



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 31 March 2021 at 11.15am remotely and hosted from the Provost's Library.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor D. Murchan, Professor S. Alyn Stacey, Professor D. Shepherd, Professor M. Lyons, Professor A. O'Connor, Professor M. Monaghan, Professor M. Ruffini, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor B. O'Connell, Professor C. Donnellan, Dr. O. Gobbo, Professor A. Long, Ms. D. Kelleher, Ms M. O'Connor, Mr D. O'Reilly, Ms. A. Bhattacharjee, Ms. J. Wall.
<i>Apologies</i>	Professor AM. Malone, Professor C. Kelly, Ms. J. Whelan, Mr. J. Noctor
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Librarian and College Archivist, Director of Student Services, Assistant Academic Secretary, Ms. A. Crawford.
<i>Observers</i>	Ms. Camilla Persello, Ms. Nilki Aluthge Dona.

SECTION A

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting. He requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. Professor M. Lyons declared a conflict of interest for item C.17 Higher Degrees and Professor L. O'Driscoll declared a conflict of interest for item C.21 Titles of Personal Chairs Recommendations, and it was agreed that both Professor Lyons and Professor O'Driscoll would leave the Council meeting for the respective items.

The Secretary to the College joined the meeting.

CL/20-21/154 Minutes

An amendment was proposed to the minutes of the meeting of 20 January 2021 relating to CL/20-21/098 (i). Council noted and approved the amendment which related to a slightly revised version of the December summary of staff appointments for the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science.

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 10 March 2021 were approved and signed.

CL/20-21/155 Matters Arising**(i) CL/20-21/130.1**

The Dean of Graduate Studies provided an update on the Provost's PhD project awards explaining that the full detail will be provided in her annual report, which will be presented to Council at a subsequent meeting. She highlighted that her Office had received 156 complete applications, 45% from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS), 30% from the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and 24% from the Faculty of Health Sciences. As Dean of Graduate Studies, she chaired the initial review of applications with the Faculty Level Reviewers allocating a score to each application. Phase 2 of the review involved a review of the applications by an External Reviewer and herself as Dean of Graduate Studies, both of whom allocated scores to each application. Fifty Awards were made, an increase of ten on 2020, with just under 50% of the awards going to the Faculty of AHSS, just over 26% to the Faculty of STEM, and 24% to the Faculty of Health Sciences. In terms of distribution by gender, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that 60% of Awards went to females and 40% to males. She noted that while more males applied from the Faculty of STEM, females secured 31% of the Awards made to STEM.

Responding to a query from a member on the number of Awards made to each Faculty, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that 25 Awards went to AHSS, 13 to STEM, and 12 to Health Sciences. AHSS accounted for the highest number of applications and Awards.

(ii) CL/20-21/129.1

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer drew Council's attention to the proposal to deliver teaching and research activities across Trinity on 22 April 2021 to support the climate change agenda. Following the meeting he reported that he had contacted the Ad Hoc group that had submitted the original proposal to hold a climate awareness event. The group had expressed concern relating to the date chosen for the event (22 April) due to it being the second last day of term. The group was also concerned that as all teaching activities are being held remotely on ZOOM the climate awareness event would not get the prominence it deserved and the required participation. He highlighted that the group proposed revisiting the proposal in 2021/22, as academic and teaching staff would be in a better position to organise and deliver teaching and research activities relating to climate change. He noted that the group had also suggested that the activities be aligned to E3.

The Provost expressed his disappointment that the Ad Hoc group could not take the event forward this academic year.

Decision:

CL/20-21/155.1: Council noted the postponement of the delivery of teaching and research activities relating to climate change to a date in 2021/22.

CL/20-21/156 Provost's Report

The Provost advised that as he had given an extensive report at the last Council meeting, he would not be providing a report at this meeting.

CL/20-21/157 Mitigation Measures for Semester Two Assessments

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies outlined proposals to mitigate the ongoing effects of the pandemic on students' ability to learn and prepare for their assessments in semester two as follows:

- **Re-sits:** to extend the policy that applied to first semester assessments to

cover modules taken in the second semester. Applications can only be made following semester two exams and the release of module and overall degree grades to students. He highlighted that the re-sits will be scheduled in the reassessment session in August with students awarded the higher grade achieved. Students will not have the right to re-submit capstone project theses, where a first submission has already been graded and feedback made available.

