



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 Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 9am remotely and hosted from the Provost's Library.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Research, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor D. Murchan, Professor S. Alyn Stacey, Professor D. Shepherd, Professor M Monaghan, Professor M. Ruffini, Professor R.A. Kenny, Professor A.M. Brady, Professor M. Clarke, Professor M. Corry, Professor A. Long, Ms. D. Kelleher, Ms N. McCay, Ms. E. Black, Ms G. Scanlon.
<i>Apologies</i>	Professor C. Kelly, Dr. S. Kerr, Mr. D. O'Reilly, Ms. I. Lis, Dr. A. Guha, Mr. D. Ringis, Librarian and College Archivist.
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Director of Student Services, Assistant Academic Secretary, Ms. A. Crawford, Ms S. Brown.
<i>Observers</i>	Mr F. Frank.

SECTION A

The Provost welcomed everyone to Council. He requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary to the College noted that there were conflicts of interest reported in relation to item 7 'Quality Review of the School of Medicine'. He reported that it was agreed that the Dean of Health Sciences would make a statement on the item and leave the meeting for discussion of the item and that as the Vice-President for Global Relations, Professor R.A. Kenny and Professor A. Long have no direct role in relation to the item, it is recommended that they remain at the meeting.

CL/19-20/203 Minutes

The minutes of 3 June 2020 with the amended wording under item CL/19-20/190 'School Directors' were approved and signed. The Secretary to the College advised that the amended wording was due to errors on the agenda in relation to item 24, and the changes are as follows:

- (ii) '2022' changed to '2020'
- (iii) '2022' changed to '2020'
- (vii) 'the word 'one' changed to 'two'
- (x) the sentence 'Professor Stefan Sint as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Mathematics, for a further one-year term to end on 31 May 2021' replaced with 'Professor Stefan Sint as Director of Research, School of Mathematics, for a one-year term commencing 1 June 2020'.

CL/19-20/204 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

Professor. A.M. Brady joined the meeting.

CL/19-20/205 Progression Rules at Reassessment Session

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained that the purpose of the memorandum was to clarify the rules for progression in the reassessment session in 2020 in light of the safety-net measures applied during the COVID-19 crisis. He reminded Council that on 8 April 2020 it had approved a range of safety-net measures in relation to assessment, which were designed to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on students' academic performance and progression. One of the measures, he explained, was the introduction of aggregation for modules assessed in the second semester. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that a question had since arisen on whether the policy applies also to modules assessed in the reassessment session. He advised that this was not intended, due to students being offered the option of deferring exams until the reassessment session. He noted that the aggregation policy was put in place for students choosing to proceed with assessments in the second semester session. Applying the policy to the reassessment session, he added, would result in a double accommodation, hence it was proposed that the normal compensation rules for progression would apply at the reassessment session. Students who chose to defer to the reassessment session, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained, will do so as their first attempt and can avail of a second attempt as an exceptional measure should they fail and be unable to compensate any modules. He highlighted that it is proposed that second attempt assessments will be held in a session running from 21-25 September 2020.

Decision:

CL/19-20/205.1: Council noted the clarification that the introduction of aggregation for modules assessed in the second semester would not apply to modules assessed in the reassessment session and approved that second attempt assessments be held in a session running from 21-25 September 2020.

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science joined the meeting.

CL/19-20/206 Quality Review of the School of Medicine

XX

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised Council that the Quality Review of the School of Medicine was undertaken from 3-5 February 2020, and that he was presenting the recommendations of the Review Team to Council for consideration and approval. The Review Team, he advised, comprised, Professor Peter Clayton, The University of Manchester, UK; Professor Pamela B. Davis, Case Western Reserve University, USA; Professor Richard Trembath, King's College London, UK; Professor Moira Whyte, University of Edinburgh, UK; and Professor L. Trevor Young, University of Toronto, Canada. The focus of the review was on the governance structures of the School, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised, explaining that the Review Team was asked to specifically review the:

1. Appropriateness of the School's Governance structures and resourcing in terms of managing the School's undergraduate and postgraduate courses, its research mission and its ability to deliver plans for research and educational development, diversification of education provision, current contracted relationships and new international engagement.
2. Fitness-for-purpose of the School Governance and Management structures to deliver the School Mission and Strategy and respond to Faculty and College structures and strategies; the internal and external environment and emergent

risks and opportunities nationally and internationally.

