



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 11th February 2026 at 11.15am in Trinity Board Room, Trinity Business School.

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| <i>Present</i> | Provost, Vice-Provost Global Engagement, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Dean of Health Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Students, Senior Tutor, Professor D. Geary, Professor V. Colasanti, Professor C. Kenny, Professor G. Watson, Professor D. Nolan, Professor M. Stock, Professor H. Siljak, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor K Neenan, Ms. D. Alexander, Mr M. McAndrew, Mr B. Whaley, Ms G. Villa, Ms Kate Grogan, Ms E. Martin. |
| <i>Apologies</i> | Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer; Registrar; Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Professor D. Brennan; Professor P. O'Grady; Professor AM. Malone; Dr N. O'Dwyer; Ms L. Mpofu; Mr A. Zafar. |
| <i>In attendance</i> | Chief Operating Officer; Secretary to the College/Director of Governance; Librarian and College Archivist; Academic Secretary; Heads of Schools Representative; Education Support Officer, Academic Affairs; Ms. Niamh Burke, Associate Director; Partnerships and Global Mobility [for item 102]; Mr Declan Coogan, Associate Director, Recruitment [for item 102]. |
| <i>Observers</i> | Ms C. Persello. |

**SECTION A.1: Policy
Matters**

The Provost welcomed Council members to the meeting.

The Provost noted apologies and noted that two members had given notice that they would be arriving late and/or leaving early due to other commitments. The Provost welcomed Ms Ellen Kampinga, the new note taker for Council meetings, and welcomed a visitor to Council, Ms Layla Bloom, who is Head of Public Programme and Cultural Engagement at Leeds University Library. Council noted that Ms Bloom was visiting Trinity as part of a senior Librarian mentorship programme and was attending this meeting of Council in an Observer capacity under the mentorship of the Librarian and College Archivist. The Librarian and College Archivist thanked the Provost for granting permission for Ms Bloom to attend.

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that item C25, University Council Membership – Students' Union would be taken first.

**CL/25-26/097 University Council Membership – Students' Union
Action/Decision:**

CL/25-26/097: Council approved Ms Kate Grogan, undergraduate HS Faculty Representative as a new member of Council, replacing Grace McNally, who had been elected as the new SU President.

Ms Kate Grogan joined the meeting.

CL/25-26/098 New Members and Declarations

The new member of Council Ms Kate Grogan was welcomed and made the required statutory declaration.

CL/25-26/099 Statements of Interest

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance noted that conflicts of interest had been reported as follows:

- Dean of Research: for item A10, Quality Review of School of Mathematics. This is the home School of the Dean of Research. The Secretary to the College/ Director of Governance advised that the Dean did not need to step out for this item.
- Prof Paul O'Grady, for item A11, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy Quality Implementation Plan. It was noted that Prof O'Grady had sent apologies for this meeting.
- Prof Harun Siljak, for item A12, School of Engineering, Quality Implementation Plan. The Secretary to the College/ Director of Governance advised that Prof. Siljak did not need to step out.
- Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof Valentina Colasanti & Prof Ciaran Kenny in relation to item A13, School of Linguistic Speech and Communication Sciences Quality Implementation Plan. This is the home School of these members. The Secretary to the College/ Director of Governance advised that members did not need to step out.
- Prof Valentina Colasanti for item C21, Change of Discipline Title for the Centre for Language and Communication Studies, to the Discipline of Linguistics. The member is based in the specific discipline. The Secretary to the College/ Director of Governance advised that member did not need to step out.

CL/25-26/100 Minutes

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/100: The minutes of the meeting of Council on 10th December 2025 were approved.

CL/25-26/101 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

It was noted that the Graduate Studies Committee had considered the report at its meeting on 29th January, and that this completes the Council and Council sub-committee consultations on the report. Additionally, it was noted that the fellows had been asked to provide any feedback they had on the report. The final report will now proceed to the forthcoming Board meeting on 25 March 2026.

