



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 Monday 24 May 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, , 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 C. Kelly, Professor M. Lyons, Professor A. O'Connor, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor B. O'Connell, Professor C. Donnellan, Dr. O. Gobbo, Professor A. Long, Ms. M. O'Connor, Ms J. Whelan, Mr D. O'Reilly, Ms. A. Bhattacharjee, Ms. J. Wall.
<i>Apologies</i>	Senior Tutor, Professor C. Donnellan, Professor AM. Malone, Professor M. Monaghan, Professor M. Ruffini, Ms. D. Kelleher, Mr. J. Noctor, Director of Student Services.
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Librarian and College Archivist, Associate Dean of Research, 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 and requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary to the College advised that Professor D. Murchan had declared a conflict of interest in respect of item 6 'Degree Parchments', however, he did not believe there to be a conflict of interest and recommended that Professor Murchan remain in the meeting and take a full part in any discussion on the item.

### **CL/20-21/209 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 28 April 2021 were approved and signed.

### **CL/20-21/210 Matters Arising**

(i) CL/20-21/183 Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Funding

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred Council to the action in the minutes relating to the resources and supports provided to the Library from HCI Pillar 3 funding. He explained that the Library will see an increase in its budget by €600,000 from HCI Pillar 3 through the Budget Baseline Model (BBM) uplift if the projected student numbers are achieved.

(ii) CL/20-21/185 Postgraduate Course Proposals

Referring to the action relating to the MSc in Quantum Science and Technology (HCI Pillar 3), the Dean of Graduate Studies reported that she had advised the School of Physics of Council's invitation to introduce a sustainability element into the course at a future date. The School noted the request recognising that the change is not an immediate one.

**CL/20-21/211 Provost's Report**

The Provost informed Council that the transitioning to the new Provost is working well with the focus on two main areas at present, the legislative proposals from Government on the governance of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and Trinity East. He has held meetings with the Provost Elect, Professor Linda Doyle, to brief her on the Government legislative proposals. Meetings with the Fellow's Governance Group are taking place as any changes to the Statutes require assent from the Body Corporate and must be acceptable to the Fellows. He reported that meetings have also taken place with the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and department officials, and that the proposals will be discussed at the next Board meeting. Referring to Trinity East, the Provost highlighted that a Trinity East Transition Group will be established in the Michaelmas term.

The Provost updated Council on the Old Library Redevelopment Project advising that the Government has announced funding of €25 million for the conservation project, which will allow the redevelopment of the Old Library to proceed. He congratulated the Librarian and College Archivist and the Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation for their contributions to the Old Library Redevelopment Project and invited the Librarian/College Archivist to update Council on progress.

The Librarian and College Archivist informed Council that the next two years will see work begin on the design of an alternative study space in the Ussher Library while the redevelopment of the Old Library is underway. The Project will see the development of a new state-of-the art Research Collections Study Centre, and an immersive exhibition which will enhance the entire experience of visiting the Old Library, and plans are in place to develop an online booking system to accommodate visitors. She highlighted that work has commenced on profiling the move of the marble busts and early printed books and manuscripts to ensure that the time the material is not available is kept to a minimum, as these artefacts cannot be in place during the conservation work.

Referring to the Trinity St. James's Cancer Institute, the Provost highlighted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed this next week with two new roles, Academic Director and Medical Director, being announced.

The Provost highlighted that TU Berlin had become the latest member of the Science Gallery Network bringing the number of universities in the Network to nine. TU Berlin will join Trinity and top universities in Atlanta, Dublin, London, Detroit, Melbourne, Venice, Bengaluru and Rotterdam.

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research joined the meeting.

**CL/20-21/212 Policy on Good Research Practice**

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The Provost welcomed the Associate Dean of Research to the meeting.

The Associate Dean of Research informed Council that the 2021 revision of the 'Policy on Good Research Practice' incorporates changes in the legislation and practice relating to research ethics, data management protection, and research integrity. The Policy presents an overview of the concepts with detail available through links to the policies of the key areas, allowing the information to be as up to date as possible.