The Review Team, he noted, commended the School of Medicine in several areas as follows:

- Outstanding leadership from past and present Heads of School and a collegial group of academic and professional staff.
- Impressive quality and commitment of the leaders in physiotherapy, occupational and radiation therapy.
- The physical environment for pre-clinical teaching, with the Panel particularly impressed with the anatomy facilities.
- TCD School of Medicine's research reputation in areas such as immunology.
- The USSHER scheme for tenure track positions is an excellent model for future investments.
- Successes in other cross-Faculty initiatives, and recognition that the Institutes provide a model for building interdisciplinary research and critical mass to a level that will be internationally competitive.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer drew attention to the Quality Committee's considerations of the report and recommendations on 20 May 2020, where it noted that the reviewers' recommendations in respect of undergraduate and postgraduate provision are made in the broad context of governance, and that some of the recommendations, if implemented, would set an unwelcome precedent that would challenge the Faculty and School governance structure.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer presented the ten recommendations and the Provost opened the item for discussion.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that the report was positive overall and that while the Quality Committee felt the recommendations made sense it noted that a number of the recommendations, such as the representation of the Head of School on hospital Boards and on governance structures of College, would present a number of challenges.

The Dean of Health Sciences welcomed the report and thanked all involved in facilitating the review of the School of Medicine, especially the Review Team and the internal facilitator, Professor Jane Ohlmeyer. She noted that the Panel was tasked with examining the hierarchical structure within the School, observing that some of the recommendations presented were beyond the scope of the remit of the review. The recommendations with respect to governance, if implemented, are likely to have wider implications for College and are difficult to implement and deliver within the context of the current restrictions on new posts and considering that the School of Medicine Business Plan is under review. Referring to the recommendation on the expanded role of the Head of School, she advised that this was of concern as the additional responsibilities and tasks may render the post impracticable for future incumbents who may wish to retain a clinical time commitment. In terms of the School organisation, the Dean of Health Sciences acknowledged the complex organisational structure within the School and the need to streamline the administrative scaffolding that underpins activity. She stated that there would be a need for ongoing discussion and consultation with the School Executive and with the disciplines to support a progression to any new structure.

The Dean of Health Sciences left the meeting for the duration of further discussion on this item.

The Provost invited comments and questions.

Members raised concerns relating to the recommendation on a change of title from 'Head of School' to 'Dean' and the inclusion of the Head of School in the senior leadership of the College, as this may create a precedent and result in a two-tiered School system creating an imbalance across Schools and a demand for increased

representation at senior management level. Concern was expressed on the recommendation that the Head of School be appointed to the Boards of key hospital partners and it was observed that Trinity already has elected representatives on hospital Boards. A member noted that the recommendation on streamlining internal structures within the School of Medicine would require extensive consultation as the proposals were submitted to the Review Team prior to agreement with the School Executive Committee. Concern was expressed that the review report and recommendations may be biased towards the discipline of Medicine as there doesn't appear to be any account of the allied disciplines within the School of Medicine. Given the complexity, size and diversity of disciplines within the School of Medicine, it was argued that any restructuring of disciplines should proceed slowly and in a democratic way.

Referring to the recommendation on the restructuring of clinical lecturer posts to ensure a more appropriate balance between research opportunities and support for teaching and clinical work, a member noted that this would present challenges for the School due to its dependency on clinical lecturers for teaching duties. The member acknowledged that work on the clinical USSHER posts could be advanced as this was not undertaken previously.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer in referring to recommendation 7 and the elevation of the Head of School to a Dean with membership of the College Planning Group, highlighted that discussions with the Review Team had revealed that it is practice for Heads of Schools of Medicine in other universities to be Deans, and that Schools of Medicine do have Faculty status in a number of universities. He noted that a title does not necessarily have to come with enhanced powers and representation on senior committees. In his capacity as Chair of the Planning Group, he stated that he did not see the need for the Head of School to be represented on the Planning Group and advised that the Head of School is already a member of the Executive Officers' Group (EOG). A member confirmed that the Head of School of Medicine in other jurisdictions often carries the title 'Dean' and Trinity is out of step with other colleges, however, she noted that existing responsibilities of a Head of School are extensive and difficult to execute fully, and the additional responsibilities of being a member of external Boards would add to an already heavy workload.

Referring to recommendation 2, the Provost clarified that only the College Board can nominate Trinity representatives to the hospital Boards and he noted that these representatives, namely, Professor Hussey and Long, are coincidentally also members of Council. He noted that the Head of School of Medicine can attend a Board meeting as an observer and that this has occurred on occasions. A member highlighted that it would not be appropriate for the Head of School to be represented on one hospital Board only, noting that the Head of School would be representing a discipline rather than Trinity as an institution.

In response to a query raised by the Provost on whether the Review Team explored the curriculum, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer clarified that this was not the case, as the curriculum was not part of the remit of the review. He noted that there were recommendations relating to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and that these were in line with the recommendations made by the Medical Council in 2018/19. The Vice-President for Global Relations advised that the allied disciplines were reviewed by CORU in 2018/19, the regulator of Health and Social Care Professionals.