- **Deferrals:** students will have the automatic right to defer assessments (exams or assignments) for semester two modules. Students can choose to defer some assessments and not others, as per the first semester. He advised that any deferred modules will be assessed in the reassessment session in August and recorded as a first attempt with a second attempt not being possible before the next academic year. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that students may defer submission of their capstone project thesis until the reassessment session and that certain modules, including clinical skills assessments may not be deferrable and must be undertaken at the designated time.
- **Deferred semester one assessments:** the same logic will apply to these modules with students having the option to defer them to the August session as a first attempt. However, no second attempt will be possible before the next academic year.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted that the measures should offer students considerable flexibility in preparing for and completing their assessments. The approach will protect staff time and ensure that the next academic year can begin without disruption.

Referring to other regulations relating to assessment, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained that the use of aggregation was not supported by USC as it would undercut the work undertaken by staff and students in ensuring that teaching and learning continued this academic year under Covid conditions and he remarked that such a mechanism is incompatible with the proposed options on deferral. He added that the normal compensation rules will apply. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that students may request extensions for submission of specific pieces of work and that Schools should be generous in granting such extensions with extensions for work due during term time only be given until the end of the assignment week of the new assessment period (28 May). Requests should be made directly to the course coordinator or through the Tutor. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies proposed that Boards of Examiners should exercise their discretion with greater latitude than normal in considering students' degree grades.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and invited questions and comments.

In responding to a question on measures to be employed at postgraduate level, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that this had been discussed by the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) and it was agreed that Schools would connect with her directly on a programme by programme basis.

A member highlighted her support for the proposals advising that as students are seeking advice on whether to defer or not, was there a need for a communication to be issued to students stating that deferring an exam may not result in a better mark. She expressed her concern on the impact of the measures on teaching staff asking if more administration time could be made available to support them with this work. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked the member for her comments highlighting that the measures outlined had been informed by staff workload.

The SU Education Officer recommended greater assessment oversight by College due to

some Schools conducting assessments that are not in line with College regulations, such as holding assessments over a weekend. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies stated that he was aware of certain instances where Schools have scheduled weekend exams and, in some instances, this was due to 48 hours being allowed for exams. He highlighted that his communication with Schools on assessments for semester two will state that the regulations need to be followed. The Provost thanked the SU Education Officer for bringing this to the attention of Council.

Decision:

CL/20-21/157.1: Council approved the proposed mitigation measures for semester two assessments.

Action:

CL/20-21/157.2: The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to communicate the Mitigation Measures for Semester Two Assessments to Schools emphasising the need for College regulations on assessment to be followed when organising assessments.

CL/20-21/158 Options for Teaching Arrangements in 2021/22

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The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that the discussion document on options for teaching arrangements in 2021/22 has been informed by comments and feedback provided by the Continuity of Learning and Student Activities Working Group (2 March), the Heads of School Committee (3 March), Trinity Living with Covid Oversight Group (4 March), USC (23 March) and GSC (25 March). The document is underpinned by four assumptions:

1. Between now and the start of the next academic year the Covid-19 situation will continue to be fluid and unpredictable.
2. In this situation it is necessary to plan simultaneously for a number of scenarios for teaching and related activities.
3. Valuable lessons can be learned from the rapid pivot to online teaching. A clear majority of students and staff favour a return to the predominance of face-to-face tuition.
4. The three scenarios presented in the discussion paper are only approximations as adjustments to them might be necessary.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that three public health scenarios need to be considered for September 2021, namely:

1. Best case Scenario A – return to face-to-face teaching without social distancing requirements. This will apply in the case where the vaccine roll-out has been in accordance with current plans and that all TCD staff and students have been fully vaccinated by the end of August. Teaching and learning arrangements will be as follows:
 - a. All labs, practicals, seminars, tutorials and other small group teaching scheduled.
 - b. All placements will be delivered.
 - c. Option of delivering large lectures either face-to-face or online.
 - d. Assessment modalities determined by pedagogical considerations.
 - e. Erasmus programmes are active, both incoming and outgoing.
 - f. Library, catering and sports facilities will operate at full capacity.
 - g. Student accommodation will be fully occupied.
2. Middle case Scenario B – return to some face-to-face teaching with social distancing requirements. This scenario will apply where the vaccine roll-out is delayed or not as effective as expected with the country remaining at levels 1-3 of the *Living with Covid Plan* and social distancing requirements, as well as limits on campus capacity being in place. The Teaching and Learning

arrangements will be as follows:

3.
 - a. All bigger lectures will be delivered online.
 - b. Delivery of as much face-to-face teaching in selected seminars, tutorials and small group teaching events across all programmes.
 - c. Schools will have flexibility to prioritise.
 - d. Labs and practices will be delivered with social distancing in place.
 - e. Hybrid teaching arrangements will be in place for students who cannot attend.
 - f. All placements will be delivered with mitigations.
 - g. Assessments largely undertaken through assignments and open book exams.
 - h. Library, catering and sports facilities operated at reduced capacity.
 - i. Student accommodation will be fully occupied with restrictions.

4. Worst case Scenario C – only very limited essential face-to-face teaching can be delivered. This scenario will apply if the country returns to (or remains at) level 5 and the congregation and movement of people is radically suppressed with campus capacity being limited. Teaching and Learning arrangements will be as follows:
 - a. Most teaching will be delivered online.
 - b. Essential face-to-face teaching will be under social distancing requirements.
 - c. Arrangements for hybrid teaching will be in place for students who cannot attend scheduled face-to-face classes.
 - d. Erasmus programmes are active both ways on an optional basis.
 - e. There will be no real-time sit-down exams.
 - f. Library, catering and sports facilities will be operating at reduced capacity in line with social distancing.
 - g. Student accommodation will have limited occupancy with restrictions in place.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained that all the planning scenarios must take into account academic and administrative staff workloads, timetabling, room capacity, resource limitations and IT resources for hybrid teaching. The timing of decision-making, he noted, will need to balance the desire for clarity with flexibility as the pandemic scenario continues to remain unpredictable. From a timetabling perspective a decision is required in June. He highlighted that decisions will be taken in consultation with the Director of College Health Services and other health and safety experts in College with communication to staff and students to stress a determination to deliver on campus with a need for flexibility and adaptability if necessary at short-notice.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and invited questions and comments.

Responding to a question raised by the SU representative on the assessment modalities presented under option A, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that the School decides on the assessment modality to be employed, as this is driven by pedagogical considerations. He highlighted that College will invite students to communicate their experiences of assessment during the pandemic and that this will inform College planning for the new academic year. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that USC had discussed assessment modalities and that while there is an appetite to retain some of the measures introduced under Covid, some colleagues had expressed a preference for in-person exams. He highlighted that he will be engaging with Schools on this over the coming weeks.

The SU Education Officer outlined challenges presented by each scenario, with staff and students with underlying medical conditions/disabilities requiring consideration under

Scenario A, the need for high accommodation costs to be considered under Scenario B, and challenges presented by the use of proctoring for online exams requiring consideration under Scenario C, which is based on a premise of mistrust. She urged the need for more investment and research on online assessment, and requested that optional field-trips be organised during the reassessment period in August to facilitate, in particular, international students.

The Secretary to Scholars drew attention to international students who would, under Scenario B, be returning for fewer in-person activities and be faced with high accommodation costs and living under restrictions in a country that is not their home country. She suggested that international students be given the option of returning to Ireland or remaining in their own countries under a possible Scenario B situation. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that he envisaged that international students will be presented with the option to attend remotely, however, this would not be an option in all instances due to some programmes requiring in-person attendance. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer added that he will be discussing arrangements for international students with the Vice-President for Global Relations.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer was congratulated for his work in preparing the discussion document. The member highlighted several considerations that need to be accounted for in the discussion document including, the need for health and safety specialist advice for staff working on-screens for a long period of time each day, the need for assessment modalities to accommodate the expertise and autonomy of staff as well as students' expectations, a review of Schol during the next academic year, and to factor in variability across countries on the roll-out of vaccinations.

Other points raised by members included the need to take into consideration STEM students who have lost out on laboratory experience and how this may be addressed, if external examiners can continue to do their work remotely, as this has worked well for Schools, and the need for the workload associated with combining face-to-face teaching with online teaching to be taken into account due to the pressure that this places on teaching staff.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer thanked Council for its feedback and comments, which will feed into future planning.