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The 2021 review process, the Associate Dean of Research advised, involved a review and update of the Policy by the Research Ethics Policy Committee, consultation with the Library, IT Services, and the Deputy Data Protection Officer for Research, presentation to the Research Committee for feedback and approval, and presentation to the Executive Officers Group (EOG) on 11 May.

The updated Policy includes references to the following:

- European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2017) and Research Integrity in Ireland Report from the Irish Universities Association (IUA) in 2019.
- The changes to the College Schedules on Research Misconduct adopted in 2020.
- GDPR.
- The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA).
- Consideration of gender in research reflecting gender planning requirements.
- Ethical considerations around research using plants and ecosystems.
- Research ethics committee structures, which paves the way for planned implementation of an online research ethics application management system.

Concluding, the Associate Dean of Research advised, that the Policy should be considered as a 'living' document that directs researchers to relevant guidance and specific policies; reduce the need for the entire Policy to be updated each time external regulations are introduced or changed; and point researchers to the original policies and encourage direct engagement with same.

The Provost thanked the Associate Dean of Research and invited questions and comments.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies welcomed the updated Policy and outlined his support for the adoption of the DORA principles. In response to a question from the Librarian and College Archivist on Trinity's adoption of the DORA principles, the Associate Dean of Research advised that another step is required with the Provost to make a formal declaration and become a signatory to the principles. The Provost gave his consent to this.

A member endorsed the adoption of the DORA principles adding that she would welcome a broader discussion on the adoption of DORA, as it calls for an evaluation on how promotions and productivity are assessed. She noted that there was an omission in the document on the online research ethics application management system and highlighted the need for wide disciplinary representation on the group involved with the system. The member emphasised the need for greater interaction between the Data Protection Officer (DPO) and research. The Associate Dean of Research in her response, advised that the project manager and Chair of the Research Ethics Policy Committee had engaged with all Faculties on the needs to be considered for the online research ethics application management system. She reported that there is good engagement and interaction with the DPO through the deputy DPO for Research's representation on the Research Committee and that an online space for Research Ethics Chairs will be created on the Dean of Research's website.

Responding to a question from the Provost on the next steps, the Secretary to the College advised that the Policy will be uploaded to the College website and disseminated to all staff in September 2021.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/212.1:** Council approved the Policy on Good Research Practice with the inclusion of a weblink to the National Office for Research Ethics Committees on page 24 of the document.

**CL/20-21/212.2:** Council approved Trinity's adoption of the DORA principles.

**Action:**

**CL/20-21/212.3:** The Dean of Health Sciences to send the link to the National Office for Research Ethics Committees to the Associate Dean of Research.

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research left the meeting.

**CL/20-21/213 Micro-Credentials and Trinity's Award Structure**

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The Academic Secretary speaking to this item noted that micro-credentials is a relatively new development and advised that there is considerable work to be done to align these offerings to Trinity award structures. She appraised Council of the progress achieved to-date on the micro-credential pilot project, funded by the Human Capital Initiative, which involves the Schools of Engineering, Nursing and Midwifery, Social Work and Social Policy, and the Trinity Business School. Progress to date includes an agreed working definition, a credit value range between 2.5 ECTS and 10 ECTS, a quality assurance approval process for micro-credentials, an establishment of a sub-committee of USC and GSC to consider and approve micro-credentials; and work has commenced on a systems solution to accommodate micro-credentials. She advised that a marketing plan is under development, there is engagement with employers, and that Trinity is a member of the Irish Universities Association (IUA) Micro-Credential Steering Committee.

The micro-credentials working definition was presented by the Academic Secretary as follows:

“ A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards.

The proof is contained in a certified document that lists the name of the holder, the achieved learning outcomes, the assessment method, the awarding body and, where applicable, the qualifications framework level and the credits gained. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared, are portable and may be combined into larger credentials or qualifications. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards.”