Speaking to recommendation 7, the Provost highlighted that there was a consensus that it would not be appropriate for the School of Medicine to be established as a Faculty, and that as the Dean of Health Sciences has oversight on Board there is not a need for the Head of School to be a member of Board. The Provost in noting the recommendation that the position of Head of School be strengthened through recognition as Dean (or other title) emphasised that any change in title would be cosmetic only and would not result in additional responsibilities.

In relation to recommendation 3 on the review and restructuring of postgraduate taught

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

programmes, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that significant work had already been undertaken on the streamlining of postgraduate programmes, and the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that recommendation 3 would fall under the remit of the postgraduate reform committed to in the *Trinity Strategic Plan 2020-25*.

In summarising the Council's discussion on the recommendation "To strengthen the position of the Head of School through recognition as Dean (or other title) and inclusion in the senior leadership of the College", the Provost noted that there is no appetite for the School of Medicine to become a separate Faculty and for the Head of School to take on an executive role of Dean. These changes would not be consistent with existing College governance structures. However, it was felt that a cosmetic change of title to align with other Schools of Medicine and for external purposes only should be considered.

Referring to Recommendation 1, concerning the appointment of a Director of Medical Education, it was noted that if approved by Council, the position would have to be placed within the agreed School Governance structure. It was noted that the School already has a Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning and a Director of Teaching and Learning, Postgraduate and that the relationship with these roles would need to be considered.

In relation to recommendation 3 on the review and restructuring of postgraduate taught programmes, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that significant work had already been undertaken on the streamlining of postgraduate programmes, and the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that recommendation 3 would fall under the remit of the postgraduate reform committed to in the *Trinity Strategic Plan 2020-25*.

Speaking to recommendation 6, the Dean of Research highlighted that there is a strong focus on research in the School of Medicine and that research in the School is particularly feeding into the cancer and ageing themes. The cancer strand has progressed a lot, even since the School was reviewed. These research themes are part of the School's natural evolution in this space. The Provost affirmed the good work that is already happening in the School of Medicine on research.

The Provost in speaking to recommendation 10 that the international reputation of the School of Medicine is strong but could be at risk from falling rankings, noted that the QS World University Ranking 2021 has ranked Trinity as 101 in the World. The Dean of Research confirmed that Trinity has moved up from 108th place to 101st place.

The Provost asked Council to consider and make recommendations on each of the ten recommendations of the external reviewers.

Decisions/Actions:

CL/19-20/206.1: Council noted Recommendation 1 that "The Head of School should appoint a Director of Medical Education to lead the MBChB programme. This post should be of sufficient duration to implement and embed a revised curriculum across all five years with the postholder to be supported by a dedicated team," and requested that a proposal on the role of the Director of Medical Education be developed in conjunction with the Dean of Health Sciences and presented to Council at a future date. The proposal should show how the position fits within the School governance and the relationship with existing executive roles within the school.

CL/19-20/206.2: Council did not approve Recommendation 2 that "the profile of medical and health professional education will be significantly enhanced by the Head of School representing the College on Boards of key hospital partners. Specifically, that the Provost nominate the Head of School to the Board of St. James' and other hospital partners in this academic year".

CL/19-20/206.3: Council approved Recommendation 3 that "The postgraduate taught programmes should be reviewed and restructured, to develop a smaller number of pathways with greater shared teaching and increased resilience" and noted the recommendation that that "Increased funding for postgraduate research students is needed".

CL/19-20/206.4: Council noted Recommendation 4 that “...facilities for clinical skills and simulation need to be developed” and invited the Head of School to develop a strategy to address this.

CL/19-20/206.5: Council noted Recommendation 5 that “There is a need to build capacity across the School of Medicine. In particular, there is a need for review of clinical lecturer posts to ensure competitiveness, an increase in research-focused clinical academic training positions and support for new tenure-track basic science pathways, e.g. USSHER lectureship scheme” and invited the Head of School to bring forward recommendations on how to achieve this within the School’s budget.

CL/19-20/206.6: Council approved Recommendation 6 that the School “... focus priority research themes within the School of Medicine and align and engage with the hospital partners e.g. as in the current cancer initiative.”

CL/19-20/206.7: Council did not approve Recommendation 7 “To strengthen the position of the Head of School through recognition as Dean (or other title) and inclusion in the senior leadership of the College. There is precedent with the Dean of the Dental School and the Dean of the Business School. The Head of School (Dean) needs to be a member of the College Planning Group”.

