XX = Board relevance

Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin

A meeting of the University Council was held on 14th May 2025 at 11.15am in the Trinity Board Room, Trinity Business School.

Present	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, Vice-President for Global Engagement, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor P. O'Grady, Professor D. Geary, Professor C. Kenny, Professor K. Neenan, Professor G. Watson, Professor B. Daly, Professor A.M. Malone, Professor B. Fitzgerald, Mr M. McAndrew, Mr E. Gilroy, Mr R. Saulnier, Mr R. Riley Dargan, Ms G. Villa.
Observers	Ms C. Persello.
In attendance	Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, Academic Secretary, Librarian and College Archivist, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Assistant Academic Secretary, Head of Schools Representative, Ms. E. Martin, Mr B. Whaley, Professor Mark Hennessy (for item CL/24-25/179), Ms Marie McPeak (for item CL/24-25/179), Professor Rachel McLoughlin (for item CL/24-25/180), Ms Orla Bannon (for item CL/24-25/180).
Apologies	Ms D. Alexander, Professor V. Colasanti, Professor J. Coleman, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Senior Tutor, Dr N. O'Dwyer.

SECTION A.1: Policy Matters

The Provost welcomed everyone to Council. She thanked the Academic Secretary for whom this is last Council meeting and outgoing SU representatives – SU Education Officer, STEM and HS Faculty and Postgraduate representatives.

The Provost requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest relating to the agenda. The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised Council that there were the following statements of interest declared:

- A.22 School of Physics Quality Report – Professor Jonathan Coleman as Head of School – The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that Head of School would normally be asked to step out of the meeting for the item but noted that Professor Coleman had sent apologies for the meeting.
- A.23 School of Engineering Quality Report – Professor Breiffni Fitzgerald – The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that he could remain in the meeting should there be discussion on the item.
- A.24 School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences Quality Review Report – Professor Ciaran Kenny (Professor V. Colasanti has sent apologies) ¬ The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that he could remain in the meeting should there be discussion on the item.

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that Ms Eve Martin – the incoming SU STEM Faculty Representative - and Mr Buster Whaley the incoming SU Education Officer - will attend to observe the meeting.

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that item C.30 'University Council – Observer' will be considered first as it related to representation on University Council.

CL/24-25/175   University Council – Observer
Decision CL/24-25/175:
The Council noted Ms Camilla Persello was elected as the Secretary to the Scholars and will serve as an observer at the University Council.

Ms Camilla Persello joined the meeting.

CL/24-25/176   Declarations
Ms Camilla Persello as incoming observer of Council made the required statutory declaration.

CL/24-25/177   Minutes
Decision CL/24-25/177:
The minutes of the meeting of Council on 16th April were approved.

CL/24-25/178   Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Professor Mark Hennessy and Ms Marie McPeak joined the meeting.

CL/24-25/179   Proposal to remove 30ECTS credits in Dual B.A. Programmes with Columbia University and to revise the degree calculation for entrants from 2026/27.

The Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented a proposed revision to the degree calculation of the Dual B.A. Programmes with Columbia University, awarded by the University of Dublin, which have been operating very successfully since 2017. The proposed revision specifically included:
- the removal of the additional 30 ECTS Trinity credits from the Dual B.A. Programmes during the sophister years while students are attending Columbia University, and
- a revised degree calculation ensuring that the Trinity Degree included students' academic performance from Senior Fresh (at Trinity) as well as Junior and Senior Sophister years (at Columbia).

This change will commence for entrants to the 2026/27 academic year onwards. This proposed revision addressed the challenges faced by Trinity students in completing all the requirements for the sophister years in Columbia University at the same time as fulfilling additional Trinity credits in those years.

Council held a brief discussion on the agenda item as presented. It noted that this proposal was for a specific change to an existing Dual Degree partnership, and that a broader strategic discussion regarding university partners and partnerships could be held at a future Council meeting, if desired.

Decision CL/24-25/179:
Council approved the proposal to remove 30 ECTS credits in Dual B.A. Programmes with Columbia University and to revise the degree calculation for entrants from 2026/27.

