



**Incorporating any amendments made at subsequent Council meetings**

**XX = Board relevance**

**Trinity College Dublin  
The University of Dublin**

**A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 16 January 2019 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, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor D. Murchan, Professor S. Alyn Stacey, Professor D. Shepherd, Professor C. Kelly, Professor P. Wyse Jackson, Professor C. Gardiner, Professor S. Murphy, Professor E. Nualláin, Professor A.M. Brady, Professor M.Corry, Professor M. Clarke, Dr. S. Kerr, Ms. S. Cameron-Coen, Ms. A. Connolly, Ms. S.A. McCarthy, Ms. N. Hussaini, Mr. G. Falia.
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Vice-President for Global Relations, Professor Susan Murphy, Professor R.A. Kenny, Professor A. Long, Mr. S. Murray, Ms. S. Donnelly, Mr. R. Codd.
<i>In attendance</i>	Academic Secretary, Secretary to the College, Librarian and College Archivist, Director of Student Services, Assistant Academic Secretary  Mr. Shane De Rís, President of the Students' Union attended for item CL/18-19/093.
<i>Observers</i>	Ms. F. Ní Ghrálaigh

**SECTION A**

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary noted that three members of the Council (Professor M. Corry, Professor M. McCarron and Professor A.M. Brady) declared interest in item A.6, as they are members of the School of Nursing & Midwifery. Professor M McCarron as Dean will make a brief statement on the Review before absenting herself for the subsequent discussion. It was agreed that Professor A.M. Brady, as the Head of School, will follow this procedure. The Secretary noted that the Head of School had confirmed that Professor M. Corry is not affected by the review, and, as such, it was agreed that she would remain in the meeting for the presentation and discussion of the review.

**CL/18-19/084 Declaration**

A new member made the required statutory declaration.

The Provost welcomed Linda Darbey, Assistant Secretary (Academic Affairs) as minute secretary to Council.

**CL/18-19/085 Minutes**

An amendment was proposed under CL/18-19/051 part (ii) to the sentence *'She stated that SFI has now pledged €22m in overall funding for individual research in 2019 and that,'* to be replaced with *'SFI has pledged to focus on individual researchers in 2019. However, based on indicative SFI budgets the funding could be in the region of €22 million'.*

The minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 were approved and signed.

**CL/18-19/086 Matters Arising**

- (i) **CL/18-19/060.2:** In reference to the proposed changes to the admissions procedures for non-EU applicant language requirements the Academic Secretary advised that this would be ready for discussion at the February Council meeting.
- (ii) The Provost invited the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to advise on the status of UK students in Irish Universities following Brexit. The Vice-Provost stated that clarification from the Department of Education & Skills (DES) was received last week. Eligible UK students who enrol for eligible courses for the current 2019/20 academic year in a third level college recognised for the purposes of free fees and student grant purposes, will be eligible to avail of the Department's Free Fees and Student Grant Schemes. A decision has not yet been made concerning the status of UK students enrolling on postgraduate programmes. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that it is likely that the same approach will be employed as per undergraduate courses.

**CL/18-19/087 Provost's Report**

- (i) The Provost updated Council on his recent travels. He attended receptions for Trinity Alumni and Friends in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Perth), Singapore and Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) in October and November 2018. While in Australia, the Provost visited the University of Sydney and the University of Technology, Sydney. The Dean of Arts and Humanities, Sydney University, will visit Trinity in the near future and it is hoped that joint programmes can be developed between the two universities

The Provost advised that he visited the NTU (Nanyang Technological University) Singapore, where there are exchange agreements both way, and also visited the Singapore Institute of Technology, where Trinity, not only has a Student Exchange Agreement in place but also a joint degree. Existing Student Exchange Agreements were discussed with Singapore Management University (SMU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS). A meeting was held with the new President of the NTU to discuss research collaboration.