Speaking to Trinity's Award Structure the Academic Secretary highlighted that all Major Awards are registered on the NFQ and these are the principal class of awards made at NFQ levels 8 and 9 at Trinity. She advised that Minor Awards, 'partial completion of the outcomes of a Major Award', are offered by Trinity at NFQ levels 7 and 9, and that Special Purpose Awards, 'relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement' are offered by Trinity at NFQ levels 6, 7, 8 and 9. She noted that Trinity does not offer Supplemental Awards, 'for learning that is additional to a Major Award', at present.

The Academic Secretary appraised Council of the findings of desktop research undertaken by Trinity Teaching & Learning on micro-credentials as follows:

- The majority are delivered online and equivalent to NFQ level 9.
- Are taken as stand-alone units of learning or as credit towards a formal award (within a specific time limit).
- There are different approaches to the award structure for micro-credentials, such as Micro-Masters offered by MIT and MasterTrack offered by Yale. Learners can cash in the credit earned towards a formal Masters award in the relevant subject area in the two institutions.

She noted the following considerations that require further consideration by Trinity:

- Admissions criteria – open-entry or specific-entry.
- Stack-ability – the need to develop an micro-credential pathway architecture.
- Type of award – Major, Minor or both.
- Time limits – recognise that some subject-modules may be time sensitive.
- Credit and recognition of external micro-credentials – the micro-credential project led by

the Irish Universities Association (IUA) and Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) will establish a national micro-credential pathway on the NFQ.

Concluding, the Academic Secretary invited Council to recognise in principle that Trinity micro-credentials may be stackable towards a formal Non-Major Award at NFQ level 9, in the first instance. If approved by Council, the next steps will be to develop:

- (i) a micro-credential pathways architecture will be developed, mapping eligibility criteria against each Non-Major Award, as appropriate. The micro-credential Non-Major Award may be eligible as a track towards a formal Masters Award.
- (ii) regulations relating to, among others, admissions, progression, stackability, time-limits, and recognition of prior learning will be developed in line with the micro-credential pathways architecture.
- (iii) recommendations relating to micro-credential pathways and Award types will be brought for consideration to University Council in 2022.

The Provost thanked the Academic Secretary noting that micro-credentials are a big policy step for Trinity to take. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer thanked the Academic Secretary for her work as lead of the micro-credentials pilot project, advising that there is significant momentum in the European context on micro-credentials. He referred to a report on a European approach to micro-credentials published by the European Commission in 2020, and discussions that are taking place at EU-level on stackability, and recognition of prior learning. The League of European Research Universities (LERU) he added, is also considering a LERU approach to micro-credentials. He expressed his support for the proposal.

Responding to a member's request for clarification on open-entry admissions, the Academic Secretary clarified that this means that no specific entry requirements apply. She highlighted that many universities do not have specific entry requirements for micro-credentials and that in MIT and Yale, for example, there are specific entry requirements for micro-credentials where the pathway leads ultimately to a formal Masters Award. The Provost inquired if students taking micro-credentials that had no entry requirements could ultimately be participating in a Masters degree programme with students who had to fulfil specific-entry requirements. The Academic Secretary responded that this depends on the College's admissions policy on micro-credentials. She stressed that the award pathways and their admission routes and regulations had yet to be worked out and the request to Council is to recognise in principle that micro-credentials are stackable so that this work can be progressed with proposals brought to Council for consideration and approval. Responding to a question from a member on the feasibility of a School developing stand-alone micro-credentials offered to fulfil continuing professional development needs, the Academic Secretary advised that this fitted very well with micro-credentials. She highlighted that the School of Social Work and Social Policy is taking this approach with its micro-credentials.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/213.1:** Council approved in principle that Trinity micro-credentials may be stackable towards, in the first instance, a formal non-major award at level 9 of the NFQ, and the development of (i) a micro-credentials pathway architecture, (ii) regulations relating to micro-credentials, and (iii) recommendations on micro-credential pathways and award types, to be brought to Council for consideration and approval in 2022.

