



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 5th November 2025 at 11.15am via Zoom

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Senior Tutor, Dean of Students, Dean of Health Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Professor P. O'Grady, Professor D. Geary, Professor V. Colasanti, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor D. Brennan, Professor AM. Malone, Professor G. Watson, Professor H. Siljak, Professor M. Stock, Ms. D. Alexander, Mr M. McAndrew, Dr N. O'Dwyer, Mr B. Whaley, Ms G. Villa, Ms E. Martin, Mr A. Zafar, Ms L. Mpofu.
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor C. Kenny, Professor K Neenan, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Professor D. Nolan, Vice-Provost Global Engagement, Ms G. McNally.
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, Academic Secretary, Librarian and College Archivist, Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs, Heads of Schools representative, Governance Manager.
<i>Observers</i>	Ms C. Persello

SECTION A.1: Policy Matters

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that item C28, Council membership would be taken first. Council also noted that conflicts of interest had been reported as follows:

- C29 Membership of Committees of Council – it was noted that both postgraduate student representatives are listed as members of the Graduate Studies Committee. The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that members did not need to step out.

CL/25-26/035 Council membership

Decision:

CL/25-26/035:

Council approved Mr Aziel Zafar (Faculty of Health Sciences) and Ms Lindiwe Mpofu (Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) as the new Postgraduate Representatives on Council.

Mr Zafar and Ms Mpofu joined the meeting at this point.

CL/25-26/036 New Members and Declarations

The new members of Council, Professor Michael Stock, Mr Aziel Zafar and Ms Lindiwe Mpofu, were welcomed and made the required statutory declarations.

CL/25-26/037 Minutes

Decision:

CL/25-26/037: The minutes of the meeting of Council on 1st October 2025 were approved with no suggested amendments.

CL/25-26/038 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

CL/25-26/039 Demographic Change and Forward Planning

The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer made a presentation to Council on (2020) DFHERIS projections for full-time enrolments in state-funded third-level institutions for the period until 2040. DFHERIS had outlined enrolment scenarios based on demographic trends, and the Vice-Provost emphasised the key message that the third-level sector will continue to experience current “full capacity” until numbers peak around 2030; thereafter, we will experience a steady decline in “traditional” student enrolments at degree level, until 2040. It is vital that the University plans appropriately in this context and the Vice-Provost referenced previous work to define what constitutes an enrolled student at Trinity, and the importance of making progress against Strategic Commitment 2 of the new 2025-30 Strategic Plan which focusses on expanding teaching and learning pathways.

Council had a robust discussion following the Vice-Provost’s presentation. The following points were noted:

- The DFHERIS projections did not take into account the possible impact of inward migration figures to Ireland;
- The duration of the “peak” could be extended by better retaining our undergraduates into postgraduate study and thereafter – as our students for “life.” College must look at ways to incentivise students to remain with Trinity beyond their UG studies;
- Any policy emanating from this should take into account studies/reports on EU-wide demographics, which include the impact of inward and outward migration and EU Enlargement;
- The DFHERIS scenarios project a fluctuation of some 10% (upwards and then downwards) in enrolments. While not dramatic, it will be important that state funding does not become worse on a per student basis – regardless of such fluctuations;
- The significant impact of current increase in enrolments on Trinity’s physical infrastructure, notwithstanding any future fluctuations downwards;
- The increasingly problematic issue of adequate, high-quality placements for students, particularly in clinical settings and the need to continue to push for action regarding the retention of graduates in the Irish healthcare sector;
- College will need to consider the impact of Ireland’s ageing population on the demand for types of courses and qualifications that the economy will need more or less of;
- It is important to plan for staffing needs in the context of these student population fluctuations over the coming decade.

The Registrar joined the meeting during CL/25-26/040: Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer’s Report.

CL/25-26/040 Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer’s Report

The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer provided a report to Council on a range of matters, including:

- (i) The resignation of TCDSU President, Seán Thim O’Leary. The Vice-Provost expressed sincere thanks for their service and extended best wishes for their future endeavours.
- (ii) QQI TrustEd Mark: Council noted the recommendation from the QQI review panel that Trinity be awarded this new statutory quality mark. It was noted that Trinity received two minor recommendations alongside six strong commendations for the quality of its marketing and admissions policies and processes, as well as its student services and supports for international students. Council also noted that the Royal Irish Academy of Music, an associated College of Trinity, has similarly been recommended for the award. It was noted that the VP Global would provide a report to Council in the near future on the opportunities this Quality mark present for the College.