- (ii) The Provost stated that TCD had signed a foundational agreement for the Charm European University (Charm-EU) in Barcelona on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January. A bid for EU funding will be made under the theme 'Reconciling humanity with the planet' to establish a European University Alliance with four Universities – the University of Barcelona, Utrecht University, the University of Montpellier and the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. The Provost advised that if the bid were successful, the European Commission would fund the administration of the alliance and the participating universities could then begin a process of piloting some joint programmes at undergraduate or postgraduate level or agree mutual recognition of modules.
- (iii) The Provost reported that there were several trips to London in January 2019, as part of the philanthropic campaign.
- (iv) The Provost highlighted that there was a meeting of the LERU Rectors on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018. He also informed Council that he gave a State of College

Address on the 19<sup>th</sup> November to staff and student representatives highlighting Trinity's achievements, some of the challenges Trinity is facing, and the College's aspirations.

The Provost advised that the Philanthropy campaign, focusing on key capital projects across three areas - E3, the Library, the Trinity St James' Cancer Institute and the Law School - would be launched on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The Trinity St James' Cancer Institute is progressing well and the business planning phase should be ready by the end of the academic year. He reported that work on the Law School is also going well. The HEA has announced a capita-funding programme with which the Law School proposal is in line. TAP, College 21 and the Science Gallery are also part of Trinity's philanthropic campaign.

The Provost gave an update on the development of TTEC (Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus). A subcommittee has been set up to progress the project and will meet regularly over the next number of months.

- (v) He advised that the second Trinity Innovation Awards Ceremony was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018, and Professor of Computing Science, Vinnie Wade, was awarded the Provost Innovation Award for 2018.
- (vi) The Provost invited the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer to report on the Trinity Education Project (TEP). The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that the project is proceeding very well and noted that 22 Trinity Electives have already been approved with an additional three potential proposals for rollout in 2019/20. Curriculum mapping for the four years of every programme is almost completed and will be assessed to ensure alignment with the programme architecture. As part of curriculum mapping, programmes have approved open modules for their programmes. A timetabling policy is being developed and will be going to TEP Logistics, TEP Steering, USC, GSC and Council for consideration.

The Vice Provost advised that systems are being built to facilitate online enrolment for Trinity Electives in 2019/20. Online enrolment will be rolled out for all optional modules from 2020/21.

#### **CL/18-19/088 Living Research Excellence Strategy**

The Dean of Research presented the (i) Research Excellence Strategy and (ii) the Research Charter to Council. She reported that the process of developing the Strategy began in January 2018, and started with an informal consultation on exploring principles that would underpin the research. The idea to have a two-phased approach emerged – a Charter for Principles and a Research Excellence Strategy.

Phase I began with the building of the Charter and included a SWOT analysis, 60 meetings were held with schools and fellows, and she received feedback from individual officers and the Executive Officers Group (EOG). This feedback led to a Research Charter, which is based on seven principles, namely:

- i. Cherish academic freedom, diversity of scholarship and pursuit of truth.
- ii. Position research at the heart of Trinity
- iii. Foster and grow research talent and leadership
- iv. Harness our collective expertise for the greater good
- v. Broaden the local and global impact we make
- vi. Engage profoundly with our publics
- vii. Stand up for research.

Phase 2 concerned creating the Living Research Excellence Strategy. This involved mapping of principles and high-level goals to actions; classification and group of actions and analysis. There were extensive discussions and input at research committee, small focus groups, individual inputs, student and EOG inputs, which culminated in the development of a series of drafts.

The output is the Research Excellence Strategy which is based on actions in six areas, namely:

- i. Stimulate and build research collaborations
- ii. Make it easier to do research
- iii. Generate the research funding and resources needed
- iv. Radically revising how we do research communications
- v. Join the dots on all policy relating to our research
- vi. Be bold in thinking about our long term research future.

The Strategy, which is a dynamic one, will be available in a number of languages and in sign language.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Research for her presentation and invited comments from the Council.

A number of members welcomed the Strategy, which they felt was an excellent document. An observation was made in relation to Principle 2 that the workload model is not uniformly implemented, which has resulted in some staff's research outputs being adversely affected. The Dean of Research acknowledged the concern and drew the Council's attention to the section on actions, which addresses the issues of time and workload. She advised that there is a potential for Schools to learn from one another, build on each School's experiences and to identify enablers and protect 'time', especially the time of people working in clinical areas.