**CL/20-21/214  
XX** **Degree Parchments**

- (i) Proposed Amendments to B.Mus.Ed Parchment Text

The Registrar presented the proposed amendments to the Latin text on the B.Mus.Ed. parchment. The B.Mus.Ed. is a University of Dublin degree delivered in cooperation with the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) and the Technical University of Dublin (TUD) with all students receiving 50% of their tuition from Trinity and 50% from one of the two institutions. The rationale for the change is to reflect the substantial input from the co-operating institutions. The translation of the

revised Latin text, with the additional text highlighted in red font, is as follows:

“...having previously discharged all duties and assignments required by the regulations and customs of the University of Dublin **and of the Royal Irish Academy of Music.**”

“...having previously discharged all duties and assignments required by the regulations and customs of the University of Dublin **and of the Technological University of Dublin.**”

The Registrar clarified for Council that the B.Mus.Ed. is a University of Dublin degree and not a joint degree programme. The Head of School of Education conveyed the School of Education's support for the proposal. In response to a query, it was confirmed that there is an agreement between Trinity and the participating institutions on the distribution of workload, and a student handbook also shows the contributions of the three parties.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/214.1:** Council approved the proposed amendments to the Latin text on the B.Mus.Ed. parchment as outlined above.

(ii) Parchment for CHARM-EU Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability

The Registrar invited Council to approve the CHARM-EU degree parchment advising that there has been considerable negotiation between the institutions on the design of the parchment so that it meets the needs of all institutions. He reported that the degree is to be awarded jointly by the five partner institutions with the seal of each institution appearing on the parchment.

In a response to a question from the Provost on the parchment being issued by each university the Registrar confirmed that each university would issue the one parchment. Concerns were expressed on the inclusion of 'nationality' and 'birth name' on the parchment and the data protection considerations relating to the inclusion of this information on the parchment. It was noted that this is not a requirement or the practice for Trinity degree parchments. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted the complex negotiations that had taken place on the parchment and suggested that the inclusion of 'nationality' and 'birth name' may be due to a legal requirement in some of the partner countries. He undertook to raise Council's concerns on the parchment with the management committee of CHARM-EU.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/214.2:** Council approved the parchment for the CHARM-EU degree subject to a satisfactory explanation for the inclusion of 'nationality' and 'birth name' on the degree parchment.

**CL/20-21/215 Annual Report of the Senior Lecturer 2019/20**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked Sorcha De Brunner and Linda Darbey, Academic Affairs for their work on the Senior Lecturer's Annual Report. The Report, he explained, aims to provide insight into, commentary, and recommendations on the activities and developments of the undergraduate student lifecycle and draws on data, tables and figures provided by the Academic Registry (AR) and from the AR Annual Report 2019/20. The Report is presented in three parts, an overview of developments 2019/20, undergraduate admissions, and progression and the student lifecycle (post-admission).

Presenting an overview of developments during 2019/2020, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, highlighted that these included Council approval of course proposals/an articulation route under Trinity partnership agreements with Columbia University and Manipal University, and approval of an integrated five-year undergraduate/postgraduate course in Environmental Science and Engineering under E3. Referring to developments under the Trinity Education Project (TEP) he highlighted that these included, Council approval of a guided reflection tool, five new Trinity Electives for delivery in 2020/21, and the establishment of a governance and management structure for the new Undergraduate Common Architecture. The new governance structure, which provides academic leadership in the development of the Common Architecture and the management of shared elements of the Common Architecture, consists of an Associate

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Dean of Undergraduate Common Architecture (ADUCA), a Common Architecture Governance Committee, and a Common Architecture Office. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that the Pillar Structure with block timetabling provides a stable foundation for curricular growth including, new subjects, Joint Honours combinations, and Trinity Electives. Concluding his overview of TEP developments, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that the Trinity Electives Sub-Committee was established as a sub-committee of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC), and that Council endorsed the 'Proposal for Mainstreaming of Trinity Electives: Academic and Operational'.

