



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 10th December 2025 at 11.15am. The meeting was held 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 Students, Dean of Health Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Professor D. Geary, Professor V. Colasanti, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor D. Brennan, Professor AM. Malone, Professor G. Watson, Professor D. Nolan, Professor H. Siljak, Professor C. Kenny, Professor K Neenan, Ms. D. Alexander, Mr M. McAndrew, Dr N. O'Dwyer, Mr B. Whaley, Ms G. Villa, Ms E. Martin, Ms L. Mpofu.
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Research, Vice-Provost Global Engagement, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor M. Stock, Professor P. O'Grady, Senior Tutor, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Secretary to the Scholars Ms C. Persello, Ms G. McNally, Mr A. Zafar.
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, Academic Secretary, Librarian and College Archivist, Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs, Chief Operating Officer, Heads of Schools representative, Governance Manager, Senior Dean for Item CL/25-26/071, Professor A. Lynch for item CL/25-26/070.

SECTION A.1: Policy Matters

The Provost welcomed Council members to the meeting and thanked members for attending online, explaining that the normally in-person meeting was being held online due to particular circumstances.

CL/25-26/068	Minutes Decision: CL/25-26/068: The minutes of the meeting of Council on 5 th November were approved.
CL/25-26/069	Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising.
CL/25-26/070	Extending Access: Proposal to Approve New Tertiary Admissions Pathways for B.Sc. Programmes in Mental Health Nursing, and in Intellectual Disability Nursing

Prof Aileen Lynch joined the meeting

Professor Aileen Lynch presented to Council an overview of the proposal to establish Tertiary Admissions Pathways for B.Sc. Programmes in Mental Health Nursing and in Intellectual Disability Nursing. Council noted that this represents the first such Tertiary degree admission pathway in Trinity, under the auspices of the National Tertiary Office. In this instance, a 1+4 educational model will be used in collaboration with Inchicore and Cathal Brugha FET Colleges. Council further noted that, during the first year in the FET Colleges, students will begin acquiring the necessary academic skills for degree-level study and training and, subject to achieving the admission requirement of five distinctions at QQI (NFQ) Level 5, will progress seamlessly into Trinity's four-year B.Sc. programme. Council also noted that for the two BSc programmes, the

structure, governance and quality assurance during the Trinity years remain unchanged, and that the primary focus of the proposal is widening participation to new cohorts of learners, including Traveller and Roma Communities. Council noted that this is in line with the objective of the Strategic Plan 2025-30 to expand pathways and extend access.

The Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies subsequently presented to Council the range of FE-HE Tertiary educational models being promoted by the National Tertiary Office (NTO) and highlighted that NTO is keen to liaise with other academic disciplines in Trinity. In this respect Council noted that the 1+4 option (as selected for the School of Nursing & Midwifery) as the most suitable model for the College.

Council further noted that, while Trinity is open to engaging with the NTO, not all articulation models offered may be appropriate. Future proposals would require careful consideration of all potential impacts for our degrees and academic standards, and for the learner experience, particularly in the early stages of undergraduate degree study.

The Provost thanked Professor Lynch and the Senior Lecturer and Dean of Undergraduate Studies for their presentations, noting this new collaboration in FE-HE sectors.

Decision:

CL/25-26/070: Council approved the proposed new Tertiary Admissions Pathways for B.Sc. Programmes in Mental Health Nursing, and in Intellectual Disability Nursing.

Prof Aileen Lynch left the meeting

CL/25-26/071 Report of the Taskforce on Academic and Institutional International Links

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Senior Dean joined the meeting

The Provost welcomed the Senior Dean to Council and explained that the Board sent the report to relevant College committees, with a particular focus on governance, for further consideration, in line with the terms of the resolution statement last year. Subsequent to this taking place, the Board would consider the Taskforce Report for final consideration. Council noted that the Senior Dean will report back to Board in January 2026 on the views of Council members and members of other College Committees.

