



**The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 19 March 2010**

**PRESENT:** Provost (in the Chair), Registrar, Bursar, Professor M. Marsh, Professor D. Singleton, Interim Chief Operating Officer, Ms. P. Murphy, Mr. Cónán O'Broin, Treasurer – Secretary of the Committee

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Research Accounting Manager

**APOLOGIES:** Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer

The Minutes of the Meeting of 24 February 2010 were approved and signed.

**Section A**

No Items

**Section B**

**FN/09 – 10/61 Report of the Working Party on the Student Registration Charge**

The Dean of Students attended for this item.

The Dean of Students summarised the circulated report from the Working Party on the Student Registration Charge recently established by Board to develop proposals for the provision of student services. Noting the main issues considered by the Working Party, the Committee approved the recommendations arising from the report (in relation to the scope of application of the student services charge and the consultative process within College regarding its disbursement) for onward circulation to Board.

The Provost, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Dean of Students and the members of the Working Party on the Student Registration Charge for their timely report.

**Action:**

61.1 The Committee approved the recommendations arising from the Report of the Working Party on the Student Registration Charge for onward circulation to Board.

**FN/09 – 10/62 2010 Estimates of Income and Expenditure**

The Financial Accountant attended for this item.

A memorandum from the Treasurer dated 12.03.2010 had been circulated to the Committee with the following appendices:

- HEA Recurrent Grant Allocation letter dated 24.02.2010
- Basis of Preparation of 2010 Estimates of Income and Expenditure
- 2010 Estimates Income and Expenditure (calendar and financial year)
- Schedule of Funding Available
- 2011 High Level Estimates of Income and Expenditure (excluding and including Research)
- Draft letter from the Provost to the HEA re Framework for Borrowing and Loan Guarantees
- Draft Letter from the Provost to the HEA in accordance with S37(5) of Universities Act 1997.

The Treasurer drew the Committee's attention to the following:

- The need for College to maintain financial flexibility in order to achieve the goals set out in the Strategic Plan by measures which include managing activity within budgeted resources over the medium term, diversifying and generating income sources, prioritising cost management and efficiency on a day-to-day basis and improving delivery of robust financial information to underpin decision making.
- The 2010 Core Recurrent Grant Allocation letter, noting in particular:
  - the core recurrent grant for the Sector in 2010 represents a decrease of 24.5% over the outturn for 2009
  - the recurrent core grant to College for 2010 amounted to €65.1m, which represents a decrease of 25.9%, (circa €22.8m) over 2009 after the application of the HEA RGAM moderator of 1.5% (increasing to 2% for 2010), and the indication from the HEA that the reduction in core grant will be offset by a number of items including pay reductions and additional income from increases to the student charge and additional student numbers
  - the requirement that the terms of the Employment Control Framework be abided by in relation to reduction in numbers and balanced budgets.
- The Calendar Year Estimates 2010 which identified a cumulative recurrent deficit of €8.33m including a provision for a Contingency/Strategic Fund of €5.5m along with the impact on the outturn at 30 September 2010 should this fund be unused. As proposed by the Planning Group and endorsed by Executive Officers, individual submissions for funding will be considered at a future date as part of the Strategic Plan implementation.
- The Financial Year Outturn to 30 September 2010 setting out a deficit of €2.98m (including a €5.5m provision for the Contingency/Strategic Fund).
- The provisional high level estimated deficit outturn for the Calendar Year 2011 of €13.1m (including a Contingency/Strategic Fund of €5.5m) and that the Planning Group will bring forward recommendations to address this deficit as part of its current work programme.

The Committee, in the context of its Terms of Reference and noting that both the Planning Group and Executive Officers had considered the 2010 Estimates in detail and approved their onward circulation to Board, noted:

- the reduction in grant of 25.9% (circa €22.8m), over 2009 as determined by the RGAM following the application of the moderating mechanism
- the 2010 Estimates and approved them for forwarding to Board with enhanced clarification in relation to the impact of funding reductions and pay savings
- the provisional high level estimated recurrent deficit of €13.1m for 2011
- the draft letter from the Provost to the HEA under the Framework for Borrowing and Loan Guarantees
- the draft letter from the Provost to the HEA, in accordance with Section 37 of the Universities Act 1997, which requires the Provost (as the College's Accounting Officer) to inform the HEA if the Board approves expenditure that is likely to result in a material departure from budget.

The Provost, on behalf of the Committee, expressed his thanks to the Treasurer and the staff of the Treasurer's Office for their work in delivering the estimates within a narrow timeframe.

**Action:**

62.1 The Treasurer to forward 2010 Estimates to Board.

**FN/09 – 10/63 Post Graduate Fees and Undergraduate Non-EU Fees 2010/11**  
(Minute FN/09-10/30 of 16.12.2009 refers)

The Committee considered the circulated memorandum from the Financial Planning Manager dated 10.03.2010 outlining a review of 2010/11 post-graduate fee levels undertaken on foot of a recommendation in Report #2 of the Planning Group in the context of the significant reduction in the core grant for 2010.

The Committee agreed that no change would be made to the fee levels already set for 2010/11 in light of the recommendation arising from consultation in respect of the above issues with the Faculty Deans, the Director of International Student Affairs and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**Section C**

No Items

The next meeting of the Finance Committee has been arranged for 13 April 2010 at 11.00a.m. in the Sports Hall Board Room.

PROVOST.....

DATE.....