Referring to Trinity's response to Covid-19, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that this consisted of the following:

Online pivot: teaching and learning, assessment

- A rapid move from 12 March 2020 to remote teaching.
- Tremendous efforts from academic staff and the Directors of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning (DUTLs) with crucial support from IT Services, AR, Academic Practice and other administrative units.

Mitigation measures for assessment

- Move to more assignments, open-book take-home exams, provision of some real-time online exams.
- Automatic deferrals.
- Aggregation.
- Re-Sits.
- Additional reassessment session.
- Erasmus student support.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies commented that the mitigation measures introduced worked well and made a difference to students, and he thanked Council for approving the measures.

Speaking to undergraduate admissions, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that non-EU students account for 13% of the undergraduate student body and that the MIE International Foundation Programme (IFP) led to 65 registrations with representation from 13 countries. EU admissions, he noted, have been virtually unchanged over the last five years with the majority of applications (76%) from the island of Ireland from Dublin and Leinster. He noted that while there was a decrease in applications from Northern Ireland acceptances of places had increased with the Northern Ireland Feasibility Study (NIFS) accounting for 25 acceptances. The Entrance Exhibition Awards saw 452 new entrants awarded from 379 schools.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the data on undergraduate student admissions by alternative entry routes noting that students entering through these routes accounted for 23.5% of CAO new entrants. The data does not include students who enter through the standard entry route who subsequently register with the Disability Service post-entry. He advised that he will be presenting the report of the Widening Participation Group (WPG) to the June Council meeting.

Presenting the data relating on the student lifecycle post-admission, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that a 96% retention rate was achieved for year 1 new entrants with 94% progressing to year 2. The highest retention rate was in the Health Sciences (97.4%). Other points of note included, a 53% reduction in student cases submitted to the Court of First Appeal after the reassessment period, and a reduction in examination sittings from 85,023 in 2018/19 to 76,765 in 2019/20, though he urged caution in the interpretation of this data due to the impact of Covid-19. He informed Council that 57 Foundation Scholarships were awarded in 2019/20.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew Council's attention to the assessments results profile highlighting that there was evidence of grade inflation for student cohorts across all Faculties, especially in the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Evidence of grade inflation was also evident in the awarding of First-Class Honours Degrees in 2019/20, with the Faculty of Health Sciences seeing the greatest increase from 20.5% First-Class Honours Degrees awarded in 2018/19 to 42% in 2019/20. He noted that this was an area of concern adding that some variation had been expected due to the mitigating measures introduced to reduce the impact of Covid-19 on assessments and that there would be a need to monitor the situation and to examine this year's results to see if a normalisation had been achieved.

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

Responding to a query on evidence of grade inflation for Second-Class Honours Degrees, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that he did not have this data and he acknowledge that grade inflation may have spanned the whole range of Second-Class Honours Degrees. During the discussion it was suggested that some grade inflation could be attributed to changes introduced under TEP such as the introduction of the Capstone Project, and that due to Covid-19 restrictions students could have spent more time studying and completing assessments that may have otherwise been the case. A breakdown of grades across comparator universities and across Medical Schools in Ireland was recommended to establish if grade inflation had been experienced by other Institutions, though it was acknowledged that this data may not be easily obtained.

**Decision:**

**CL/20-21/215.1:** Council approved the Annual Report of the Senior Lecturer 2019/20.

**CL/20-21/215.2:** The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to provide a breakdown of grades awarded across Schools to a future meeting of Council.

**CL/20-21/216 Postgraduate Course Proposals**

The Dean of Graduate Studies drew attention to the memorandum on the amendment to Section A item 8 (i) and (ii) Postgraduate Course Proposals, which outlines a revised fee schedule for the (i) MSc in Mechanical Engineering and the (ii) MSc in Electronic Information Engineering. She explained that the fees as outlined in the course proposals had unintended consequences of a punitive fee differential for students pursuing the MSc part-time over three years. The fees outlined in the memo from the Head of School of Engineering are the outcome of detailed discussions between the School, the Academic Registry (AR), the Financial Services Division (FSD), and the Faculty Office. She advised that the Dean of STEM is aware of the refinements to the fees as outlined and noted that these do not materially affect the viability of the courses.