CL/20-21/159 Postgraduate Course Proposals

(i) Revised MPhil in Theatre and Performance

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal from the School of Creative Arts for the revised course in Theatre and Performance to Council leading to the existing awards of MPhil and Postgraduate Diploma in Theatre and Performance (exit award). She noted that there are two proposals, one which relates to a structural revision to an existing one-year full-time MPhil (90 ECTS) at level 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with an exit award of Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS), and the second, the introduction of a two-year part-time delivery format for the revised parent course. The part-time delivery format consists of 40 ECTS delivered in year 1 with 20 ECTS and a 30 ECTS dissertation delivered in year 2 of the programme. Presenting the rationale for the changes to the programme, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the course experienced a year of low recruitment in 2019-20, followed by a year's suspension in 2020-21 due in large part to Covid. The School undertook a detailed analysis of the course's offerings and sustainability resulting in a set of adjustments to the course's module-level offerings, in support of three main aims as follows, to widen the MPhil's appeal by updating its offerings, to increase student numbers, and to improve sustainability and flexibility by sharing the workload of the MPhil teaching more equally among staff. Modifications to the existing course include changes to two existing modules (10 ECTS each) and four new elective modules (10 ECTS each). The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the full-time programme will accommodate a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 EU/non-EU students with the part-time programme

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accommodating a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 EU/non-EU students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Patrick Lonergan, Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies in the School of English and Creative Arts at NUI Galway. She highlighted her support for the proposal.

Responding to a question from a member concerning the market need for the programme given the impact of Covid on the Creative Arts sector, the Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that this had been considered by the School and discussed at the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). She added that the School has been creative in its response to the challenges presented by Covid.

Decision:

CL/20-21/159.1: Council approved the (i) structural revisions to the existing one-year full-time MPhil (90ECTS) with an exit award of Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS) and, (ii) the two-year part-time delivery format for the course offered by the School of Creative Arts, with a first intake in September 2021.

(ii) Postgraduate Diploma in Circular Economy and Recycling Technologies (HCI 1)

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal for the course in Circular Economy and Recycling Technologies to Council, which has received funding under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 1. The one-year full-time and two-year part-time blended programme consists of eight modules (5 ECTS each) and a three-month project (20 ECTS) that will be delivered by the School of Chemistry. The course will lead to the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Circular Economy and Recycling Technologies (60 ECTS) at level 9 of the NFQ. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the programme will attract students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines enabling skills and training in the area of circular economy, specifically focusing on reuse, repair, recycling, and other circular practices. The course will accommodate a minimum of 15 (HCI P1 funded) EU and a maximum of 20 funded EU students. A maximum of 20 non-EU students (not funded) will be targeted.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Nick Holden from the School of Biosystems and Food Engineering at University College Dublin. She highlighted her support for the proposal.

Responding to a query from the Provost on progression to a Master's programme, the Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that this is not yet possible.

The Provost queried the fee for the course noting that it wasn't indicated on the cover sheet. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the course is funded through HEA HCI Pillar 1 and that the fee structure is outlined on page 21 of the document. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained the allocation of funding under HCI Pillar 1 stating that 90% of the student fee is funded by the HEA with the student paying 10% of the total fee. The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that the Faculty Dean had signed off on the finances, and the Dean of STEM confirmed that this was the case stating that the fee information was outlined in the spreadsheet on page 51 of the document. She stated that the EU fee was €9,375 and confirmed that she had seen a ten-year projection for the funding of the course once HCI Pillar 1 funding ceased. The HEA contributes towards the first-two years of the programme with the funding contribution reduced for year 3 of the programme.

Decision:

CL/20-21/159.2: Council approved the proposal for a one-year full-time and two year-part-time blended course in Circular Economy and Recycling Technologies (HCI P1) (60 ECTS) leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Circular Economy and Recycling Technologies (HCI P1) offered by the School of Chemistry, with a first intake in September 2021.

Action:

CL/20-21/159.3: The Dean of Graduate Studies to ensure that the course proposal

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cover sheet includes student fees.