Ms. Niamh Burke, Associate Director, Partnerships and Global Mobility, and Mr Declan Coogan, Associate Director, Recruitment, joined the meeting.

CL/25-26/102 Trinity Global Update to Council

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For the benefit of the new Council member, Ms Grogan, the Provost explained the nature of each agenda section, explaining that items in section A1 are normally strategic and/or policy-oriented in nature, with opportunity for Council discussion. The Provost highlighted that the next item, for example, was for Council information and discussion only, with no Council decision or approval required.

The Vice President for Global Engagement thanked the Provost for the opportunity to present and introduced her team members who had joined for this item. Highlights from the Vice-President's presentation included:

- An overview of Trinity's current international student recruitment landscape, at College and at Faculty levels, with some information on School-level plans
- External trends influencing global recruitment.
- Growth in several Non-EU markets was highlighted as aligning with Trinity's strategic priorities.
- Trinity continues to perform strongly nationally in attracting international students, though several external factors were noted as potential risks to Ireland's and therefore to Trinity's ongoing recruitment competitiveness, including visa-processing challenges, housing pressures, post-graduation employability for non-EU graduates on Stay-back Visas, and wider shifts in geopolitics and global mobility.
- Engagement with external partners remains central to addressing visa and employability challenges.
- Broader international trends — such as growth in transnational education (TNE), digital and short-duration programmes, and the rise of regional education hubs in countries — were noted as increasingly shaping global recruitment patterns.
- Trinity's existing international partnerships and articulation pathways were referenced as examples of successful diversification.
- Current UK International Education sectoral developments are focussing in on growth in transnational education partnerships in selected global regions.

The Provost thanked the Vice President for Global Engagement for her presentation and invited the Associate Director, Recruitment, to contribute anything further. It was noted that:

- International recruitment and wider student mobility trends are now shifting but so far this is being seen at specific programme level; overall, Trinity's current overall non-EU student numbers remain healthy.
- Offers of places to non-EU students increased at Trinity this year and acceptances have also increased.
- Non-EU demand is growing for places on Trinity's undergraduate programmes, but it is important to maintain the focus on high-quality, as well as volume of applications.
- Demand from the USA is increasing, with a primary focus on postgraduate study.
- University rankings remain important, with prospective students in some countries only targeting top-100 ranked universities.

The Provost gave some reflections on the importance of Higher Education as a Public Good, which Trinity will continue to provide to international and domestic students alike. The Provost noted that there are no current plans to consider a Transnational Education (TNE) partnership with an overseas university. Acknowledging the current international but also national, shifts in political narratives about internationalisation

and immigration, the Provost emphasised the importance of ongoing Council and Board discussion about these topics as they pertain to Higher Education.

The Dean of Research left the meeting.

The Provost invited Council members to comment on the Trinity Global presentation. The following points were noted:

- Non-EU recruitment from China is showing a more notable decline than from India but there are variations in non-EU recruitment across disciplines and between undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- At undergraduate level, there are capacity constraints in many areas, to absorb more international students. Postgraduate enrolments remain more flexible, and EU demand at postgraduate level continues to grow.
- Trinity's international student body remains more diversified than that of other HEIs in Ireland, with UCD also a significantly international university.
- There is some merit in further exploration of demand for online education. While the evidence shows that full-time students continue to value in-person, campus-based experience, a smaller segment remains receptive to online provision, and this could grow in a targeted way to appeal to non-domiciled learners;
- To date, Trinity has maintained a generally low-risk approach to the creation of international education offerings for students based overseas.
- It remains imperative that Trinity retains and improves its position in global university rankings, with QS ranking noted as the most influential on prospective students (and their families) overseas.
- There is some concern about current public narratives that international students are displacing Irish students, particularly in Health Sciences. Although inaccurate, such perceptions must be monitored and addressed.
- The EU's developing visa strategy, including non-binding recommendations to be implemented at national level, will be closely followed.
- Trinity will closely monitor and engage with UK's recently launched, and highly ambitious international education strategy. It was noted that the UK is experiencing renewed growth in EU and US student recruitment following post-Brexit declines.
- The Students' Union highlighted that the Trinity "value for money/quality proposition" is an important factor for overseas students considering their university options abroad. The Union member also highlighted that additional student spaces, particularly on Trinity's clinical/Healthcare settings, are a continuing high priority need.

