noted as the best available option for them.

Approval from the School Executive was obtained on 27 March 2018, TSM Management Committee on 28 March 2018, and the Faculty Dean on 20 March 2018.

Decision

CL/17-18/165.ii.2: The Council approved the proposal on the cessation of the undergraduate course and TSM subject Catholic Theological Studies, and that there would be no intake in 2018/19.

- (iii) **Subject title of TSM Jewish and Islamic Civilisations to ‘Middle Eastern, Jewish and Islamic Civilisations’:** The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented on the circulated memorandum, dated 27 March 2018, pertaining to a proposal, dated 29 March 2018, to change the subject title of TSM Jewish and Islamic Civilisations to ‘Middle Eastern, Jewish and Islamic Civilisations’. She explained that TSM Management Committee and the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies are seeking the title change to reflect the broadness of the subject’s approach to the Middle East, where Judaism, Bible and Islam are naturally contextualized within the wider history and culture of the Middle East. The title change is seen as more attractive to applicants and reflects the current course content, as well as increasing interest in the Middle East. It will further distinguish Near and Middle Eastern Studies from “faith” based approaches. She reported that students and a number of second level teachers have provided very positive feedback in relation to the title change.

Decision

CL/17-18/165.iii.3: The Council approved the proposal to change the subject title of TSM Jewish and Islamic Civilisations to ‘Middle Eastern, Jewish and Islamic Civilisations’, effective from 2019/20.

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CL/17-18/166 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

SECTION B**CL/17-18/167 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew attention to the item USC/17-18/062(c) related to Leaving Certificate re-checks and Junior Fresh transfers. She explained that there is a need to revise the timeframe for the Junior Fresh transfers in light of the new academic year structure being introduced in 2018-19. The timeline for Junior Fresh transfers is linked to that of Leaving Certificate re-checks and no Junior Fresh transfers can take place until after the current admission season is closed as Leaving Certificate re-check candidates have priority over Junior Fresh transfers. In the current academic year structure, there are two transfer application windows in Michaelmas Term for students seeking to transfer into the Junior Fresh year of another course: the first window is currently the end of Week 3, the second window is currently the end of Week 8. Within the new academic year structure, Leaving Certificate re-checks will take place in Week 5 and admissions season will end in Week 6. The transfer window now needs to be realigned with this.

In order to enable internal Junior Fresh transfers to continue, the Undergraduate Studies Committee has approved a proposal that there be one transfer window only with applications due by end of Week 4 and the outcome communicated in Week 6. This will allow students to begin in their new course in Week 7.

The draft minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2018 were noted and approved.

Decision

167.1: The Council approved the proposal that there be one transfer window only for Junior Fresh transfers with applications due by end of Week 4 and the outcome communicated in Week 6 and students starting in their new course in Week 7.

CL/17-18/168 Graduate Studies Committee

The Dean of Graduate Studies drew attention to three items on the minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2018.

Referring to item GS/17-18/169, regarding changes to the process for postgraduate taught course approval, he explained that, in order to streamline the process, the Graduate Studies Committee had agreed two changes, whereby depending on the timing (i) the external review of a course proposal may take place before the course proposal comes to the Graduate Studies Committee or may be forwarded for external review at the same time of its circulation to the Graduate Studies Committee (rather than after Graduate Studies Committee, approval as is currently the case), (ii) Academic Registry will provisionally set up a course on the system as soon as it is approved by the Graduate Studies Committee with the course then going live on the day after it is approved by the Council.

Referring to item GS/17-18/171, regarding a proposal for a mandatory module on the structured PhD programme, he explained that it has been agreed by the Graduate Studies Committee that a new 5 ECTS structured PhD module on Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era will be made mandatory for all incoming PhD students from next year.

Referring to item GS/17-18/172, regarding the revised External Examiners Policy, which was also circulated to the Council, he explained that revision was required to the existing External Examiners Policy in response to requests from Schools seeking clarification on the College position in respect of remote attendance by external examiners at Courts of Examiners. The

Graduate Studies Committee approved the proposed changes to the policy noting that they would normally affect the supplemental and interim postgraduate courts of examiners.

The draft minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2018 were noted and approved.

Decisions

CL/17-18/168.1: The Council approved changes to the process for postgraduate taught course approval, as detailed above.

CL/17-18/168.2: The Council approved the proposal for a new mandatory 5 ECTS structured PhD module on Research Integrity and Impact in an Open Scholarship Era.

CL/17-18/168.3: The Council approved the revised External Examiners Policy as circulated.

CL/17-18/169 International Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting of 12 February 2018 were noted and approved.

CL/17-18/170 Quality Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2018 were noted and approved.

CL/17-18/171 Research Committee

The Dean of Research drew the Council's attention to agenda item RS/17-18/08 and reminded the Council that the strategic planning process is underway and welcomed input from members to inform the process.

The draft minutes of the meetings of 23 January 2018, deferred from Council meeting of 7 March 2018, and of 20 February 2018 were noted and approved.

CL/17-18/172 Student Life Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting of 7 February 2018 were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/17-18/173 Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, circulated, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 7 March 2018 and noted by Board on 28 March 2018.

Higher Degrees by Research Alone

PhD Seán Blake, Orla Maeve Convery, Lois Lee Dekkers, Tomas Gonzalez Fernandez, Adrian Gramps, Chaitra Jairaj, Milana Karayanidi, Keenan Lacey, Pierce Maguire, Seán McCluskey, Ilaria Meazzini, Aoife Marie O'Connor, Patrick Nwosa Okolo, Harrison Omorodion, Viola Previtali, Aurélia Anais Simone Rovetta, Saskia Ryan, Colm Shanahan, Clare Victoria Stead,

MSc Brendan Colin Hoare, Elaine Kelly, Brian Christopher O'Toole

CL/17-18/174 Transition to New Academic Structure – Supplemental and Special Examinations

The Council noted and approved the memorandum, circulated, from the Activity Lead, Assess, Progress and Graduation, Academic Registry, dated 9 March 2018.

CL/17-18/175 Consolidated List of External Examiners

The Council noted and approved the memorandum, circulated, from Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 4 April 2018.

CL/17-18/176 Headship of School

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Stephanie Holt to the Headship of the School of Social Work and Social Policy for a term of three years, from July 2018 to 1 July 2021.

CL/17-18/177 School Directors

The Council noted and approved the following:

- (i) nomination of Professor Agustin Bénétrix as Director of Research, School of Social Sciences & Philosophy, for the period 20 March 2018 – 30 June 2020.
- (ii) nomination of Dr Thomas Chadeaux as Director of Teaching & Learning (Postgraduate), School of Social Sciences & Philosophy, for the period 27 March 2018 – 30 June 2020.
- (iii) nomination of Professor John Saeed as Director of Teaching & Learning (Postgraduate), School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences, for the period July 2018 - May 2019;
- (iv) nomination of Dr Irene Walsh as Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences, for the period April 2018- May 2020 (first term).

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date