Professor Mark Hennessy and Ms Marie McPeak left the meeting.

Professor Rachel McLoughlin and Ms Orla Bannon joined the meeting.

CL/24-25/180   PG Renewal: Blueprint for Multidimensional Skills Development for Trinity Postgraduate Students facilitated through existing offerings and a new Triple I (International, Intersectoral, Interdisciplinary) Framework activity engagement model.

The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced the item by giving the context and background on Multidimensional Skills Development and the Triple I (International, Intersectoral,

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

Interdisciplinary) framework. She then introduced Professor Rachel McLoughlin and Ms Orla Bannon, leads of two Postgraduate Renewal Programme work packages, who co-presented the Blueprint for Multidimensional Skills Development and Triple I frameworks for Trinity Postgraduate Students to Council. They outlined the extensive consultation undertaken and highlighted the following key points:

- The importance of ensuring that all postgraduate students - taught and research - have opportunities to engage with interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international activities.
- The roles and responsibilities of the university, students and supervisors supporting this initiative.
- The need to integrate the Triple I framework with the model for multidimensional skillset development for PGR students, as required under the Irish Universities Association (IUA) guidelines for doctoral students.
- That the current integrated framework is intended as a roadmap for research students to help them identify, engage in, and record learning activities that develop a wide range of skills, through engaging with Triple I experiences. This is proposed as an online interactive resource, captured within students' e-learning portfolios.
- That delivering on the benefits of this work will require centralised oversight of the framework, the development of a digital resource to share information with students, training for both students and staff, and functionality to enable students to record and document their achievements for future career purposes.

During Council's discussion, members highlighted the benefits of a centralised resource, which would improve accessibility for students and for staff applying for research funding. Council emphasised that both clearly defining the boundaries between opportunities and obligations and ensuring strong student engagement are essential to the success of the framework. It was noted that the current TRDA awardee cohort had played and will continue to play a valuable role in piloting the use of resources and identifying both benefits and challenges of the framework.

Decision CL/24-25/180:
Council approved the Blueprint for Multidimensional Skills Development for Trinity Postgraduate Students and a new Triple I (International, Intersectoral, Interdisciplinary) Framework activity engagement model.

Professor Rachel McLoughlin and Ms Orla Bannon left the meeting.

CL/24-25/181   Senior Lecturer's Annual Report 2023/24

The Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the Senior Lecturer Annual Report for 2023/24 to Council. He outlined key activities and data from 2023/24 under following headings:

- Academic Integrity – a comprehensive policy and procedure were developed in 2023/24.
- Trinity Education Project – Council noted the ongoing embedding and further expansion of offerings.
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) – Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported on initiatives including five dedicated ESD fellows, the rollout of an ESD module to upskill academic staff, and an ESD module for all undergraduate students in Business.
- Undergraduate Admissions – he reported on rising admission numbers but highlighted the relatively low percentage of students enrolling from Munster and Ulster, as well as decline in numbers coming through some Access routes. He outlined a range of All-Ireland initiatives managed by Trinity Global to enhance recruitment from across the island.

The Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies concluded his report by presenting to Council the key activities that have followed the 2023/24 reporting period and advising of planned revision of the report format to better support decision-making.

Council held a brief discussion and recognised the need for a forum to improve understanding of broader Access initiatives.

Decision CL/24-25/181:
Council approved the Senior Lecturer's Annual Report 2023/24.