(iii) Postgraduate Certificate in Statistics (online) (HCI Pillar 3)

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal for the course in Statistics to Council, which has received funding under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 3. The one-year part-time online programme consisting of four modules will be delivered by the School of Computer Science and Statistics. The course will lead to the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Statistics (30 ECTS), a Special Purpose Award at level 9 of the NFAQ. The Dean of Graduate Studies explained that the online programme will replace the existing 35 ECTS face-to-face Postgraduate Certificate and advised that it is the intention of the School to create additional online modules as electives to allow for a postgraduate diploma to be offered in the future. The course is intended for graduates of disciplines, other than statistics, to develop and deepen their knowledge of statistical methods for solving problems. It will accommodate a minimum of 40 EU and a maximum of 100 EU students with provision for a maximum of 15 non-EU students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Jeremy Oakley from the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sheffield in the UK.

The Dean of Graduate Studies drew Council's attention to the proposed €500 fee for Trinity students noting that in the past Trinity postgraduate students were not charged for registering on the programme. Concern on the introduction of a course fee and the impact on students was expressed by the Provost and Council members, and it was acknowledged that future students may opt not to register on this course. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted his agreement with the concerns raised, adding that the School is receiving funding under HCI Pillar 3 to deliver the course. The Dean of Graduate Studies undertook to convey Council's concern with the proposal to introduce a fee for Trinity postgraduate students to the School.

Decision:

CL/20-21/159.4: Council approved the proposal for a one-year online course in Statistics (30 ECTS) leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Statistics offered by the School of Computer Science and Statistics subject to no fee being levied for Trinity registered students, with a first intake in September 2021.

Action:

CL/20-21/159.5: The Dean of Graduate Studies to communicate Council's rejection of the proposal to introduce a fee for Trinity postgraduate students to the School of Computer Science and Statistics.

(iv) Professional Diploma in Sustainable Development for Business (HCI Pillar 3)

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal for the course in Sustainable Development for Business to Council, which has received funding under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 3. The one-year part-time blended programme consisting of four modules (5 ECTS each) and a self-led project (10 ECTS) will be delivered by the Trinity Business School. The course will lead to the award of Professional Diploma in Sustainable Development for Business (30 ECTS) at level 9 of the NFAQ. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the course has been designed to address the growing need to implement sustainable measures in business and is open to graduates from any discipline. The course will accommodate a minimum of 5 EU and 5 non-EU students and a maximum of 20 EU and 20 non-EU students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Andreas Rasche, Professor of Business in Society, Associate Dean Full-Time MBA, Copenhagen Business School, Department of Management, Society and Communication, Dalgas Have, Denmark. She highlighted her support for the proposal.

Responding to a query from the Provost on the payment of fees by the HEA through HCI Pillar 3, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that Pillar 3 funding supports staffing and does not cover

the student fee. She added that the fee is €8,500 for EU/non-EU students, which is the market rate. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained that HCI Pillar 3 contributes €2,500, or proportionate amount depending on the number of credits being taken, to the School for each student taking 60 ECTS.

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that the Professional Award is a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) award type that can be offered at NFQ level 9. She noted that the Professional Diploma is 30 ECTS. The Assistant Academic Secretary clarified that Professional Awards are non-major awards and are similar to award types such as special purpose awards and supplemental awards and are intended to address professional development and are typically targeted at those in industry and the professions. Concern was expressed by members that there may be confusion with postgraduate diplomas and an expectation amongst industry/prospective students that Professional Diplomas equate to 60 ECTS, and that the matter warranted further discussion. A member noted that this is especially an issue for Engineering, which markets its Postgraduate Diplomas as Professional Diplomas. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that there is a move to diversify award types with the move to offering flexible learning opportunities that meet the need of industry and the professions. He highlighted that the approach is in line with the objectives of the Trinity Strategic Plan 2020-25. He added that the Minister is seeking greater flexibility and a commitment to lifelong learning through the diversification of awards. The Academic Secretary emphasised the importance of meeting the needs of different types of learners through diverse offerings. The Provost acknowledging the importance of flexibility, highlighted the need for a discussion on award titles and ECTS value at a future meeting of Council.

Decision:

CL/20-21/159.6: Council to consider the award title of Professional Diploma for the proposal in Sustainable Development for Business (HCI Pillar 3) offered by the Trinity Business School at the April Council meeting.

Action:

CL/20-21/159.7: The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to provide a briefing on HCI Pillar 1 and 3 funding structure at the next Council meeting.

The Quality Officer, Ms Roisin Smith joined the meeting.