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/102: Council noted the presentation from the Vice President for Global Engagement and contributions from Trinity Global senior staff members

Ms. Niamh Burke, Associate Director, Partnerships and Global Mobility, and Mr Declan Coogan, Associate Director, Recruitment left the meeting.

CL/25-26/103 Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's Report

The Academic Secretary reported in place of the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer on the following topics:

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- Leaving Certificate: The COVID-era post-marking modifications will continue this year, with a staggered start for new entrants in September 2026. Current information is that these modifications will cease in 2027, allowing all students to commence at the same time from September 2027 onwards.
- Senior Academic Promotions: The review of the promotions process is progressing towards completion. In the interim, Board has approved a temporary call under the current promotions system, with HR to issue details when the call opens.

CL/25-26/104 Provost's Report

The Provost reported on three substantive topics:

- I) Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland: Research Centres Programme Outcome
The Provost noted that Trinity had been successful in being awarded funding for two new national research centres to be hosted in Trinity. The Provost further noted that Trinity had also been successful in a joint bid for a further national research centre. The Provost noted that, in terms of existing centres, it was disappointing that AMBER's application had been unsuccessful, particularly since AMBER had an excellent review outcome last year. The Provost noted that Trinity will need to manage the appropriate transitions involving existing research centres that were not awarded funding under this call, including engagement and support for staff who are impacted.
- II) Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland: Strategic Direction
The Provost provided Council with information about some elements anticipated to feature in a new strategy for Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland, which is due to be launched soon. The Provost noted how important it was for this new strategy to provide a balance between PI-led research and thematic research, as well as balance across funding different disciplines. Council noted that the new Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland strategy is expected to be published in March 2026.
- III) Ireland's EU Presidency – Sectoral Engagement
The Provost noted that Trinity is already contributing to the planning for Ireland's presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2026. The Director of Trinity Communications, Áine Griffin, and Communications Manager, Sorcha O'Boyle, are leading out on this work, with participation from the Student's Union and other stakeholders across College. It was noted that this will be an opportunity not only to showcase Trinity but to contribute meaningfully to influencing EU-level discussions on research and Higher Education policy, including the protection of research funding – relative to other calls on the EU budget – and advancing initiatives relevant to European universities. The Provost highlighted that planned activities will combine policy engagement with cultural and academic events, including those connected with the Library.
- IV) Centres for Research Training (CRT) Successor Programme
A Council member raised a query regarding the successor to CRTs. The Provost advised that no update is currently available, but the matter can be addressed at a later date.

CL/25-26/105 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

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

CL/25-26/106 Revised Appeals Policy (Academic Progress), with new Procedures for the Conduct of Courts of First Appeal and Procedures for the Conduct of School Postgraduate Appeals Committees

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/106: Council noted and approved the revised Appeals Policy (Academic Progress), with new Procedures for the Conduct of Courts of First Appeal and Procedures for the Conduct of School Postgraduate Appeals Committees.

CL/25-26/107 Proposal Related to Changes to Columbia Majors for Dual Degree Programme

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/107: Council noted and approved the proposal related to Changes to Columbia Majors for the Dual Degree Programme (discipline: Classics).

CL/25-26/108 Proposed New Generic Postgraduate Certificate Award

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/108: Council noted and approved the proposed new Generic Postgraduate Certificate Award.

CL/25-26/109 School of Mathematics – Quality Review Report

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/109: Council noted and approved the School of Mathematics Quality Review Report.

CL/25-26/110 School of Social Sciences and Philosophy – Quality Implementation Plan

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/110: Council noted and approved the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy Quality Implementation Plan.

CL/25-26/111 School of Engineering – Quality Implementation Plan

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/111: Council noted and approved the School of Engineering Quality Implementation Plan.