CL/24-25/182   **The Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2023/24**

The Librarian and College Archivist presented the Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2023/24 to Council. She reported that the Library has made determined and remarkable progress across each of its strategic strands in 2023/24:

- Pillar 1. Space – The Librarian provided an update on Old Library Redevelopment Project including completion of the Research Collections Study Centre in the Ussher Library Atrium, completion of 'Book of Kells Experience' featuring digitised content from the Library's Virtual Trinity Library, and completion of fire suppression testing in Norway. She also reported on the new Laidlaw Library at Trinity East, which will be College's 8th library, and its first 21st-century library, and inaugural 'digital first and foremost' library; and the denaming of the Berkeley Library.
- Pillar 2 Digital – The Librarian outlined the aftermath of the major cyberattack on the British Library and impact on UK electronic-Legal Deposit for Trinity.
- Pillar 3 Teaching Learning & Research – She reported on findings of bi-annual Library Pulse Survey, and the programme of improvements.
- Pillar 4. Priorities Funding - The Librarian highlighted key benefactors supporting the Old Library Redevelopment Project after events in the US, where the Provost & Librarian presented, and London.
- Pillar 5. Policies and Programmes – She reported on the completion of Library Content & Collection Security Policy.

The Librarian also highlighted to Council some external events such as Cuala Press exhibition and Medieval Manuscript Symposium. She provided an overview of progress on the two cross-cutting strategic strands of Sustainability & Climate Action and Equality Diversity & Inclusion.

The Librarian concluded the report by reflecting on the major geopolitical and socio-economic shifts ahead, the tectonic shifts in technology, particularly AI, issues of Digital Autonomy, Knowledge Security in tension with Open Scholarship. She paid tribute to all the individual staff in the many different roles across the Library, whose hard work and commitment had achieved the remarkable progress in 2023/24.

During a brief Council discussion, it was noted that a review of the most equitable approach to resource allocation would be conducted by the Library management team, that RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tags for the rest of the collections were prioritised when funding became available, and that consultations on the digital-first library were ongoing, with an anticipated project completion date of the Laidlaw library at the end of 2027.

Decision CL/24-25/182:
Council noted the Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2023/24.

Prof Gregory O'Hare joined the meeting.

CL/24-25/183   **Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer's Report**

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

- Marino Institute of Education (MIE) – an associated College of Trinity and a valued partner – is facing a challenging financial situation and is currently considering its options.
- The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer thanked the SU Education Officer for his dedication, diplomacy and perseverance in bringing the Student Partnership Agreement document together. Regrettably, there was insufficient time to bring it through the necessary governance prior to Council review. However, the SU Education Officer has lived the values embedded in the draft through his tenure in office and was highly commended for this by the VP-CAO.

CL/24-25/184   Provost's Report

The Provost provided an update to Council that:

- The Board will be asked to consider and approve the College Strategic Plan 2025-2030 at its meeting in June, with the implementation plan to be shared at the following meeting.
- The Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) are looking to fill positions on their Council and they have issued a call in respect to this. Trinity may submit nominations directly or via the LERU network, and suggestions for nominations can be shared with the Dean of Research.
- Dr Diarmuid O'Brien had been appointed as the new CEO of Taighde Éireann- Research Ireland. He had previously worked in Trinity in the Centre for Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research (AMBER) and as the Chief Innovation & Enterprise Officer.

The Provost also reported on the speech delivered by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Mr James Lawless, TD, to IUA members earlier in the week. The Minister spoke of prioritising research and innovation, competitive calls for funding, a potential Talent Fund for all career levels, the possibility of a revised version of the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTLI) scheme, and student accommodation and access, amongst other priorities. The Provost noted that the overall message and direction appeared positive and that it will be important that the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) are prioritised in delivering on this ambition. She added that the College and IUA would actively engage with the Minister and his department on the details and push for securing resources to deliver on these priorities.

During a brief Council discussion, it was suggested that nominating an AHSS representative to the ERC Scientific Council might send a strong message on the importance of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. It was also noted that government funding schemes may be more likely to support retrofit and refurbishment projects rather than entirely new capital developments.

The Provost concluded by encouraging Council members to bring strategic discussion items to future meetings.

CL/24-25/185   Any Other Urgent Business

The Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) noted concerns from couple of STEM Schools about the current exhibition in the shared space of the former Science Gallery.

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

CL/24-25/186   Curriculum mapping for articulation agreement with International Medical University, Malaysia.
Decision:

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

CL/24-25/186: Council approved Curriculum mapping for articulation agreement with International Medical University, Malaysia.