The Librarian and College Archivist welcomed the Strategy and commended the level of consultation. She felt that the Strategy should highlight more what distinguishes Trinity from other Irish universities. The Library and the Science Gallery are distinguishing factors that feed into learning and, in particular, research.

Another member referring to section 2(2.2) commented that there is a need to support retired staff who are still very active in research and who have a huge contribution to make. The Dean of Research agreed, and stated that those who have retired are invaluable in terms of supporting the achievement of research goals especially, for example, through ERC advanced awards. She also commented that she will explore setting up a retired researchers network.

In response to a query on the shelf-life of the Strategy and Charter and how often they need to be updated, the Dean of Research advised that this is something she will need to consider and added that it is her view that one can never stop standing up for research.

Additional feedback from members acknowledged the excellence of the document and the need to reflect on the Strategy in the context of the development of the new Trinity Strategic Plan. It was suggested that teaching and ethics need to be more upfront and central since research informs teaching, and teaching needs to inform how students do research.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Research and all the staff involved for the excellent work and for the Dean's comprehensive presentation.

## **XX Decision**

**CL/18-19/088.1:** Council approved the Research and Excellence Strategy and the Charter, which will be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**CL/18-19/089 Quality Review of the School of Nursing and Midwifery**

The Provost introduced the item and invited the Dean of Health Sciences and the Head of School to comment on the review report before leaving the meeting for this item. The Dean of Health Sciences expressed her appreciation to the international experts for their report and recommendations. The Report highlights many issues for careful consideration, which the School finds very helpful at this critical juncture in its development. The International Experts endorsed the effort of staff in providing an excellent teaching and research environment for students. The School of Nursing and Midwifery is one of the younger Schools in the University and is ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in the world. It is now time for the School to reflect on the challenges of increasing the School's world rankings.

The Dean of Health Sciences acknowledged the challenging environment in which the School operates, with budget and space concerns, growing external demands, and the need to integrate and build partnerships. Space is a challenge facing the School and space demands have increased due to demands on the undergraduate curriculum from TEP activity, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) requirements, and an increase in postgraduate numbers. She commented that the location of senior Principal Investigators (PIs) off site is not ideal for the development of a research culture, and there is an urgent need to create a space to house all staff within one location.

The Head of School welcomed the Report and the reviewers' acknowledgement that the School is a leading institution for nursing and midwifery education and research in Ireland. The process of the Review itself was very helpful and provided opportunities for reflection and discussion within the School. The Report will inform strategic planning for the coming years so that the School can maintain and improve on its success. She highlighted the challenges of limited space, managing research activity and growth, and the need to consider the balance between undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. She also drew Council's attention to a recognised deficit in the growth of nursing and midwifery professionals at PhD level. In response to a query on this, she advised that there is pressure from the professions to consolidate their professional practices, and there are no academic clinical pathways in Nursing and Midwifery, unlike medicine for example. The School will seek to explore a career progression model and funding that attracts current students/nurses and midwives to register for PhDs.

The Dean of Health Sciences and the Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery left the Council meeting for this item.

The Dean of Graduate Studies joined the meeting (12pm).

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained that the Review took place last March and that the External Reviewers included Professor John Baker from the University of Leeds, Professor Debbie Marie Carrick-Sen from the University of Birmingham, and Professor Patricia M. Davidson from John Hopkins University. The Review Team was invited to review and make recommendations to the University on the quality of the School's education provision specifically on (i) the School strategy on its fitness-for-purpose to respond to College Strategies; (ii) the quality and academic standards of the curriculum that underpin the delivery of postgraduate programmes and postdoctoral development; (iii) the quality of the School's learning resources and environment; (iv) the quality of the School's research strategy and (v) the effectiveness of the School's governance, management and administration structures and resources.

The review report highlights a number of key challenges facing the School, which includes: limited space for the growth of the School; aligning the School research themes with the College research themes; strategic management of the growth of the School; funding to support clinician-led research, the recruitment of two Chairs, and support for the advancement of nurses and midwives in the profession to PhD level.

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The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer continued that the reviewers made a number of high-level recommendations relating to student profile, space, central administrative processes, and research.