(i) Masters in Mechanical Engineering – Strand in Zero-Carbon Technology (HCI 3)

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposals from the School of Engineering to be implemented from 2021/22 as follows:

- a. Restructure the MSc in Mechanical Engineering (currently DPTEG-MENG-2F09) to a 60 ECTS taught component and a 30 ECTS research component requiring a new MSc course code. The proposed 60 ECTS/30 ECTS restructure of the MSc in Mechanical Engineering does not affect the existing programme learning outcomes. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the current programme (MSc) is achieved on the basis of completion of 50 ECTS of taught modules and the 40 ECTS Research Project. The introduction of the reduced 30 ECTS Master's Project will enable the flexibility of staged entry to the MSc from the new Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma Awards.
- b. Add new Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma entry and exit routes to the revised course and new Strand in Zero Carbon Technology. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the new entry and exit routes to the revised course will provide greater flexibility to prospective students, as they can choose from the following entry and exit routes:



- Register on the Postgraduate Certificate (30 ECTS, National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) level 9) and attain a Postgraduate Certificate Award or progress to the Postgraduate Diploma (30 ECTS, NFQ level 9) and attain a Postgraduate Diploma Award or progress to the MSc (30 ECTS, NFQ level 9) and attain an MSc Award.
  - Register on the existing one-year full-time MSc (90 ECTS) and attain the MSc award or exit with a Postgraduate Diploma Award after the taught component (60 ECTS) has been completed.
  - Register on the one-year full-time Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS) and progress to the one-year part-time MSc (30 ECTS).
- c. Add a new Strand in Zero Carbon Technology to the restructured MSc/P.Grad.Dip./P.Grad.Cert. in the Mechanical Engineering course.

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the new HCI Pillar 3 funded Strand in Zero-Carbon Technology to Council, which augments and builds on many of the modules in the MSc in Mechanical Engineering. The Strand is in response to the Call 'Skills to Move Ireland to a Low Carbon Economy' with the focus is on technologies for decarbonising of power, transport and natural resources. She advised that the modules in the Strand are delivered using live streamed/recorded online and in-person classes, and that the Strand of the MSc in Mechanical Engineering will lead to the same awards as the existing 'parent' course and have the same structure as the existing 'parent' course.

The Dean of Graduate Studies explained that the entry requirements for the course is an honours Bachelor's degree in Engineering or a cognate degree. She reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Grant Ingram, Associate Professor in Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics, Department of Engineering, Durham University, UK. She recommended the proposal to Council.

#### Decisions:

**CL/20-21/216.1:i:** Council approved the proposal to restructure the MSc in Mechanical Engineering (currently DPTEG-MENG-2F09) to a 60 ECTS taught component and a 30 ECTS research component to be implemented from September 2021.

**CL/20-21/216.1:ii:** Council approved the proposal to add new Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma entry and exit routes to the restructured MSc in Mechanical Engineering and new Strand in Zero Carbon Technology to be implemented from September 2021.

**CL/20-21/216.1:iii:** Council approved the proposal for the new blended Strand in Zero Carbon Technology (HCI P3) to the restructured Mechanical Engineering programme leading to the award of MSc (90 ECTS), Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS), and Postgraduate Certificate (30 ECTS) in Mechanical Engineering offered by the School of Engineering, with a first intake in September 2021.

- (ii) Masters in Electronic Information Engineering – Strand in Computational Engineering (HCI 3)

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposals from the School of Engineering to be implemented from 2021/22 as follows:

- a) Restructure the MSc in Electronic Information Engineering (currently PTEG-EIEN-1F) to a 60 ECTS taught component and a 30 ECTS research component requiring a new MSc course code.
- b) Add new Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma entry and exit routes to the revised course and new Strand in Computational Engineering.
- c) Add a new Strand in Computational Engineering to the restructured MSc/P.Grad.Dip./P.Grad.Cert. in the Mechanical Engineering course.