CL/20-21/160 **Institutional Review – Case Studies in Quality**
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The Provost welcomed the Quality Officer to the meeting.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained that the *Case Studies in Quality* have been developed for the Trinity Institutional Quality Review which will take place from 18-22 October 2021. The purpose of the Case Studies, he highlighted, is to demonstrate unit-led involvement in projects and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of education provision, research, the governance of quality and the student experience; and to act as an engagement strategy with staff and students at all levels in College and invite participation in the institutional review. He added that the *Case Studies in Quality* is a supplementary document, part of the suite of review documents for approval by Council, which are:

- The Institutional Profile (approved April 2020)
- The Annual Quality Report to QQI (approved February 2021).
- The Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) due to Council in June 2021.
- Draft Schedule for the Review (due to Council in June 2021, with the final version available in September 2021).

Referring to the structure of the *Case Studies in Quality* document, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that it aligns with the four objectives of the CINTE Review Handbook as follows:

1. To review the effectiveness and implementation of quality.
2. To review the enhancement of quality through governance, policy, and procedures.
3. To review the effectiveness and implementation of procedures for access, transfer and progression.
4. To determine compliance with the *Code of Practice for the Provision of Programmes to International Learners*.

An additional objective added by Trinity, he stated, is the student experience/student partnerships.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer presented the number of case studies and examples of topics covered for each of the five above objectives, with the majority (12) of case studies presented under objective 2, followed by nine under objective 5.

The Provost commended the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Quality Officer on the case studies as they showcase the great work that is happening across Trinity and he thanked the Quality Officer for her work on the institutional review. The Quality Officer noted that the development of the case studies had been a valuable participative exercise with staff and students engaged in the development of the case studies.

Decision:

CL/20-21/160.1: Council approved the Case Studies in Quality.

The Quality Officer left the meeting.

CL/20-21/161 Undergraduate Admissions

- (i) Changes to Entry Requirements for Music

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew Council's attention to the School of Creative Arts' proposed removal of the restricted entry requirements for Music (Single Honours and Joint Honours), which was supported by USC. The Entrance Exams had been lifted for the first time in 2020 due to Covid-19 public health guidelines and this will continue for the academic year 2021/22. He advised that formal musical training is not a prerequisite for entry to the Music degree programme and that the entry requirements may work against elements of the Undergraduate Common Architecture whereby Music can be taken up as a new Minor subject from second year. The prerequisites for taking Music as a new Minor subject have also been updated from an entrance exam to simply 'musical literacy', for students making choices from March 2021 onwards.

Decision:

CL/20-21/161.1: Council approved the changes to the entry requirements for Music (Single Honours and Joint Honours).

- (ii) Extension of Admissions Feasibility Studies

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained that it is proposed to extend the Trinity Admissions Feasibility Study and the Feasibility Study in A-Level Admissions (Northern Ireland) for a further two years to cover new undergraduate entrants to Trinity in September 2022 and September 2023. This will facilitate a consideration of the Feasibility Studies under the new administration and developments on the proposed Admissions Strategy. He recommended that places on the Trinity Admissions Feasibility Study be not allocated to students with less than 330 CAO points, which will bring it in line with the NI

Feasibility Study.

Decision:

CL/20-21/161.2: Council approved the extension of the Trinity Admissions Feasibility Study (TAFS) setting a minimum CAO points threshold of 330; and approved the NI Feasibility Study in A-level Admissions for a further two years to cover admissions to Trinity up to, and including September 2023.

CL/20-21/162 Cessation of the Diploma and B.Sc. Degree in Information Systems

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred Council to the proposal to formally discontinue the two undergraduate programmes in Information Systems (Diploma and BSc). Programme entry was suspended in 2015, with the last students completing their BSc course of study in 2018/19.

Decision:

CL/20-21/162.1: Council approved the cessation of the programmes in Information Systems offered by the School of Computer Science and Statistics leading to a Diploma in Information Systems and a BSc in Information Systems.

CL/20-21/163 Any Other Urgent Business

In response to a request that Council consider approving substitution for academic committee members who are unable to attend a meeting of a committee to ensure continuity of representation at meetings, the Provost indicated that substitution is not permitted on Council or its academic committees.

A member expressed concern relating to the Dean of Research vacancy advising that as Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) will be publishing funding calls over the coming months it would be important that Trinity would be in a position to respond to such calls. The Provost highlighted that he meets with the Associate Deans of Research weekly and that as the Associate Dean Professor Andrew Bowie has responsibility for SFI he is in a position to respond to such calls.