The Reviewers recommend that the School '*... consider the balance between undergraduate and postgraduate teaching missions as well as close competitor analysis domestically...*' The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the growth over the last decade has been significant and to put this in context he noted that in 2008, there were five PhD students and there are now 46. He indicated that he supports the need for a balance between undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and recommended that this be addressed in the School's Implementation Plan.

Referring to the recommendation on research, he commented that the School has developed a research culture very quickly and there is a need now to employ a cross disciplinary approach to integrate this research culture into the wider College research culture. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer concluded that while the recommendations in themselves are not highly specific, the report itself shows that that given the School's rapid growth trajectory in numbers and research, the School now needs to consolidate and think more strategically.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer recommended the report to Council and advised that as part of the quality process the School will be required to develop an implementation plan. The Quality Committee would specifically look for the specifics that will map out how the School will calibrate undergraduate and postgraduate mix and how they propose to develop a research strategy that will take the School to the next level.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for the presentation, and invited comments from Council members. A number of questions and observations were raised including, whether there are Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in place; the importance of supporting staff with their research; the need for more strategic leadership in the School itself; and the absence of any comparative data or figures to support the observations made.

There was discussion on the importance of having more strategic leadership, especially in research, within the School. The School would benefit from having more collaborative research and development of programmes from research. Council noted that a number of Chair appointments were in process, and it was suggested that the recruitment process should seek to identify candidates with the necessary knowledge, skills and competences in leadership and research that can support staff and bring the School to another level. It was agreed that the selection process should identify those candidates not only with a good record of accomplishment in research and publishing but also in leadership. Selection methodologies could include presentations on these qualities at interviews as well as direct questions from the panel on how the candidates propose to lead the School in their area of research. It was also suggested that selection of candidates might include candidates spending time in the School to meet staff. A member suggested that there could be more focus on recruiting staff who can contribute across cognate research themes and that the Dean of Research could have a role to play in this process.

In terms of driving research forward, a member highlighted the need for a good research governance document with managerial oversight by the Dean of Research and the Head of Schools. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that building projects such as the new Business School will open up more on-campus space and provide opportunities for students from across disciplines to share space. This, together with other initiatives such as a fixed timetabling system, should help to alleviate some of the issues around the availability of space.

The Provost highlighted that the reviewers assume that the School will continue to grow, and given the fact that the School already makes up almost 10% of the student population, perhaps this assumption should be questioned. He felt that bigger is not necessarily better and worried

that strategic development in Schools generally is happening in isolation of approval processes and independent of the University. Members noted that the Reviewers did not address the rapid growth in student numbers and there was an underlying assumption that this growth would continue. It was further noted that the University has finite resources and it is not in the interest of students and staff that growth is allowed to happen without deliberation.

The meeting discussed the difficulties that the School encounters with the demands of the Health Services Executive (HSE) and the ability of College systems to respond to these. It was commented that the School is in a competitive environment and undergraduate numbers are determined by the HSE. The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that the School is under huge pressure from the HSE to take in students and to run programmes that have difficulties operating within College regulations thus presenting a problem for the Academic Registry.

Responding to the issues raised the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer commented that there is a good opportunity now to get School plans to align with the University Strategic Plan. He agreed with members that Strategic Plans should pay attention to student numbers and that the school strategy and the College strategies should align. While the Review failed to comment on the optimal size of the School, the Report opens up an opportunity for reflection on the greater integration of School and College level strategies. He advised that the School would be asked to respond to these issues in their Implementation Plan.

The Provost in conclusion stressed the importance of quality reviews providing constructive criticism in their assessment of a unit under review. He closed the discussion on this item and requested that the School's Implementation Plan address the issues raised at Council.

#### **Decision**

**CL/18-19/089.1:** The Council approved the Review Report and requested that the School also address in the Implementation Plan the issues raised in the Council discussion.

The Dean of Health Sciences and the Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery returned to the meeting.

#### **CL/18-19/090 Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE): Postgraduate Research (PR) Report**

The Provost advised that this was a deferred item from the last Council meeting. He invited the Dean of Students to present the item.

The Dean of Students indicated that he would take the Report as read. For the purposes of the research, participating Institutions were grouped according to student numbers i.e. <250 students or >250 students. Trinity fell into the latter group. All questions were organised under eleven domains. The findings can be analysed by School, however, it was agreed with the HEA not to publish findings where there are less than ten students in a School as it would be possible to identify these students.

In terms of the highest motivations reported for pursuing postgraduate studies, students across Faculties reported the following motivations:

- An interest in the subject (AHSS: 67%; FEMS: 60%; HS: 56%)
- Improving prospects for Academic/Research Career in HEI (AHSS: 50%; FEMS: 28%; HS: 32%)
- Improving prospects for Career outside Academia/Research (FEMS: 35.4%; HS: 31.6%; AHSS: 13.5%).

Funding sources for PhD students varied across Faculties with 41% of students from AHSS self-funding; 41% of FEMS students reliant on research grants and 20% of HS students reliant on employer funding. AHSS students report problems with resources such as computing resources, travel, and a dedicated workspace. Twenty-seven percent of AHSS students cite financial reasons for considering withdrawal. In terms of students' overall experiences there was a good overall

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research experience reported (AHSS: 66%; FEMS: 69%; HS: 79%). Of concern was the fact that 10% of students from AHSS considered a transfer to another Institution.

In terms of differentiating factors, 69% of students report have access to one supervisor with only 47% of students reporting opportunities to be involved in the wider research community beyond their department. Only 57% of students know who to approach with academic concerns other than their supervisor.

The ISSE PRG pilot reflects other Trinity-specific PGR surveys in terms of issues raised such as PGR workspaces, library issues, induction and orientation, and supports and training for teaching assistants. There are a number of initiatives in place to address these issues including innovation and entrepreneurship training, a research integrity module, and a PGR Handbook that has recently been published. There is a need for students to engage with the Careers Service early on and for tailored career-development opportunities.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Students for his presentation and asked how the findings compare to the findings from the undergraduate research, which he felt were poor. The Dean of Students commented that while the findings were slightly better, the fact that 34% of respondents rated their experiences of the University as fair/poor was worrying and this did not compare favourably with other Institutions.

A member noted that the supervision experience had a high rating, which was a positive finding. The Dean of Graduate Studies informed Council that structured PhD modules are now in SITS, which makes it easier for students to register to a range of modules. He also noted that his office intends to email information on social events to PhD students once a month. He further noted that the single supervision model can be an isolating experience for students and that he has established a working group to consider how to address this.

In response to a suggestion that a document describing supports should be made available to students, the Dean of Students drew attention to the newly published Handbook for PG students as well as specific supports for students accessing the Career Service. Referring to Teaching Assistants, he advised that an online module was developed by CAPSL last year in response to findings in the Trinity survey of PhD students and School reviews. He advised that a high number of PhD students are registered on this module.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Students for his presentation and ended the discussion.

#### **CL/18-19/091    PhD and Publications**

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposed Calendar Part III changes to Council. The changes relate to PhD theses that contain or will contain papers that are jointly authored. He reported that there is a conflict at present between paragraph 107(b) in the Calendar regarding the declaration made by a student and paragraph 44. Paragraph 107(b) states: the *'case of a thesis for which the work has been carried out jointly; the declaration must have a statement that it includes the unpublished and/or published work of others, duly acknowledged in the text wherever included'*. Paragraph 44 states that *'A doctoral thesis must show evidence of rigour and discrimination, appreciation of the relationship of the subject to a wider field of knowledge/scholarship, and make an appreciable, original contribution to knowledge; it should show originality in the methods used and/or conclusions drawn, and must be clear, concise, well written and orderly and must be a candidate's own work'*.

The Dean of Graduate Studies stated that in some disciplines it is the norm for research papers to be jointly authored. A thesis can be original despite the inclusion of jointly authored research papers, and that reference to jointly authored research papers should be permitted. Furthermore, he added that this is standard practice in all Irish Universities and reflects global best practice, for instance, it is standard practice in many other LERU universities. He added that to facilitate examiners in their assessment of independence and original contribution, the



student must outline at the beginning of such chapters the exact nature of their contribution to the research. If Council accepts the proposed changes, the Graduate Studies Committee will review correspondence for external examiners on the matter.

The Provost thanked the Dean for bringing forward the revision.

#### **Decision**

**CL/18-19/091.1:** Council approved the recommendations from the Working Group on PhD and Publications and the proposed Calendar III changes.

#### **CL/18-19/092 Postgraduate Course Proposals**

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented Council with two postgraduate course proposals for approval:

##### **(i) Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Enterprise Development**

The Dean of Graduate Studies drew Council's attention to an error in the documentation, noting that the Postgraduate Certificate is a Special Purpose Award and not a Major Award as indicated. It is HEA funded and offered to EU students only. The programme is a blended programme delivered over 20 weeks. There are three modules, two of which are delivered online. The student intake will be from 36-90 students and there will be an intake in March. It will be offered to students who are graduates with a level 8 honours degree or equivalent as it involves upskilling. The Review of the programme was very positive.

##### **(ii) MSc in Implementation Science**

Introducing this item, the Dean of Graduate Studies outlined that there is a clear market demand for a Masters course in Implementation Science. There is no other such course in Ireland at present. The aim of the course is to equip students with the research and practical skills necessary to design, implement and evaluate policies, programmes and interventions that lead to a sustained improvement in health and social care services. This course is a result of cross-School collaboration with the School of Medicine taking ownership of the course. It will be offered over one-year full time or two years part-time and will be face-to-face. There are academic and professional components to the programme. It will be delivered as three-day blocks each month and will be based in the Institute of Population Health in Tallaght. There is an exit Postgraduate Diploma available and the review of the course was very positive.

#### **Decisions**

**CL/18-19/092.i.1:** Council approved the proposal for a Postgraduate Certificate programme in Innovation and Enterprise Development leading to the award of a Special Purpose Certificate.

**CL/18-19/092.ii.1:** Council approved the proposal for a course in Implementation Science leading to an award of MSc in Implementation with an exit award of P.Grad.Dip.

#### **CL/18-19/093 Creating Opportunities for those in Direct Provision**

The Provost welcomed the TCDSU President Shane De Rís to the meeting. The TCDSU thanked Council for the opportunity to present the memorandum on Creating Opportunities for those in Direct Provision. He explained that Direct Provision was introduced as an 'emergency measure' in 1999 to cope with an increase in applications for asylum in Ireland. It was intended originally to house those seeking protection for an interim of six months while they waited a decision on their application.

The TCD SU President reported that since July 2018 there were 5,446 people housed in the Direct Provision system, of which 1,500 are under the age of 18. Two hundred and nineteen are of secondary school age and these students are subject to non-EU fees as they are not entitled to free third level education. In 2019, approximately 44 students will take the Leaving Certificate examination.

The TCD SU President highlighted that TCD is doing excellent work in relation to broadening access and entry for marginalised groups in society through programmes such as TAP. There is an opportunity for TCD to lead the way by creating opportunities for Direct Provision students taking the Leaving Certificate.

The Provost thanked the TCDSU President for his presentation and invited discussion.

A number of members made comments in support of an initiative and how best to do this within funding constraints. The Librarian and College Archivist highlighted the role of the library system in providing information, language literacy and book clubs, and experience in working on these areas with refugee students. There was a discussion of funding and how best to address the needs of Direct Provision students. There was a consensus that providing scholarships would not be sufficient in addressing the additional funding needs of these students, due to a paltry weekly allowance they receive but that it was important to start with the fees issue. It was highlighted that perhaps the researchers at risk initiative could be of benefit, as the EU is very supportive of these approaches. Another possibility raised was the University providing employment opportunities to Direct Provision students.

It was agreed that this is a social justice issue and some creativity is needed to address operational issues. The University needs to reflect on and change its procedures and structures to accommodate Direct Provision students. It was further agreed that the University could potentially fund four students a year initially, and then explore ways in which the maintenance fees could be addressed. The SU President suggested that Alumni might have a role in making a contribution. The Provost indicated that the bigger courses, Engineering, Science, and Nursing, for example, could be encouraged to take on a student each.

#### **Decision**

**CL/18-19/093.1:** Council agreed that a small working group be established to make recommendations on supporting potential students in Direct Provision attend courses at Trinity.

The Provost thanked the TCD SU President for his presentation.

The TCD SU President left the meeting.

#### **CL/18-19/094 Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no AOB.

### **SECTION B**

#### **CL/18-19/095 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew Council's attention to five items in the minutes of the meeting of 11 December 2017.

**USC/18-19/032:** The USC approved the introduction of the proposed Further Education & Training (FET) entry routes for candidates from FET cognate courses into Law (five candidates), Global Business (one candidate), and BESS (twelve candidates) to commence in 2019/20.

**USC/18-19/032:** The USC approved Maths for STEM as a Higher Leaving Certificate equivalent for the purpose of alternative entry routes by the School of Mathematics, the School of Engineering and the School of Computer Science and Statistics.

**USC/18-19/034:** The Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) Report (2017-18) was discussed at length by the USC and in particular the statistical reliability of the data. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies emphasised the need to consider the opportunity to

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engage with students on their experience of Trinity and to explore the issues arising in the Report. The action agreed at the USC meeting was for the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Academic Secretary to consult on a proposal on how key issues identified in the report be addressed.

**USC/18-19/035:** The USC approved a derogation from the School of Nursing and Midwifery to the progression and awards regulations. The derogation concerns students, repeating the year off-books for the purpose of assessment, who are required to repeat a module with clinical and theoretical components, that they repeat only the failed component as appropriate. Where a student has failed both components, they would be expected to repeat the module in full.

**USC/18-19/037:** Three Trinity Elective proposals for approval for rollout in 2019/20 and three for rollout in 2020/21 were approved by USC. Three of the proposals were under the research theme category and three under key societal challenges and languages.

#### **Decisions**

**CL/18-19/095.1:** Council approved the proposal on the introduction of FET entry routes for candidates from FET cognate courses to commence in 2019/20.

**CL/18-19/095.2:** Council approved Maths for STEM as a Higher Leaving Certificate equivalent for the purpose of alternative entry routes by the School of Mathematics, the School of Engineering, and the School of Computer Science and Statistics.

**CL/18-19/095.3:** Council approved a derogation to the progression and awards regulations from the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

**CL/18-19/095.4:** Council noted the proposed Trinity Elective proposals.

The minutes of the meeting of 11 December 2018 were noted and approved.

#### **CL/18-19/096 Graduate Studies Committee**

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that there were no issues arising for Council consideration. In response to a query from the Provost, he reported that the Committee had some discussion of the Report of the Irish Survey of Student Engagement Postgraduate Research Survey Pilot 2017/18 but the focus of the discussion was on additional questions for the next iteration of the survey.

The minutes of the meeting of the 6 December 2018 were noted and approved.

#### **CL/18-19/097 International Committee**

##### **Decision**

**CL/18-19/097.1:** In the absence of the Vice-President Global Relations, the minutes of the International Committee from the meeting of 10 December 2018 were deferred to the next Council meeting for approval.

#### **CL/18-19/098 Research Committee**

The Dean of Research advised that there were no issues to raise.

The minutes of the meeting of 13 November 2018 were noted and approved.

**SECTION C**

**CL/18-19/099 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 28 November 2018 and noted by Board on 12 December 2018.

**Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

**MD** Sarah O’Connell

**Ph.D.** Olaf Hugo Almqvist; Nigel Carroll; Suzanne Helène Foy; Victor Hrymak; Brian Keegan; Adam Kelly; Tara Kelly; Kathryn Ann Lambe; Marco Lazzarino; Shane Ó’Meachair; Anne Thompson; Michael James Wallace; William Whyte; Johnny Wilkins.

**D. Ch. Dent** David McReynolds

**CL/18-19/100 Burkitt Medal Award Selection Committee 2019**

The Council noted and approved the memorandum from the Provost dated 8 January 2019.

**CL/18-19/101 Course Director for the Bachelor in Social Studies Course**

The Council noted that Dr Stephanie Holt will act as Course Director for the Bachelor in Social Studies course from 21 January 2019 to 1 July 2019.

**CL/18-19/102 International Committee**

The Council considered and approved the memorandum from the Director of Internationalisation dated 11 January 2019.

**SECTION D**

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts this information is restricted

Signed .....

Date .....