The Dean of Health Science is requested to conduct a comparative analysis of other leading Medical Schools and make a recommendation to Council on a change of title for external purposes only. The title of Dean, if recommended, should not be “Dean of Medicine” but of the Medical School.

CL/19-20/206.8: Council noted Recommendation 8 that “The internal structures of the School of Medicine should be streamlined, but with further consultation to ensure the balance between academic autonomy and improved administration. This should allow delegation of some tasks from the Head of School” and requested that the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences undertake a further analysis of internal School structures, in consultation with the Head of School and senior staff in the School of Medicine, on the streamlining of internal structures of the School and report to Council on the findings.

CL/19-20/206.9: Council noted Recommendation 9 that the School “... strengthen educational and research programmes and opportunities for international students, the relationship between the College and the key hospitals need to be further enhanced. This will require increased recognition and support of hospital staff teaching within the School of Medicine programmes” and requested the Dean of the Faculty and the Head of School to consider this in more detail and make recommendations on how it can be achieved.

CL/19-20/206.10: Council noted Recommendation 10 that “The international reputation of the School of Medicine is strong but could be at risk from falling rankings. Measures to address these rankings, especially through strengthening both clinically facing and basic science research, should be an urgent priority”.

The Dean of Health Sciences joined the meeting.

The Director of Internationalisation joined the meeting.

CL/19-20/207 Global Relations Annual Report 2019/20

The Provost welcomed the Director of Internationalisation to the meeting.

The Vice-President for Global Relations introduced the second annual report of Global

Relations, May 2019-April 2020, advising that the activities from the first year of the Global Relations Strategy 3 (GRS 3) were reported under six headings. Overall, student numbers from outside of Ireland she noted were strong, with 28% of the student body from 120 countries with the largest numbers from the US (1,110), India (643), and China (487). In response to a question from the Provost on how this compares with other countries, the Vice-President for Global Relations confirmed that compared to other universities the number of students from the US attending Trinity is high, adding that universities in the UK also have a high number of students attending from China.

Referring to student recruitment activities, the Vice-President for Global Relations highlighted that the Global Relations Office (GRO) leads on all student recruitment activities and that India, China and the US remain the key international markets. She reported that 11,000 candidates had attended the campus open day and that Trinity had participated in 160 school visits and fairs. She drew attention to the number of recruitment events attended by GRO and the number of students commencing their studies in Trinity in 2019/20 from India, China and the US, highlighting the intensive activity needed in order to recruit international students.

The Vice-President for Global Relations explained that the number of students attending Trinity from Northern Ireland can fluctuate each year and this is somewhat due to these students self-declaring their country of domicile, some choose Ireland, and some choose the UK. This may result in some NI students being included in the Ireland figure and some in the outside of Ireland figure.

The GRS 3 projected number of EU students for 2020/21, the Vice-President for Global Relations explained, may be affected by the COVID-19 crisis, however, she drew attention to the increase in student numbers from 2016/17 onwards. Referring to the number of non-EU students attending Trinity, the Vice-President for Global Relations observed that the numbers were increasing each year, noting that the projection for 2020/21 may also be impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Referring to the number of non-EU students by Faculty, the Vice-President for Global Relations noted that the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) accounted for the largest number of non-EU students.

The Vice-President for Global Relations referred to the eight partnerships leading to student recruitment managed by GRO, with the partnership with Columbia University resulting in 77 students in 2019/20, 43 from Singapore Institute of Technology, and 63 from Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, noting that the student numbers from Columbia University for 2020/21 are strong. She highlighted that the GRO Marketing function supports all EU and non-EU recruitment and partnerships activity in GRO and provides leadership and coordination for all marketing activities in Trinity.

Drawing attention to successes in 2019/20, she reported that these included the implementation of a digital campaign resulting in 13,000 new international student leads and 8,311,352 page views of www.tcd.ie/study and www.tcd.ie/courses websites.

Concluding her report, the Vice-President for Global Relations highlighted the number of Junior Sophister students who availed of mobility opportunities from 2015/16 to 2019/20, which saw an increase from 812 to 1,101 students, resulting in 39% of Junior Sophister students availing of an opportunity to undertake some of their studies at a partner institution overseas.

The Provost commended the Vice-President for Global Relations and Global Office staff on the excellent report, noting the challenges that COVID-19 presents for EU and non-EU student recruitment.

It was observed that a large number of non-EU students are registered on programmes offered by the AHSS Faculty with an increase in the number of non-EU students from 2018/19 to 2019/20. Sourcing clinical placements for students on programmes offered by the Health Sciences was cited as a challenge in recruiting additional students, with

the Dean of Health Sciences explaining that the School of Medicine plans to increase student numbers over the coming years. The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science noted that while the number of international students on programmes offered by the Faculty may appear low in comparison with the Faculty of AHSS, the number of students is increasing each year and that significant efforts were being made by the Faculty to increase student numbers.