CL/24-25/187   **Non-EU Student admissions pathway to the General Nursing Programme (B.Sc.(Cur))**
Decision:
CL/24-25/187: Council approved the Non-EU Student admissions pathway to the General Nursing Programme.

CL/24-25/188   **Undergraduate Award Classification, School of Nursing and Midwifery.**
Decision:
CL/24-25/188: Council approved the revised Undergraduate Award Classification for School of Nursing and Midwifery.

CL/24-25/189   **Cessation of Programmes leading to Bachelor of Nursing Studies and Bachelor of Midwifery Studies**
Decision:
CL/24-25/189: Council approved the Cessation of Programmes leading to Bachelor of Nursing Studies and Bachelor of Midwifery Studies.

CL/24-25/190   **Entry Requirement Changes for Chemical Sciences TR061**
Decision:
CL/24-25/190: Council approved the Proposed Entry Requirement Changes for Chemical Sciences TR061.

CL/24-25/191   **Entry Requirement Changes for Geography and Geosciences TR062**
Decision:
CL/24-25/191: Council approved the Proposed Entry Requirement Changes for Geography and Geosciences TR062.

CL/24-25/192   **Continuation of Suspension of Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship for 2025/26.**
Decision:
CL/24-25/192: Council approved the Continuation of Suspension of Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship for 2025/26.

CL/24-25/193   **Proposal for a generic Exit Award for Postgraduate Certificate.**
Decision:
CL/24-25/193.1: Council approved in principle the Proposal for a generic Exit Award for Postgraduate Certificate.
Action:
CL/24-25/193.2: Full proposal to follow at a future Council meeting.

CL/24-25/194   **Revised English Language Policy**
Decision:
CL/24-25/194: Council approved the Revised English Language Policy.

CL/24-25/195   **Revised Policy on the Trinity Virtual Learning Environment (Learning Management System)**
Decision:
CL/24-25/195: Council approved the Revised Policy on the Trinity Virtual Learning Environment (Learning Management System).

CL/24-25/196   **Revised Programme Suspension and Cessation Policy**
Decision:
CL/24-25/196: Council approved the Revised Programme Suspension and Cessation Policy.

CL/24-25/197   **Student Garda Vetting Policy**
Decision:
CL/24-25/197: Council approved the Student Garda Vetting Policy

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

CL/24-25/198 **School of Physics Quality Review Report**
Decision:
CL/24-25/198: Council approved the School of Physics Quality Review Report.

CL/24-25/199 **School of Engineering Quality Review Report**
Decision:
CL/24-25/199: Council approved the School of Engineering Quality Review Report.

CL/24-25/200 **School of Linguistics, Speech and Communication Sciences Quality Review Report**
Decision:
CL/24-25/200: Council approved the School of Linguistics, Speech and Communication Sciences Quality Review Report.

CL/24-25/201 **Marino Institute of Education – Academic Policies and Procedures**
Decision:
CL/24-25/201: Council approved the Marino Institute of Education Academic Policies and Procedures.

SECTION B

CL/24-25/202 **Graduate Studies Committee**
Decision:
CL/24-25/202: The draft minutes of 1st May 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

CL/24-25/203 **Quality Committee**
Decisions:
CL/24-25/203: The draft minutes of 1st May 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

CL/24-25/204 **Student Life Committee**
Decision:
CL/24-25/204: The minutes of 18th March 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

CL/24-25/205 **Undergraduate Studies Committee**
Decision:
CL/24-25/205: The draft minutes of 29th April 2025 meeting were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/24-25/206 **Administrative Procedures during the Summer Session**

The Council noted and approved that items of routine College business relating to Council will be dealt with by the Provost or Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer between the last Council meeting of 2024/25 (14 May 2025) and the first Council meeting of 2025/26 (1 October 2025), and a report will be made to Council at its meeting of 1 October 2025.

CL/24-25/207 **Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the circulated reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 14 May 2025.