The SU Education Officer extended her thanks to the Faculty Deans for their recent communications to students, which were well received. The Provost extended his thanks to the Faculty Deans also.

Action:

CL/20-21/163.1: The Provost to invite the Associate Dean of Research, Professor Andrew Bowie to attend meetings of Council until a Dean of Research is appointed.

SECTION B

CL/20-21/164 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew attention to the Trinity Elective Proposal 'The Psychology of the Climate Crisis' from the School of Psychology to be coordinated by Professor Clare Kelly advising that the Trinity Elective had been approved by USC for Council's consideration and approval.

Decision:

CL/20-21/164.1: Council noted and approved the minutes of 23 March 2021 and appendices (i) Trinity Elective descriptor, and (ii) Additional Degree Destinations for

the International Foundation Programme.

CL/20-21/165 Global Relations Committee

The Vice-President for Global Relations highlighted the challenge presented to returning Erasmus students by mandatory quarantine advising that she is liaising with the Irish Universities Association (IUA) on this. The Provost stated that the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and himself would formally write to the Director General of the IUA and the Minister on this matter.

Decision:

CL/20-21/165.1: The minutes of 15 March 2021 were noted and approved.

Action:

CL/20-21/165.2: The Provost and Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to formally write to the Director General of the IUA and the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science regarding the challenge presented by mandatory quarantine on returning Erasmus students.

CL/20-21/166 Graduate Studies Committee

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the minutes of 10 March 2021 relate to an extraordinary meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) to consider and approve HCI Pillar 3 course proposals. The minutes of 10 March 2021 were noted and approved.

CL/20-21/167 Research Committee

The minutes of 9 February 2021 were noted and approved.

CL/20-21/168 Student Life Committee

The minutes of 16 March 2021 were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/20-21/169 Teaching Dates for CHARM-EU Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability

The Council noted the Memorandum from Professor Catherine Comiskey, Masters Programme Director dated 15 March 2021.

CL/20-21/170 Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners

Professor M Lyons left the meeting for this item.

The Council noted and approved the circulated reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 10 March 2021 and noted

by Board on 24 March 2021.

(i) Higher Degrees by Publication

Sc.D. Michael Lyons

(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

M.D. Emma Sara Duignan, David Moloney, Jonathan Edward Royds;

Ph.D. Asmaa Al-Ghamdi, Hana Alghamdi, Frank Browne, Seán Bruton, Susan Callaghan, Supun Mekhala Chandrasena, Bryan Coyne, Maureen D'Eath, Eva-Maria Dürr, Aideen Griffin, Gaurav Jain, Youngseop Lim, Kathleen Lynch, Stefania Magnano, Thomas Christopher Martin, Vanessa Nappi, German Pozdeev, Vivian Rath, James Rooney, Margaret Collins Stoop, Larissa Lee Sherwood, Benoit Voudon;

M.Sc Gökalp Engin Akinoglu, Alan Hopkins, Chloe O'Hara.

CL/20-21/171 Interim Head of School

The Council noted that the Board had approved the nomination of Professor Carl Vogel to be Interim Head of the School of Computer Science and Statistics for the period from 1 April 2021 to 30 August 2021 (inclusive).

CL/20-21/172 School Directors

The Council noted and approved the following nomination:

- (i) Professor Cliona O'Farrelly as Director for Global Relations, School of Biochemistry & Immunology, for a two-year term from 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2023.

CL/20-21/173 Head of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the following nomination:

- (i) Professor Brian Singleton as Head of Discipline of Drama, School of Creative Arts, for a two-year term from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2023¹.

CL/20-21/174 Titles of Personal Chairs

Professor L O'Driscoll left the meeting for this item.

The Council noted and approved the Memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer dated 24 March 2021 relating to the proposed titles for the following Personal Chairs:

1. Professor Siobhán Clarke – Professor of Software Systems
2. Professor Darryl Jones - Professor of Modern British Literature and Culture
3. Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll - Professor of Pharmacology and Biomedicine

¹ Council noted and approved a corrected term length at its meeting of 24 May 2021, i.e. "Professor Brian Singleton as Head of Discipline of Drama, School of Creative Arts, for a three-year term from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2024"

SECTION D

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