



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 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 11.15am in the Trinity Board Room, Trinity Business School.**

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Dean of Research, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor C. Kenny, Professor K. Neenan, Professor G. Watson, Ms D. Alexander, Mr R. Saulnier, Mr R. Riley Dargan, Dr N. O'Dwyer.
<i>Apologies</i>	Ms R. Chen, Professor D. Geary, Prof. G. O'Hare, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor V. Colasanti, Professor B. Daly, Professor P. O'Grady, Professor A.M. Malone, Professor B. Fitzgerald, Vice-President for Global Engagement, Mr M. McAndrew, Mr E. Gilroy, Academic Secretary.
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, Librarian and College Archivist, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Assistant Academic Secretary.

**SECTION A.1: Policy Matters**

The Provost welcomed everyone to Council and requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest relating to the agenda. The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised Council there were no statement of interest declared. Council noted that Seathrún Sardina has resigned from Council - he has successfully passed his PhD viva and is returning to the US. Provost welcomed the new Chief Operating Officer Noel Gorman and congratulated Students' Union members elected to the Union of Students of Ireland.

**CL/24-25/136 Minutes**

**Decision CL/24-25/136:**

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 12<sup>th</sup> March were approved.

**CL/24-25/137 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

*Registrar joined the meeting at this point.*

**CL/24-25/138 Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030 Update**

The Provost presented an update on the Strategic Plan 2025-2030 to Council. She explained how the updated HEA legislation impacted the development process and briefly outlined the stakeholder engagement process and progress to date. The Provost emphasised that the Strategic Plan is about clearly articulating the priorities and direction for the next five years, rather than being a checklist of everything we do. The Provost discussed the three overarching themes of the plan—purpose, people, and place—and outlined six draft commitments around research and innovation, teaching and learning, student wellbeing and belonging, thriving workplace for staff, and infrastructure - physical and digital. She also highlighted our values and existing strategies as key enablers for the new plan and updated Council on funding principles for this plan. The Provost concluded by advising that Board had reviewed and discussed the first

draft of the Strategic Plan at their March meeting. A Board Working Group continues its work with the aim of obtaining full approval by June, submitting to the HEA by July, and formally launching later this year.

Council noted the importance of the University leading the commitment to core values in the sector and wider society.

#### **CL/24-25/139 Trends in HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) and DARE (Disability Access Route) Schemes**

The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer gave a presentation to Council on trends in HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) and DARE (Disability Access Route) Schemes in Trinity. The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer extended her thanks to the colleagues who collated this report and gave a brief context why these trends are being reviewed in Trinity and the wider sector. Data presented is for the period 2018-2024.

The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer highlighted to Council that:

- There is an emerging pattern - HEAR access numbers slowly but consistently going down and DARE access numbers are consistently going up.
- Many students with Disability needs do not come to Trinity via DARE scheme. Conversely, high numbers of student that come via DARE don't register with DisAbility Services. This makes it complex for Student Services, and for the Schools to plan the supports students require.

Council had a robust discussion and noted that communication on schemes could be strengthened: at sectoral level and by Trinity in terms of making HEAR scheme for higher education more well known, and at Trinity in terms of encouraging students registering for DisAbility services. Council also noted the need to lobby at sectoral level for aligning DARE scheme and HEA criteria used for SLD, where criteria mismatch result in funding gaps.

#### **CL/24-25/140 Embedding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in New Undergraduate Course Proposals**

The Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies provided a brief overview of the update to the process for new undergraduate course proposals which encourage integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into the undergraduate curriculum. He presented a proposal that all new undergraduate course proposal(s) would incorporate ESD module goal(s), where feasible/appropriate, by including at least one programme-level learning outcome related to ESD themes and/or competencies. If a proposed degree programme does not have (at least) one sustainability programme goal, it must provide (and have approved) a clear reasoning for such non-inclusion. This is proposed as one of the approaches to embedding ESD within the curriculum.

##### **Decision CL/24-25/140:**

Council approved the proposal to embed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in new undergraduate course proposals.

#### **CL/24-25/141 Academic Year Structure: Update to Trinity week 26/27**

The Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented a memorandum outlining the need to move Trinity Week in 2026/27 from the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> April to the week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> April 2027. This modification is needed to ensure that Trinity Week falls within Trinity Term, in accordance with the College Statutes.

##### **Decision CL/24-25/141:**

Council approved the update to Trinity Week in 2026/27.

#### **CL/24-25/142 Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer's Report**

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The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer reported to Council on:

- Senior Academic Promotion review process progress and timelines. The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer updated Council on progress so far and advised that Schools continue to work on identifying discipline norms and metrics to inform the review. This step requires a bit more time, and notwithstanding, it is expected that a revised process and procedure will be brought to completion in Autumn 2025.
- Meeting with DFHERIS on behalf of CAO. The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer updated Council that Leaving Certificate results will be published 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025, this includes post marking modification. 2025 Leaving Certificate will see the first reduction of mark inflation implemented, which will likely present challenges for students and Higher Education Institutions alike. The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer also reported that DFHERIS have an appetite to develop to a single application portal for Higher Education, Further Education and Apprenticeship schemes.
- HCI celebration event will take place on May 30<sup>th</sup> where colleagues who participated in HCI funded projects will connect, share collaborations, success stories and lessons learnt.