The Strand in Computational Engineering, the Dean of Graduate Studies reported, provides graduate Engineers with specialist design skills for the inception and creation of new

computational products and systems. She advised that the modules in the Strand are delivered using face-to-face delivery with some hybrid elements, and that the Strand of the MSc in Electronic Information Engineering will lead to the same awards as the existing 'parent' course and have the same structure as the existing 'parent' course.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Simon Godsill, Professor of Statistical Signal Processing, Engineering Department, Cambridge University, UK. She recommended the proposal to Council.

**Decisions:**

**CL/20-21/216.2.i:** Council approved the proposal to restructure the MSc in Electronic Information Engineering (currently PTEG-EIEN-1F) to a 60 ECTS taught component and a 30 ECTS research component to be implemented from September 2021.

**CL/20-21/216.2.ii:** Council approved the proposal to add new Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma entry and exit routes to the restructured MSc in Electronic Information Engineering and new Strand in Computational Engineering to be implemented from September 2021.

**CL/20-21/216.2.iii:** Council approved the proposal for the new blended Strand in Computational Engineering (HCI P3) to the restructured Electronic Information Engineering programme leading to the award of MSc (90 ECTS), Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS), and Postgraduate Certificate (30 ECTS) in Electronic Information Engineering offered by the School of Engineering, with a first intake in September 2021.

(iii) MPhil in The Middle East in a Global Context

The Dean of Graduate Studies outlined the context for the new course in The Middle East in a Global Context noting that Board and Council in 2019 entered into a legally binding agreement with the AL-Maktoum College, Dundee. Trinity agreed to create an MPhil programme in Middle Eastern Studies tailored in respect of online teaching to be accessible to students anywhere in the world. The course proposal, she added, is designed to satisfy Trinity's legally binding agreement, and to give Trinity a major intellectual asset.

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal from the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies (LLCS) for the new online course in The Middle East in a Global Context to Council leading to the awards of MPhil (90 ECTS), Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS) and Postgraduate Certificate (30 ECTS) in The Middle East in a Global Context at level 9 of the NFQ. The course consists of direct application entry routes to the Postgraduate Certificate (30 ECTS – one-year part-time), Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS – one-year full-time) and the MPhil (90 ECTS – one-year full time) with an exit award of Postgraduate Diploma, and facilitates progression from the Postgraduate Certificate (30 ECTS – part-time) to the Postgraduate Diploma (30 ECTS – part-time) and the MPhil (30 ECTS – part-time).

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that the course offers research training for students who already hold a 2.1 degree in any discipline and who are interested in studying the region of the Middle East, its histories, cultures, politics, and language.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Professor Michael Reynolds, Associate Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, USA. She recommended the proposal to Council.

The Provost commended the Dean of Graduate Studies on her work on the course proposals.

**Decisions:**

**CL/20-21/216.3:** Council approved the proposal for the NFQ level 9 online course in The Middle East in a Global Context leading to an MPhil (90 ECTS)/Postgraduate Diploma (60 ECTS)/Postgraduate Certificate (30 ECTS) in The Middle East in a Global Context offered by the School of Language, Literatures and Cultural Studies, with a first intake in September 2021.

**CL/20-21/217 Undergraduate Course Proposal**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the proposal for a dual-degree programme in Mathematics with Columbia University. He advised that Mathematics is delivered by the School of Mathematics and that the proposed dual-degree programme will follow the structure of the other dual-degree programmes with Columbia University. Single Honours Mathematics students will spend the first two years in Trinity followed by two years in Columbia. Students will graduate with a Trinity B.A. (mod) and a B.A. from Columbia. The student quota is 3 EU and 3 non-EU students. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive review from Professor T.W. Körner, Emeritus Professor, Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, University of Cambridge, UK.