CL/25-26/112 School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences – Quality Implementation Plan

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/112: Council noted and approved the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences Quality Implementation Plan.

CL/25-26/113 Marino Institute of Education – Academic Policies

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/113: Council noted and approved the Marino Institute of Education Academic Policies.

CL/25-26/114 Annual Quality Report 2024/25 to QQI

Action/Decision:

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CL/25-26/114: Council noted and approved the Annual Quality Report 2024/25 to QQI. The Provost highlighted the comprehensive nature of the Report which includes core information on the university's governance, management and Quality framework.

SECTION B: Reports from Committees

CL/25-26/115 Graduate Studies Committee

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/115: The draft minutes of 29th January 2026 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/116 Quality Committee

Action/Decision:

CL/25-26/116.1: The minutes of 27th November 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/116.2: The draft minutes of 29th January 2026 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/117 Research Committee

Decisions:

CL/25-26/117: The minutes of 2nd December 2025 were noted and approved.

CL/25-26/118 Undergraduate Studies Committee

Decision:

CL/25-26/118: The draft minutes of 27th January 2026 were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/25-26/119 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 February 2026.

M.D. Sharon Cowley.

Ph.D. Fawza Mashouf H Alenazi; Nourah Hamad Alhusayni; Rawan Almasri; Marie Barkowsky; Aenea Adelinde Innemée Brugman; Hieu Ky Cao; Julian Carolan; Sara Carta; Enrico Cavallotti; Benedict James Thomas Clark; Lucas Paulo Da Silva; Emmet de Barra; Ultán P Doherty; Rose Doolan Maher; Didi Dong; Thibault Ulrich Frédéric Durieux; Hannah Frank; Daniel Alfred Anthony Griffin; Kate Harrington; Melda Haşiloğlu Çiftçiler; Elijah Kipkech Kipchumba; Cian Horneck Johnston; Luca Longo; Ariana Michalina Lyriotakis; Melanie Maddin; Carolina Maria Sousa Martins; James Patrick McAuliffe; Grace Eleanor McNicholas; Michael McRae; Kevin Jay Belarmino Mercurio; Shahad Hussain J Nagoor; Patrick Neary; Ellen Clare Orchard; Ailís Mary O'Shea; Whitney Parker; Colm Gabriel Peelo; Claudia Peroni; Dominic Anthony Price; Tony Rafferty; Dilina Chandika Rajapakse; Louisa Marie Roos; Arnoldas Sasnauskas; Marina Schenkel; Thomas Schincariol; Kate Rachel Sheehan; Brenneath Muir Stevens; Weiming Su; Maha Mohammed A Sulimani; Kate Maire

Tolan; Lily Toomey; Angharad Elen Wynn Williams; Li Wu; Ruifeng Xiong; Feiyang Yu; Chengyun Zhao.

- D.Ed.** Tara McGowan.
- M.A.I.** Sinead Harrington.
- M.Litt.** Madeline Layne Rose.

CL/25-26/120 Change of Discipline Title, Centre for Language and Communication Studies to Discipline of Linguistics

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences dated 3 February 2026.

CL/25-26/121 Revised Policy Management Framework – Record Sheets

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Secretary to the College/Director of Governance dated 21 January 2026.

CL/25-26/122 Heads of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Michael Kelly, Professor of Surgery (1848), as the Head of the Discipline of Surgery, School of Medicine, for two terms, from 5 January 2026 to 4 January 2031, as the incoming holder of an Established Chair.
- (ii) Professor Mark Bell as the Head of the Discipline of Law, School of Law, from 2 January 2026 to 1 January 2029.
- (iii) Professor Mary Cosgrove as the Head of the Discipline of German, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, for a second term, from 26 November 2025 to 31 May 2027.
- (iv) Professor Davide Romelli as the Head of the Discipline of Economics, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2029.

CL/25-26/123 Directors

The Council noted and approved the following nomination:

- (i) Professor Xiaoning Liang as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), Trinity Business School, 1 February 2026 to 30 June 2027.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date

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