- (iii) External Review of the Trinity Inc. Project: The Vice-Provost noted that an external evaluation of the project was completed earlier in 2025, with recommendations for mainstreaming several aspects. The report and an Implementation plan for the mainstreaming of work on the Inclusive Curriculum, were presented to USC, GSC, and the Quality Committees in October 2025. Council noted that the Senior Lecturer and the Centre for Academic Practice has secured HEA PATH 4 funding for a staff post and, in collaboration with the EDI Office, will lead on the mainstreaming of approaches to develop an Inclusive Curriculum across Trinity, with a key focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL).
- (iv) Reports received from Student Representatives of flyers being distributed to students around the campus, advertising mindfulness classes delivered by non-Trinity organisations. Concerns had been raised by students that these sessions were cult-like in nature and students felt pressurised to participate. The Vice-Provost highlighted the message that while the promotion of such activities cannot be easily policed, students should exercise caution, as not all activities advertised on campus are endorsed by the University.
- (v) A recent meeting with HEA regarding additional student places and clinical placements in the HSE highlighted that the HSE does not currently hold comprehensive data on the total number of placements provided to students on university programmes. HEIs have been asked to supply this data, which is a complex exercise, as placements also occur across TUSLA and the private healthcare sector. Council noted a concern that the data should be used for the purpose at-hand, that is to support proper planning of placement capacity for our students to match increased enrolments on programmes.
- (vi) Academic Freedom Policy: Council noted that the Provost, Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer, and Dean of Research intend to establish a Working Group to review the Academic Freedom Policy, noting the document has not been refreshed since 2010. Volunteers were requested to submit their names to the Dean of Research. A member suggested that drawing on the findings and work of the Task Force might be helpful and could to some degree save duplication of effort.
- (vii) New global talent initiative: The Vice-Provost noted that 20 of 34 Expressions of Interest from Trinity had been shortlisted to the next stage whereby full proposals will be submitted. Council noted that these will be new academic positions, and while funding is routed via Research Ireland and the Dean of Research, it is important that the Schools engage with the Faculty Deans to approve all such new staffing posts.
- (viii) Marino Institute of Education (MIE): Council noted that MIE, an associated College of Trinity, is currently facing challenges relating both to the property site on which the Institute stands and their funding model, which is through the Department of Education, and not DFHERIS. It was noted that Trinity is a trustee of the Institute as well as its Designated Awarding Body (DAB).

CL/25-26/041 Provost's Report

The Provost reported to Council on the following matters:

- (i) National Budget 2026: Council noted a mixed outcome for the Higher Education sector, welcoming the permanent reduction in the student contribution charge and increased research funding, however noting the sector continues to deal with deficits in pay awards and there was no increase to the core state grant in Budget 2026. A total of €810 million was announced for a range of sectoral initiatives, however the Provost noted that some of these were previously announced in 2024/25. Council further noted that the IUA Presidents continue to meet regularly with the Minister for Further and Higher Education and more engagement is planned. It was clarified that the

funding announced for technological initiatives within the capital budget, pertains specifically to the Technological University (TU) sector.

- (ii) Strategic Plan 2025-2030 *Thrive*: Council noted the formal launch of the Strategic Plan and the robust management and governance structures in place to support implementation of the six major commitments. Council noted that each commitment has a designated lead(s), who will engage with the wider College community and report on progress. Council also noted the associated financial planning and projections, overseen by Board, including detailed financial modelling. It was further noted that the College remains reliant on commercial income, and that under current financial projections, the College anticipates a dip in this income source during the closure of the Old Library. It was noted that mitigation strategies will need to be carefully managed with this in mind.
- (iii) Council noted the Provost's update, which included a short overview on Sustainability and the launch of Trinity's Climate Gateway initiative, along with its associated projects and offerings. Council also noted the recent celebration of the 25th anniversary of Trinity's DisAbility Service, the launch of the Civic Engagement Awards, and a recent event that highlighted over 4,000 students are currently benefiting from philanthropic support. The Provost concluded her report by expressing sincere thanks to Seán Thim O'Leary for their service as TCDSU President.

CL/25-26/042 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

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

CL/25-26/043 Proposed changes to 2027/28 Entry Requirement for Business and a Language.

Decision:

CL/25-26/043: Council approved the Proposed Changes to 2027/28 Entry Requirement for Business and a Language.

CL/25-26/044 Proposed changes to 2027/28 Entry Requirement for Business, Trinity Joint Honours.

Decision:

CL/25-26/044: Council approved the Proposed Changes to 2027/28 Entry Requirement for Business, Trinity Joint Honours.

CL/25-26/045 Nomenclature Associated with the Supervision of Postgraduate Research Students.

Council noted that when new nomenclature is approved in College's Academic Titles document at the People and Culture committee, this document will need to be updated.