Two derogations were presented by the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies in respect of the dual degree programme to meet the requirements of Trinity and Columbia. These derogations are as follows:

- A derogation from the requirement that 60 ECTS are taken in subject 1 in the Junior Freshman year under the single subject common architecture that will allow students to take 10 ECTS of language modules or other relevant modules in their first year in order to meet the Columbia Core Curriculum requirements. Students will therefore take 50 ECTS in core Mathematics modules in the Junior Freshman year.
- A derogation from the 30:70 (JS:SS) calculation of the degree classification. The degree calculation will be as per the method outlined in the Operational Framework agreed with Columbia University.

Responding to a query from a member on the fees for students attending Columbia, noting concern about equitable access to the programmes, the Provost referred to page 89 of the proposal, which presents only the financial information relating to Trinity for the programme. The Vice-President for Global Relations added that a significant means-tested Scholarship is available to support students attending Columbia University.

**Decisions:**

**CL/20-21/217.1:** Council approved the proposal for a dual-degree programme with Columbia University in Mathematics leading to a B.A. (Moderatorship) with the first intake in September 2022/23.

**CL/20-21/217.2:** Council approved the derogations for the dual degree programme with Columbia University in Mathematics.

**CL/20-21/218 AOB**

There was no any other urgent business.

**SECTION B****CL/20-21/219 Graduate Studies Committee**

The Dean of Graduate Studies referred Council to minute GS/20-21/091 'Calendar Part III changes for 2021/22' advising that as the proposed deletion of the income threshold (paragraph 75, page 25) from the Calendar requires a policy proposal for the Finance Committee that the proposed changes will not take effect immediately.

The minutes of 22 April 2021 were noted and approved.

**CL/20-21/220 Research Committee**

The minutes of 13 April 2021 were noted and approved.

**SECTION C****CL/20-21/221 Council Membership – Students’ Union**

- (i) The Council noted that the following have been elected, and will serve as members of the University Council for the academic year 2021-2022:
- Education Officer – Ms Bev Genockey
  - Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences - Ms Julia Bochenek
  - Faculty of Health Sciences - Ms Shauna Sutton
  - Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics – Ms Zöe Cummins
- (ii) The Council noted and approved that the incoming members listed in (i) above may attend the Council meeting of 2 June 2021 as observers.

**CL/20-21/222 School Directors**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Jonathan Dukes as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further one-year term;
- (ii) Professor Owen Conlan as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further one-year term;
- (iii) Professor Declan O’Sullivan as Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further one-year term;
- (iv) Professor Caroline Brophy as Director of Global Relations, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further one-year term;
- (v) Professor Margaret Walshe as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, for a two-year term commencing 7 June 2021;
- (vi) Professor Amanda Phelan as Director of Global Relations, School of Nursing and Midwifery, for a two-year term commencing 7 June 2021;
- (vii) Professor Sharon O’Donnell as Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery, for a two-year term commencing 7 June 2021.

**CL/20-21/223 Heads of Discipline**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor David Lewis as Head of Discipline of Artificial Intelligence, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further three-year term;
- (ii) Professor Carol O’Sullivan as Head of Discipline of Graphics and Vision, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a three-year term commencing 7 June 2021;
- (iii) Professor Siobhán Clarke as Head of Discipline of Networks and Distributed Systems, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further three-year term;
- (iv) Professor David Gregg as Head of Discipline of Software and Systems, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further three-year term;
- (v) Professor Simon Wilson as Head of Discipline of Statistics and Information Systems, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for a further three-year term;
- (vi) Professor Matthew Campbell as Head of Discipline of Genetics, School of Genetics and Microbiology, for a three-year term commencing 7 June 2021;
- (vii) Professor Peter Stone as Head of Discipline of Political Science, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, for a three-year term commencing 1 June 2021;
- (viii) Professor Imelda Coyne as Head of Discipline of Children’s Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, for a one-year term commencing 1 June 2021.

The Council noted and approved the following amended nomination (originally noted and approved by Council on 31 March 2021, CL/20-21/173 refers):

- (ix) 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

**CL/20-21/224 Laidlaw Undergraduate Leadership and Research Programme Progress Report**

The Council noted the Memorandum from the Director of Careers dated 14 May 2021.

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....