The Dean of Graduate Studies commended the Vice-President for Global Relations and the recruitment team on the work being done by GRO on postgraduate student recruitment and in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The GSU Vice-President echoed the Dean of Graduate Studies' point, highlighting that the School of Business attracts a high number of international students. She noted that visa related issues have an impact on student recruitment. The Vice-President for Global Relations acknowledged that this is a barrier and reported that efforts are being made by the Irish Universities' Association (IUA) on to address this. A meeting with the Department of Education & Skills and the Department of Justice is being held on 16 June 2020 to discuss this. She noted that Trinity is ahead of other EU countries in respect of students participating in Erasmus in 2020/21.

The Dean of Students informed Council that GRO has engaged actively with the Student Life Committee to ensure that the experience of international students in Trinity is a positive one and that students are welcomed to Trinity on arrival. He thanked the Vice-President for Global Relations and the Global Office staff for their engagement with him and the Student Life Committee.

Decision:

CL/19-20/207.1: Council approved the Global Relations Second Annual Report: May 2019 – April 2020.

The Dean of Research left the meeting.

The Global Relations Associate Director of Partnerships joined the meeting.

CL/19-20/208 Undergraduate Global Mobility Report 2019/20

The Provost welcomed the Global Relations Associate Director of Partnerships to the meeting.

The Vice-President for Global Relations commenced her report by providing a summary of undergraduate mobility from 2015/16 to 2019/20, highlighting that 39% of Junior Sophister students availed of an international experience in 2019/20 demonstrating strong progress towards the strategic objective to ensure that 50% of the graduating undergraduate cohort will have had an international experience as part of their programme. In response to a question from the Provost on how Trinity compared with other universities, the Vice-President for Global Relations reported that Trinity has the highest number of students participating in an international experience in Ireland and that while she did not have data on exact numbers, she indicated this data may be available from the IUA. The Director of Internationalisation noted that the way in which mobility is defined is a factor needs to be taken into consideration when analysing the data. The Vice-President for Global Relations noted that UCD provides an option for undergraduate students to take their third year abroad and that this option is embedded in their programmes. Referring to projections under GRS 3, the Vice-President for Global Relations stated that by 2023/24 it is expected that 50% of undergraduate students will have undertaken an international experience as part of their programme. Student numbers participating in Erasmus+ saw an increase on 2018/19, with 469 Trinity students participating in Erasmus+ and 595 students from other universities attending Trinity in 2019/20.

Referring to the non-EU college wide student exchange programme, the Vice-President for Global Relations explained that while the agreements are set up by GRO the exchange programme is administered centrally by the Academic Registry (AR), with promotion of the programme a collaborative effort between GRO, AR and Schools. She observed that the number of Trinity students undertaking a non-EU college-wide exchange has increased by 170% since 2015/16 and by 35% in the last year. Reporting on exchanges in respect of Business and Law, the Vice-President for Global Relations stated that Business School Exchanges accounted for 17 incoming students and 20 outgoing students, and the School of Law, 21 incoming and 17 outgoing students for 2019/20. The School of Medicine saw 354 students participate in elective clinical placements in 2019/20. Responding to a question from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer on the elective clinical placement destinations, the Vice-President for Global Relations advised that placements take place in Sub-Saharan Africa, the US, Canada and Vietnam.

The Vice-President for Global Relations in responding to a concern raised in relation to reduced funding opportunities in respect of postgraduate mobility, highlighted the challenge associated with capturing postgraduate mobility data due to no standard process being in place for visiting PhD students and no standard approach in data management for this cohort, as it is not entered into the SITS system. She advised that a more robust mechanism to facilitate visiting PhD's is being explored.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies congratulated the Vice-President for Global Relations on her report noting that there is a need for Trinity to better communicate its success story on student mobility, and he emphasised the important role played by Trinity staff in the areas of curriculum design, as without their efforts the partnerships would not happen. The Dean of Students expressed his delight with the growth in student numbers participating in exchange programmes, noting the importance of the student experience and the efforts of the Student Life Committee in supporting mobility students in crisis. He observed that there is a proportion of students who experience a crisis while on exchanges and that the Committee is developing a range of measures to support these students, as not all universities offer the same range of supports to students.

