



**There will be a meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee**  
on Thursday 20 October, 2016 at 9am, Boardroom, Provost's House

**AGENDA A**

- 1. Minutes of GSC of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 *Encl 1*
- 2. Matters arising
- 3. A new course proposal – MSc in Entrepreneurship – Prof. Paul Ryan (School of Business) to report *Encl 2*
- 4. *Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report 2014/15* – Dean of Graduate Studies to introduce *Encl 3 to follow*
- 5. Role of External Examiners in postgraduate taught courses – TTL document dated 4 October for discussion *Encl 4, 4a*
- 6. First qualified applicant admissions policy for Non EU applicants across postgraduate taught courses – for discussion (Dean of Graduate Studies to introduce)
- 7. Best practice in supervision of research students – for discussion (Dean of Graduate Studies to introduce)
- 8. Criteria for EU Fee Status: for discussion - Prof. Elizabeth Fahey-McCarthy (School of Nursing and Midwifery) to introduce
- 9. Any Other Business

**Amended AGENDA B (for noting and approval)**

- B1 LLM Calendar changes 2017/18 *Encl B1, B1a*

**AGENDA C (for noting)**

18 October 2016  
Ewa Sadowska  
Trinity Teaching and Learning

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CC.	Prof. Neville Cox Prof. Richard Porter Prof. James Quinn Prof. Dónall Mac Dónaill Prof. Lucy Hederman Prof. Michael O'Sullivan Prof. Ruth Barton Prof. John Walsh Prof. Richard Reilly Prof. David O'Shaughnessy Prof. Seamus Joseph Martin	Prof. Christine Morris Prof. Giuliana Adamo Prof. Caoimhín MacMaoláin Prof. Christer Gobl Prof. Andreea Nicoara Prof. Stephen Smith Prof. Patrick Wyse Jackson Prof. Elizabeth Fahey McCarthy Prof. John Gilmer Prof. Louise Bradley Prof. Jean Quigley	Prof. Benjamin Wold Prof. William Phelan Prof. Virpi Timonen Prof. John J Boland, Ms Siobhan Dunne Ms Helen O'Hara Ms Patricia Callaghan Mr Shane Collins Ms Elisa Crespo Miguez Ms Helen Thornbury
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**Outstanding GSC meetings in 2016/17: 24 November 2016, 12 January 2017, 16 February 2017, 23 March 2017, 20 April 2017, 18 May 2017**  
Venue: Boardroom, Provost's House, 9am-11am



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to give a brief introduction to a few items on the Agenda for 20 October in order that the discussion can be a focused one.

### **1. Role of External Examiners**

An issue which arises regularly (and especially by reference to practices in other jurisdictions) is what the proper role of an external examiner should be. In particular, should s/he act as a moderator of exam results (in effect a second marker) or should the role be more in relation to course development and more high level issues. And, of course, a further question is whether there should be any homogenisation of this issue or whether, instead, different schools should use their external examiners having regard to what they feel their role could most usefully be. I would like us to discuss this and also to get some sense of the role(s) that external examiners serve in the various different schools, disciplines and courses. To be clear, this is a reference to the role of externs on *taught* courses, and not the role of the external examiner of a research thesis such as a PhD (albeit that an extern on a taught course may end up responsible for moderating the research dissertation component of that course).

### **2. Supervision**

In the last meeting we discussed the QQI white paper on research programmes (I will provide further information at the meeting). In the course of this discussion it was agreed that, at this next meeting, we would look to issues pertaining to research supervision and best practice thereof. This is in the context of the need for Trinity to have a policy on this issue and also, as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that our procedures and guidelines are what we would want them to be. So in our discussion I would like us to consider (a) whether there are elements of research supervision which we see as important for or conducive to best practice and (b) whether it would be appropriate to incorporate these elements in a particular context (for example a policy, enhanced research guidelines and so on).

### **3. Admission of NON-EU PGT students**

At the last meeting we discussed the Council memo from June 29, which (A) required that a course's quota of non-EU students be filled with 'first qualified applicants' and (B) said that if a school did not make a decision on a non-EU student's file within a prescribed period, the Dean would authorise Academic Registry to make an offer to the student. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to formulate a response to this and so, in our discussion I would like us to consider what this response should be.

Thanks so much and see you on Thursday!

Neville