Decision:

CL/25-26/045: Council approved the Nomenclature Associated with the Supervision of Postgraduate Research Students.

CL/25-26/046 Proposed changes to MSc in Business Analytics, including title change to Business Analytics and AI for Management.

Decision:

CL/25-26/046: Council approved the Proposed Changes to MSc in Business Analytics, including title change to Business Analytics and AI for Management.

CL/25-26/047 Inter-Institution Framework Agreement for a Joint PhD with KU Leuven.

Decision:

CL/25-26/047: Council approved the Inter-Institution Framework Agreement for a Joint PhD with KU Leuven.

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- CL/25-26/048 Revised Entry Criteria for Master's in Social Work Programme.**
Decision:
CL/25-26/048: Council approved the Revised Entry Criteria for Master's in Social Work Programme.
- CL/25-26/049 Revised Procedures for the Conduct of Focus Groups on Students Feedback on Programmes and Modules.**
Decision:
CL/25-26/049: Council approved the Revised Procedures for the Conduct of Focus Groups on Students Feedback on Programmes and Modules.
- CL/25-26/050 Quality Review Report for the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy.**
Decision:
CL/25-26/050: Council approved the Quality Review Report for the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy.
- CL/25-26/051 Quality Implementation Plan for the Trinity Business School.**
Decision:
CL/25-26/051: Council approved the Quality Implementation Plan for the Trinity Business School.
- CL/25-26/052 Quality Implementation Plan for the School of Physics.**
Decision:
CL/25-26/052: Council approved the Quality Implementation Plan for the School of Physics.
- CL/25-26/053 Quality Progress Report for the Marino Institute of Education.**
Decision:
CL/25-26/053: Council approved the Quality Progress Report for the Marino Institute of Education.
- CL/25-26/054 Quality Progress Report for the School of Natural Sciences.**
Decision:
CL/25-26/054: Council approved the Quality Progress Report for the School of Natural Sciences.

SECTION B: Reports from Committees

- CL/25-26/055 Graduate Studies Committee**
Decision:
CL/25-26/055: The minutes of 23rd October 2025 were noted and approved.
- CL/25-26/056 Quality Committee**
Decision:
CL/25-26/056: The minutes of 16th October 2025 were noted and approved.
- CL/25-26/057 Research Committee**
Decisions:
CL/25-26/057: The minutes of 9th September 2025 were noted and approved.
- CL/25-26/058 Undergraduate Studies Committee**
Decision:
CL/25-26/058: The minutes of 14th October 2025 were noted and approved.

SECTION C**CL/25-26/059 Correction to Derogation Requests for Examinations Outside Formal Assessment Sessions 2025/26**

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Head of Assessment and Deputy Head of Operations, Academic Registry, dated 21 October 2025.

CL/25-26/060 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners

The Council noted and approved the circulated reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 5 November 2025.

M.D. Michael Courtney; Brona Dinneen.

Ph.D. Soraya Afzali; Manar Mohammad Ibrahim Alsulimani; Kavin Arunasalam; Julie Marie Bekkevold; Stephen Boyd; Suman Hazra; Julia Antonia Hirschwald; Qusai Khraisha; Caitríona O'Brien; Megan O'Grady; Lorenzo Pedrini; Henry Denis Potter; Sarah Quinn.

M.Sc. Ailbhe Herity; Siobhan O'Shea.

D.Ch.Dent. Aoife Patricia Barry; Robyn Crowley; Eamonn Tomas Donohoe; Abeer Adil Hasan; Hugh David McGrory.

CL/25-26/061 Revised Policy Management Framework

The Council noted the circulated memorandum from Secretary to the College/Director of Governance dated 23 October 2025.

CL/25-26/062 Heads of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Sergey Mozgovoy as the Head of the Discipline of Pure Mathematics, School of Mathematics, from 8 October 2025 to 30 June 2028.
- (ii) Professor Mikel Egaña as the Head of the Discipline of Physiology, School of Medicine, from 3 October 2025 to 31 July 2028.
- (iii) Professor Brendan Kelly as the Head of Discipline of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, from 1 October 2025 to 31 July 2028.

CL/25-26/063 School Directors

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Michael Kirwan as the Director of the Loyola Institute, School of Religions, Theology, and Peace Studies, for a one-year extension to his current term, to 30 June 2026.
- (ii) Professor Siobhán Garrigan as the acting Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) in the School of Religions, Theology, and Peace Studies from 15 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.
- (iii) Professor Irena Yanushevskaya as Director of Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026.

- (iv) Professor Louise Gallagher as Director of Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the School of Nursing and Midwifery from 5 September 2025 to 31 of May 2027.

CL/25-26/064 Membership of Committees of Council

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Registrar dated 3 November 2025.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date