Council noted the thoroughness of the report and endorsed the proposal to establish a formal Human Rights Oversight Working Group as an appropriate next step. Council agreed that additional consideration is required regarding the possible structure, reporting lines and terms of reference of such a group and discussed the need to strike an appropriate balance between Academic Freedom and robust governance structures capable of addressing issues of serious concern. There was also a discussion regarding the criteria under which a country might cease to be considered a 'country of concern'.

Senior Dean left the meeting

CL/25-26/072 Dean of Graduate Studies Annual Report 2024/25

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented her Annual Report 2024/25. Council noted the transformative impact of PowerBI reports with accurate data on programmes and students, and the benefit of receiving the Annual Report for the previous academic year before the end of the calendar year (the Annual Report for 2024-25 being produced before the end of 2025). It was further noted that the closing report on *Postgraduate Renewal Horizon 2* will be presented separately.

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted a range of information from the Annual Report, including:

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- Application and Registration Trends across PGT programmes;
- Progress on admissions via Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL);
- Registration trends on PhD programmes and PhD Completion rates;
- Supervision Metrics (the average number of supervisions per staff member);
- The Graduate Studies Committee workplan for 2024/25, including the approval of the Triple I framework, resources to support PhD transferable skills training, Postgraduate Teaching Assistant awards, and the development of viva voce accommodations for students with additional learning needs.

The Dean highlighted that Graduate Education priorities going forward include the development of a Graduate Education Hub, a Doctoral Academy, a review of the management of the PGT application process, particularly for non-EU applications, and the further development of an ecosystem to support increasing numbers of PGR students.

Council held a short discussion on the report and agreed with the proposed Review of current PGT applications process, to maximise the quality of PGT applications being received and the conversion to registered new students. Council also supported the emphasis on supports for part-time PhD students and separately noted the sectoral contribution made by the Dean of Graduate Studies on developments in Recognition of Prior Learning.

Decision:

CL/25-26/072: Council approved the Dean of Graduate Studies Annual Report 2024/25.

CL/25-26/073 Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer's Report

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

- i) Annual Strategy and Performance Funding Dialogue with HEA: It was noted that there had been a successful Annual Dialogue meeting with the HEA in November. The Vice-Provost expressed appreciation to all colleagues who had contributed to the 2024-25 progress report submitted to the HEA.
- ii) Senior Academic Promotions: the review of Senior Academic Promotions is progressing towards completion with consensus on many areas and some final elements to be agreed. In the interim, and to avoid a hiatus, Board's approval will be sought to run one further Promotions round under the current process, within the current academic year.
- iii) DFHERIS Placements Data Request: Council noted that further to recent discussion with both the HEA and the HSE about student placements, the Minister has separately requested information on placements that are required to meet professional accreditation standards, those which are mandatory for graduation, and those that are voluntary, along with student numbers in each category. The Minister clarified that this information will be used to inform future policy options and budgets. Council also noted the Vice-Provost's thanks to the Schools and the Dean for gathering the information to date.
- iv) Academic Freedom Policy Review: Council noted that the invitation to members interested in joining the Academic Freedom Policy Review Working Group remains open.

CL/25-26/074 Provost's Report

The Provost reported to Council on the following matters:

- i) College Strategic Plan 2025–2030: the Strategic Plan Management Group is meeting regularly to oversee co-ordinated implementation. The Provost updated Council that

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Board had recently approved the creation of a new position of Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, to support the achievement of strategic objectives in postgraduate education.

- ii) INSPIRE (Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland) Funding Scheme: the new €750million research infrastructure funding scheme has been announced by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. The scheme will operate in two phases; the first phase as an allocation-based model to support existing, smaller-scale equipment/fit-out or upgrade costs while the second phase will require institutions to work together and with industry, on major, shared research infrastructure applications.
- iii) Global Talent Fund: Trinity has submitted 16 applications from the 22 shortlisted, across various schools and disciplines. This will be a highly competitive funding call.
- iv) Other Updates: The Provost highlighted the success of Trinity's recent Open Day and expressed her sincere appreciation to staff for their efforts in making the event both possible and highly successful. It was noted that this year's Open Day attracted the largest recorded attendance of prospective students.