Sc.D.   David Carey

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

M.D.	Robert Henry Bourke; Eimear Connolly; Donal Fitzpatrick; Jonathan McGrath; Sadhbh O'Rourke

Ph.D.   Noha Eissa Zakaria Abdelsalam; Peter Callaghan; Nikolaos Chatzarakis; Anna Jacqueline Devlin; Peter Augustine Gillis; Craig Neil Gouldthorpe; Yasmine Yamina Guendouz; Clinton Scott Haarlem; Peter Lloyd Harrison; Graham King; Eimear Lagan; Qinyuan Li; Lórien Ana Caitlyn MacEnulty; Cathal Maguire; Lisa Majella Marmion; Margaret Elizabeth Masterson; Jack Philip Maughan; Sandrine Maria Metzger; Padmaja Naik; Niall O'Riordan; Nikita Ostrovitsa; Filippo Pota; Ursula Quill; Anna Marie Rosická; Seathrún (Jeffrey) Ryan Sardina; Carolina Silva; Bruno Spadi; Neha Tetali; Cydney Thompson; Leda Tortora; Azza Warraitch; Wenguang Zhao; Kunyan Zheng

M.Sc.   Kathleen Clancy

M.Litt.   Hannah Layla Rafaoui

CL/24-25/208   **Consolidated List of External Examiners for Undergraduate Programmes 2025/26**

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies dated 16 April 2025.

CL/24-25/209   **Consolidated List of External Examiners for Postgraduate Taught Programmes 2025/26**

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies dated 1 May 2025.

CL/24-25/210   **Heads of Discipline**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

(i)   Professor Frances O'Brien as the Head of Discipline of General Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 31 December 2024 to 31 May 2026
(ii)   Professor Mary Hughes as the Head of Discipline of Children's Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 1 June 2025 to 4 June 2028
(iii)   Professor Vivienne Brady as the Head of Discipline of Midwifery, School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 1 June 2025 to 4 June 2028
(iv)   Professor Elaine Moriarty as the Head of Sociology, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2028
(v)   Professor Timothy Stott as Head of Discipline of History of Art and Architecture, School of Histories and Humanities, for a second term until the end of Trinity Term 2028

CL/24-25/211   **School Directors**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

(i)   Professor Brian Barry as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Law, from 2 June 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2027
(ii)   Professor Deirdre Ahern as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Law, from 2 June 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2027
(iii)   Professor Mary Rogan as Director of Research, School of Law, from 2 June 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2027

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

(iv)   Professor Roisin Costello as Director of Global Engagement, School of Law, from 2 June 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2027

(v)   Professor Keith Johnston as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Education, from 2 June 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2027

(vi)   Professor Andrew Loxley as Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, School of Education, from 2 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2026

(vii)   Professor Jan De Vries as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2027

(viii)   Professor Brian Keogh as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026

(ix)   Professor Colm Cunningham as Director of Global Engagement, School of Biochemistry and Immunology, from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027

(x)   Professor Tomás Ryan as Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology, from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027

(xi)   Professor Rachel McLoughlin, as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Biochemistry and Immunology, from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2026

(xii)   Professor Mark Faulkner as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of English, from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027

(xiii)   Professor Alice Jorgenson as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of English, from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027

(xix)   Professor Clare Clarke as Director of Research, School of English, from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027

(xx)   Professor Philip Coleman as acting Director of Research, School of English, for Hilary Term 2026, while Professor Clarke is on a leave of absence

(xxi)   Professor Dan Geary as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Histories and Humanities, from 2 June 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2027

(xxii)   Professor Martha O'Hagan Luff as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), Trinity Business School, for a one-year extension until 30 June 2026

(xxiii) Professor Wladislaw Rivkin as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), Trinity Business School, for a one-year extension until 30 June 2026

(xxiv)   Professor Catherine Welch as Director of Research, Trinity Business School, for a one-year extension until 30 June 2026

(xxv)   Professor Isilay Talay as Director of Global Engagement, Trinity Business School, from 2 June 2025 to 30 June 2027

(xxvi)   Professor Théophile Munyangeyo as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2027

SECTION D

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

Signed   ....

Date   ....

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.