The Provost advised Council that Trinity is the only Irish university that is going to engage in Erasmus in Semester 1 of 2020/21, and that concern has been expressed by the League of European Research Universities (LERU) that universities are closing down access to Erasmus. The Vice-President for Global Relations explained that the decision for Trinity to engage in Erasmus and exchange programmes was discussed at senior level and that it was agreed that students would make the decision on whether to participate in exchanges in Semester 1. Webinars have been delivered by GRO to students on the implications of participating in an exchange and any student intending to participate on an exchange will meet with GRO to discuss their decision.

The Provost thanked the Vice-President for Global Relations and the GRO team for their work on student mobility.

Decision:

CL/19-20/208.1: Council approved the Summary Report on Undergraduate Global Mobility, 2019/20.

The Director of Internationalisation and the Global Relations Associate Director of Partnerships left the meeting.

CL/19-20/209 Undergraduate Course Proposals

(i) Dual Degree programme in Philosophy, with Columbia University

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the proposal for a dual-degree programme in Philosophy with Columbia University. He advised that Philosophy is delivered by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy as a moderatorship option. The proposed dual-degree programme in Philosophy will follow the structure of the other dual-degree programmes with Columbia University, with students spending the first two years in Trinity followed by two years in Columbia and graduating with a Trinity B.A.(mod) and a B.A. from Columbia. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the proposal had been positively reviewed by Professor Bill Brewer, Susan Stebbing Professor of Philosophy at King's College London, and that the student quota is 2 EU and 3 non-EU students.

Decisions:

CL/19-20/209.i.1: Council approved the proposal for a dual-degree programme with Columbia University in Philosophy leading to a B.A. (Moderatorship) with the first intake in September 2021/22.

CL/19-20/209.i.2: Council approved the derogation from the requirement that 60 ECTS are taken in the core subject in the Junior Freshman year under the single subject common architecture, with students taking 50 ECTS in core Philosophy modules and 10 ECTS in language modules to meet the foreign language requirement of the Columbia core curriculum.

CL/19-20/209.i.3: Council approved the derogation from the 30:70 (JS:SS) calculation of degree classification with the calculation taken as per the method outlined in the Operational Framework agreed with Columbia University.

(ii) Dual Degree programme in Religion, with Columbia University

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that Religion is delivered by the School of Religion as a moderatorship option. The proposed dual-degree programme in Religion will also follow the structure of dual-degree programmes with Columbia University, with students spending the first two years in Trinity followed by two years in Columbia and graduating with a Trinity B.A.(Mod) and a B.A. from Columbia. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the proposal had been positively reviewed by Professor John Barclay, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, and that the student quota is 3 EU and 7 non-EU students.

In response to a question raised on the resourcing of the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies for the teaching of language modules to students participating in the dual-degree programme, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained that the School agreed to undertake this teaching. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences reported that the Head of School had agreed to participate in the initiative, noting that students will take a range of language modules. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that students must take 10 ECTS in language modules in order to participate in the dual-degree programme, noting that as students will choose from a range of languages the impact on class size will be low. The Head of the School of Religion indicated that students participating in the School of Religion dual-degree programme will be taking Greek and Hebrew language modules and that greater student numbers are welcome.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and all those involved in the course proposals.

Decisions:

CL/19-20/209.ii.1: Council approved the proposal for a dual-degree programme with Columbia University in Religion leading to a B.A. (Moderatorship) with the first intake in September 2021/22.

CL/19-20/209.ii.2: Council approved the derogation from the requirement that 60 ECTS are taken in the core subject in the Junior Freshman year under the single subject common architecture, with students taking 50 ECTS in core Religion modules and 10 ECTS in language modules to meet the foreign language requirement of the Columbia core curriculum.

CL/19-20/209.ii.3: Council approved the derogation from the 30:70 (JS:SS) calculation of degree classification with the calculation taken as per the method outlined in the Operational Framework agreed with Columbia University.

CL/19-20/210 Postgraduate Course Proposals**(i) MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Literary Studies**

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal for the MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Literary Studies to Council. He advised that the one-year full-time/two-year part-time programme, delivered by the School of English, leads to the award of MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Literacy Studies (90 ECTS) and an exit award of Postgraduate Diploma in Modern and Contemporary Literary Studies (60 ECTS) at level 9 of the NFQ. The programme will be delivered to a minimum of 5 EU/non-EU students and a maximum of 20 EU/non-EU students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Keith Williams, Reader, English, School of Humanities at the University of Dundee, Scotland. He added that the School is exploring online options for the delivery of the course in response to COVID-19.

CL/19-20/210.i.1: Council approved the proposal for a course in Modern and Contemporary Literary Studies leading to an MPhil in Modern and Contemporary Literary Studies with an exit award of postgraduate diploma from the School of English, with a first intake in September 2021.