CL/25-26/075 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

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

CL/25-26/076 Inaugural Academic Services Division Annual Report 2024/25

Decision:

CL/25-26/076: Council noted the Inaugural Academic Services Division Annual Report 2024/25 and welcomed its publication.

CL/25-26/077 Trinity Global Annual Report 2024/25

Decision:

CL/25-26/077.1: Council noted the Trinity Global Annual Report 2024/25.

Action:

CL/25-26/077.2: Vice-Provost Global Engagement to bring a report on trends in international student recruitment, and future Trinity Global Plans, to a future Council meeting.

CL/25-26/078 Revised Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Policy

Decision:

CL/25-26/078: Council approved the Revised Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Policy.

CL/25-26/079 Proposed New M.Sc. programme in Physiotherapy

Decision:

CL/25-26/079: Council approved the Proposed New M.Sc. programme in Physiotherapy.

CL/25-26/080 Proposed New Postgraduate Certificate Programme in Traffic Medicine (Online)

Decision:

CL/25-26/080: Council approved the Proposed New Postgraduate Certificate Programme in Traffic Medicine (Online).

CL/25-26/081 Updated Procedures for the Transfer to External Examiners of Students' Assessed Work

Decision:

CL/25-26/081: Council approved the Updated Procedures for the Transfer to External Examiners of Students' Assessed Work.

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CL/25-26/082 Revised Library Disposal Policy**Decision:**

CL/25-26/082: Council approved the Revised Library Disposal Policy.

SECTION B: Reports from Committees**CL/25-26/083 Academics Appeals Committee****Decisions:**

CL/25-26/083.1: The decisions of Academic Appeals Committee of 30th August 2024 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/083.2: The decisions of Academic Appeals Committee of 26th, 27th and 30th September 2024 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/083.3: The decisions of Academic Appeals Committee of 12th June 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/083.4: The decisions of Academic Appeals Committee of 14th and 30th July 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/083.5: The decisions of Academic Appeals Committee of 5th, 8th and 11th August 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/083.6: The decisions of Academic Appeals Committee of 1st and 2nd October 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/084 Global Engagement Committee**Decisions:**

CL/25-26/084.1: The minutes of 28th October 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/084.2: The minutes of 4th December were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/085 Graduate Studies Committee**Decision:**

CL/25-26/085: The minutes of 27th November 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/086 Research Committee**Decisions:**

CL/25-26/086.1: The minutes of 7th October 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/086.2: The minutes of 4th November 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/087 Student Life Committee**Decision:**

CL/25-26/087: The minutes of 30th September 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/088 Undergraduate Studies Committee**Decision:**

CL/25-26/088: The minutes of 18th November 2025 were noted and approved.

SECTION C**CL/25-26/089 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the circulated reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 10 December 2025.

M.D. Desmond Patrick O' Donnell.

Ph.D. Fay Mabel Amstutz; Amrutha Augustine; Robin Béranger Florian Gatel; Shubhangi Kandwal; Zohreh Khosrobeigi; Jeremy Michael Korth; Sho Makino;

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Liam Anthony Mannion; Niamh McCartan; Ciara Niamh Ní Mhurchú; Mairéad O'Donnell; Natalia Rodriguez Castañeda; Yucheng Shi; Vibhoothi; Zhi-Zhen Wang.

D.Ed. Eunice Brown Clarke.

M.Sc. Ronan Murphy; Fionn O'Sullivan.

CL/25-26/090 Heads of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the following nomination:

- (i) Professor Conor Buckley as the Acting Head of the Discipline of Mechanical, Manufacturing and Biomedical Engineering, School of Engineering, from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026.

CL/25-26/091 Directors

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Susan Pike as the Academic Director of Portal from 20 October 2025 for a period of one year.
- (ii) Professor Oliviero Gobbo as the Director of Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, from 18 November 2025 to 30 June 2027.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date