The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer's report was followed by brief discussion by Council on reasons students might reapply via CAO for courses.

#### **CL/24-25/143 Provost's Report**

The Provost reported to Council on the University of Sanctuary initiative, which, after several months of work by Trinity Global and with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs, enabled Trinity to welcome 12 individuals from Gaza—2 undergraduate students, 8 postgraduate students, and 2 researchers.

#### **CL/24-25/144 Any Other Urgent Business**

The Registrar brought Council's attention to a memorandum regarding consultation and information about the appointment of Provost process (item C.27). The Registrar is seeking feedback from members on the topic.

### **SECTION A.2: Policy Matters which have already been considered by Committees**

#### **CL/24-25/145 Course Proposal for Postgraduate Diploma in French for Teachers**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/145:** Council approved the Course Proposal for Postgraduate Diploma in French for Teachers.

#### **CL/24-25/146 Policy on Late Submission of Assessments (Extensions Policy)**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/146:** Council approved the Policy on Late Submission of Assessments.

#### **CL/24-25/147 Revised Return of Coursework Policy**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/147:** Council approved the Revised Return of Coursework Policy.

#### **CL/24-25/148 Extension of Articulation Agreement with Universiti Brunei Darussalam**

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**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/148:** Council approved the Extension of Articulation Agreement with Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

**CL/24-25/149 Proposed Changes to Physical Sciences (TR063) Entry Requirements**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/149:** Council approved the Proposed Changes to Physical Sciences (TR063) Entry Requirements.

**CL/24-25/150 Revised Recognition of Foreign Qualifications Policy**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/150:** Council approved the Revised Recognition of Foreign Qualifications Policy.

**CL/24-25/151 Revised Admission and Transfer Policy**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/151:** Council approved the Revised Admission and Transfer Policy.

**CL/24-25/152 Revised Criteria for Language Waivers**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/152:** Council approved the Revised Criteria for Language Waivers.

**CL/24-25/153 School of Psychology Implementation Plan**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/153:** Council approved the School of Psychology Implementation Plan.

**CL/24-25/154 Trinity Business School Quality Review Report**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/154:** Council approved the Trinity Business School Quality Review Report.

**CL/24-25/155 Quality Office Progress Report**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/155:** Council approved the Quality Office Progress Report.

**CL/24-25/156 Royal Irish Academy of Music Institutional Review Implementation**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/156:** Council approved the Royal Irish Academy of Music Institutional Review Implementation.

**SECTION B**

**CL/24-25/157 Graduate Studies Committee**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/157:** The minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/158 Quality Committee**

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**Decisions:**

**CL/24-25/158.1:** The minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/158.2:** The minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/159      Research Committee****Decision:**

**CL/24-25/159.1:** The minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/159.2:** The minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/160      Undergraduate Studies Committee****Decision:**

**CL/24-25/160:** The minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

**SECTION C****CL/24-25/161      University Council Membership – Students' Union**

- (i) The Council noted and approved that the following were elected as members of the University Council for the academic year 2025/26.

Education Officer: Mr Buster Whaley

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: Ms Giulia Villa

Faculty of Health Sciences: Ms Grace McNally

Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: Ms Eve Martin

- (ii) The Council noted and approved that those listed in (i), if they are not already current members, may attend to observe the Council meeting of 14 May 2025.

**CL/24-25/162      Working Group on Provost Appointment Process – Information and Consultation**

The Council noted the circulated memorandum from the Registrar dated 8 April 2025.

**CL/24-25/163      Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the circulated reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 16 April 2025.

**M.D.** Christopher Armstrong; Deborah Anne Galvin

**Ph.D.** Bashaer Alsharif; Shubham Shankarsingh Baisthakur; Miriam Boland; Declan Brennan; Andrew Burgess; Christina Cahill; Valerio Cataldi; Simone Cima; Samuel Collyer; Cian Cooney; Callum Mervyn Craig; John Crotty; Oisín Patrick Culhane; Clíodhna Daly; Róisín Ann Daly; Luke Doolan; Damien Ferguson; Tianyi Gao; Anna Gillman; Daniel Hall; Fiona Mary Hedigan; Julika Johanna Hudson; Shalaleh Karkon; Emma Blanka Kovács; Christina Lydon; Prabhav Mehra; Olivia McEvoy; Théo Martin Morales; Connor Joseph O'Leary; Stéphane Richard Petrousek; Dung Tien Pham; Laura Ramirez Lazaro; Barry Francis Scott;

Anastasiia Shandra; Síomha María Walsh García David; Jacobus Hendrikus Terwel; Lorraine Wan Yin Thong; Órla Rachel Tynan; Pengfei Yu

**D.Ch.Dent.** Waleed Saqer Almutairi

**M.Sc.** Filza Masood; Jake McEntagart

**M.Litt.** Samuel James Demattio

**CL/24-25/164 Head of School**

The Council noted that Board had approved the nomination of Professor Bernice Murphy as the Head of the School of English from 2 June 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2028.

**CL/24-25/165 Head of Discipline**

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor John Divers as Head of Discipline of Philosophy, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, for a second term from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2028.

**CL/24-25/166 School Director**

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Neasa Ní Chiaráin as Director of Global Engagement, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, for a second term from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2027.

**CL/24-25/167 Board and Council Meeting Dates 2025/26**

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from Secretary to the College/Director of Governance and the Governance Manager dated 9 April 2025.

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....

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