(ii) MSc in Economic Policy

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal for the MSc. in Economic Policy to Council. He advised that the two-year part-time programme, delivered by the School of Social Sciences in partnership with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) every second year, leads to the award of MSc. in Economic Policy (90 ECTS) and an exit award of Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Policy (60 ECTS exit award) at level 9 of the NFQ. The programme will be delivered to a minimum of 26 EU/non-EU students and a maximum of 40 EU/non-EU students and is aimed at civil servants and public sector employees in Ireland who do not have a background in economics.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Alan Ahearne, Director of the Whitaker Institute, Professor of Economics at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that the recruitment freeze may present a challenge for the programme, as one new teaching fellow will be hired to

backfill the teaching duties of existing staff teaching on the MSc, and in the second year, one new Assistant Professor and one part-time executive officer are planned to be recruited for the courses to lower the overall student:staff ratio.

The Dean of Graduate Studies in responding to a comment from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies on the involvement of the School of Social Work and Social Policy in the programme, undertook to raise this with the course director due to the importance of social policy in influencing economic policy development. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences advised that the ESRI, due to its remit, is well placed to contribute in this regard.

Decision:

CL/19-20/210.ii:1: Council approved the proposal for a course in Economic Policy leading to an MSc in Economic Policy with an exit award of postgraduate diploma from the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, with a first intake in January 2021.

Action:

CL/19-20/210.ii:2: The Dean of Graduate Studies to raise involvement of the School of Social Work and Social Policy in the delivery of the course in Economic Policy with the course director.

(iii) Postgraduate Diploma in Irish Sign Language Interpreting

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal for the Postgraduate Diploma in Irish Sign Language Interpreting to Council. He advised that the one-year full-time blended programme, delivered by the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, leads to the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Irish Sign Language (60 ECTS) at level 9 of the NFQ. The programme will be delivered to a minimum of 10 EU/non-EU students and a maximum of 12 EU/non-EU students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Anna-Lena Nilsson, Professor of Signed Language and Interpreting, Department of Language and Literature at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Norway. He added that the course sets out to meet a documented gap in the market, facilitating graduates with qualifications in a range of domains to access training as an Irish Sign Language/English interpreter. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised Council that the course director had applied for funding under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 1 and was not successful. The course director indicated that she wanted to proceed with the approval process for the course in the absence of HCI funding and would explore alternative funding opportunities.

Decision:

CL/19-20/210.iii:1: Council approved the proposal for a blended course in Irish Sign Language Interpreting leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Irish Sign Language Interpreting from the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, with a first intake in September 2020 subject to funding being secured.

CL/19-20/211 National Student Survey – Postgraduate Research

The Dean of Students introduced the Report of the Postgraduate Research National StudentSurvey.ie for 2018/19 noting that it represents the first full year of implementation of the Postgraduate Research (PGR) survey following the pilot

conducted in 2017/18. He advised Council that while the survey explores 12 domains, he will address three of these in this report, 'development opportunities', 'motivations' and 'overall experience'.

Speaking to 'development opportunities', he highlighted the findings of the survey on students' motivations and career objectives for undertaking postgraduate research, which included, the development of transferable skills, training in entrepreneurship, publishing research findings and opportunities for teaching experience.

The 'overall experience' of students, he reported, highlighted that in most instances Trinity and its Faculties track the national average for the ≥ 250 comparator group of universities, with positive responses made in relation to students' satisfaction with work-life balance, availability of a staff member to talk to about problems, appropriate orientation/induction, knowing who to approach other than a supervisor, good research ambiance and opportunities to become involved in the wider research community.

The Dean of Students stated that for 2019, 71% of students in the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, 70% in the Faculty of Health Sciences and 66% in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences reported having a good overall research experience. He noted that 28% of students disagree with the statement 'my institute values and responds to feedback from research students', which is considerably less than the 42% reported for the national ≥ 250 cohort.

Referring to students' responses to the question 'have you considered withdrawing?', the Dean of Students highlighted that the main three reasons identified were due to financial, personal/family, and health related issues, with 33% of students in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences citing financial reasons. The Dean of Students drew attention to Trinity differentiating factors, noting that the Thesis Committee Model for Supervision is now in place, reporting positive differentiation factors as external grant funding, stipends as a form of funding and the opportunity to spend time abroad. A negative differentiating factor, he highlighted, was in respect of appropriate orientation/induction, adding that initiatives on orientation/induction were now in place to address this finding.

The three main areas for attention, the Dean of Students explained, are research culture, advice on career options, and suitable working space and adequate computing resources. He noted that the latter predominantly affect students in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, highlighting that there is a need to also look at sources of funding for students in this Faculty due to 41% of respondents reporting that they are self-funding their PGR, which puts them under considerable pressure.

Referring to initiatives put in place following the findings of the 2017/18 survey the Dean of Students reported that these included, PGR orientation, which is organised three times a year, resolution of Library issues, approval of the Thesis Supervisory Committee Model and the PGR handbook. He acknowledged that more work needs to be done and that future initiatives should involve, School/Principal Investigator induction for new PGR students, opportunities for early engagement with the Careers Service, a common fund for computers and workspaces, research networks, developing a comprehensive Accommodation Advisory Service and augmenting the Postgraduate Advisory Service (PAS). The Dean of Students drew attention to the need to resource PAS due to only one person being in place to support students in crisis. The Senior Tutor stated that he endorsed the recommendation, highlighting that he intends to prepare a report on PGR student cases and develop a business plan for augmenting this Service in 2020/21. The Provost highlighted that such a proposal and business case would need to go to the Planning Group in the first instance. The Dean of Graduate Studies and the GSU Vice-President also commended the work of PAS endorsing the need for greater resources to be allocated to the Service.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted the important themes arising from the report and stated that he expected that the postgraduate reform committed to in the

Trinity Strategic Plan 2020-25 should address some of the areas requiring development.

A member highlighted two areas that needed to be addressed to improve the PGR student experience, which related to funding initiatives to be introduced for PGR students in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and changes to the workload allocation model to enable teaching staff to devote more time to postgraduate students. In responding to a question on why the Faculty scores consistently below Trinity and the national average for 'Research Culture', the Dean of Students suggested that this is likely to be attributed to the lack of suitable workspaces and computers.

Decision:

CL/19-20/211.1: Council approved the report on the National Student Survey.ie PGR.

Action:

CL/19-20/211.2: The Senior Tutor to develop a report and recommendations for additional funding for consideration by the Planning Group.

CL/19-20/212 Any Other Urgent Business

The Provost noted that it was the last Council meeting for the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Students, and he thanked them for their work, especially that with students and for leading several initiatives on behalf of College. He also noted and thanked the members of Council who are stepping down from Council and thanked all members for their participation and contribution to Council.

SECTION B

CL/19-20/213 Graduate Studies Committee

The minutes of the meeting of 21 May 2020 were noted and approved.

CL/19-20/214 Human Resources Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the 6 February 2020 and 9 March 2020 were noted and approved.

CL/19-20/215 Library and Information Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting of 30 March 2020 were noted and approved.

CL/19-20/216 Quality Committee

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that the Quality Committee had approved the Marino Institute of Education (MIE) quality assurance procedures at its last meeting and that this fulfils Trinity's responsibility under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012.

Decision:

CL/19-20/216.1: Council approved the minutes of 20 May 2020 and the appendix Quality Review Report and Implementation Plan for the Marino Institute of Education (MIE) BSc. in Education Studies programme.

CL/19-20/217 Research Committee

The minutes of 14 April 2020 were noted and approved.

CL/19-20/218 Student Life Committee

The Dean of Students highlighted the support of the Student Life Committee to establish a committee on managing student crises.

The minutes of 28 April 2020 were noted and approved.

CL/19-20/219 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew Council's attention to item USC/19-20/063 'Academic Continuity Planning', highlighting USC's support for the inclusion of reassessment results to determine eligibility for Gold Medals and for competitive prizes.

Referring Council to item USC/19-20/067 'Sophister Timetabling within the Block Structure', the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that the principles for sophister timetabling had been developed and the application of the principles were considered. He noted the significant work and modelling undertaken on this by the Central Timetabling Unit (CTU) and SUMS in consultation with Schools, which resulted in the decision to extend the block structure into the Sophister years. Noting that some issues remain to be addressed in the Schools of Creative Arts, Mathematics and Law, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies stated that he was confident that these will be addressed.

Speaking to item USC/19-20/068 'Assessment: Procedures for the non-submission of course work and absence from examinations', the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that the procedure relates to students' absences from assessments and examinations and USC's support for the revised procedural document.

Decision:

CL/19-20/219.1: Council approved the minutes of 19 May 2020 with appendices (i) Sophister Timetabling within Block Structure; (ii) Assessment: Procedures for the Non-Submission of Course Work and Absence from Examinations; and (iii) New Further Education and Training (FET) Routes and Updates.

SECTION C**CL/19-20/220 School Directors**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor John Stalker as Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning, School of Mathematics, for a two-year term commencing 1 July 2020.

CL/19-20/221 Head of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the following nomination:

- (i) Professor Kenneth Pearce as Head of Discipline of Philosophy, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, for a three-year term commencing 1 June 2020.

SECTION D

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

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings