

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN  
TRINITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2004  
Room 2026, Arts Building.

**Present:** Dean of Graduate Studies (Chair), Prof. Michael Gibney, Dr Maryann Valiulis, Dr Alan Kramer, Prof. David Singleton, Dr Evelyn Mahon, Dr Trevor Hodkinson, Dr Trevor Orr, Dr Frederick Falkiner, Dr John Donegan, Ms Margaret Carroll, Dr Alan Moore, Dr Joseph McDonagh, Mr Trevor Peare (Library), Ms Gail Hogan (ISS), Mr Michael Dowling, Ms Susannah Scott, Ms Mairead De Roiste,

**In attendance:** Ms Ewa Sadowska (GSO);

**Apologies:** Ms Nicky Saunders (GSO), Dr Christine Morris,

**176.0 Minutes of the meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2003.**

The minutes were approved by the Committee and signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**176.1 Matters arising**

*Re item 174.3:* The Dean explained that the issue of higher doctorates was still being discussed by the Academic Affairs Committee and that he would report back to the Graduate Studies Committee its recommendations as soon as these were available. He noted that there was increasing pressure on College from aspiring candidates to finalise the issue. It was reiterated that a higher doctorate should not be treated as a promotional criterion in the context of a new professorial proposal.

**176.2 PG Diploma in Clinical Supervision: 1 year part-time (a new course for approval for entry from October 2004/05)**

The Dean welcomed Dr Rita Honan, the Course Director and Mary Creaner, the Course Coordinator. Dr Honan and Ms Creaner spoke to the documents circulated prior to the meeting and explained the course's rationale, structure, objectives and academic benefit to the Department. The course aims to provide specialised and focused training for clinical supervisors in counselling psychology and psychotherapy in order to address the current practice whereby graduates in Psychology are required to have 1 hour a week of their clinical practice supervised for 2 years by a psychologist registered with the Irish Psychological Society before they can become supervisors themselves. There is a marked difficulty, however, in finding candidates who would be willing to undertake this role since there is no training available in the Dublin area to provide appropriate qualifications. With respect to the financial standing of the proposed course, it was stated that it would be set up in a complementary capacity to assist the existing MSc in Counselling Psychology, which had never been financially viable. The issue of assessment was also addressed. Dr Honan explained that the final grades would be pass and fail, and the Dean noted that a diploma could also award a grade of distinction. During the duration of the course, students would also be receiving feedback as to their academic progress by continuous assessment. Ms Creaner confirmed that entry to the new course would be via the direct admissions scheme agreed with the Graduate Studies Office. The issue of the course's title

raised a special concern within the context of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Dr Falkiner suggested that the title was too broad and should be made more explicit. The Committee approved the course and suggested that the presenters might consider to amend the title to **Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Supervision (Psychology)** and discuss the suggestion with the Dean prior to the next meeting.

#### **176.3 Proposal for revision of Master's in Community Health (with International Health option) (MSc in Global Health)**

The Dean welcomed Prof. Malcolm MacLachlan and invited him to speak to the circulated documents about the proposed amendments to the already existing MSc in Community Health on behalf of the Working Group on the Global Health Master's Programme. Prof. MacLachlan explained that the current MSc programme had run very successfully for quite some time but due to a number of factors, an intake into it had to be suspended last October even though there were 2 students still registered for the continuation year 2003/04. The amendments were to affect the structure of the course and its title so that the revised programme, strongly supported by the Faculty of Health Sciences, could reflect recent developments in the field of global health and to utilise more effectively the expertise of those who wished to contribute to the teaching of the course. Prof. MacLachlan emphasised that there was some urgency in obtaining the approval of the GSC for the proposed amendments as potential funders, such as the Department of Foreign Affairs, could only consider committing funds to the revised programme once it had been approved in College. Some concern was expressed at the proposed high level of non-EU fee which would be prohibitive for applicants from developing countries. It was suggested that a scholarship at the EU level of fees could be set up for such applicants. Dr Falkiner indicated that it might be more likely to expect graduates from Trinity on that course than any significant number of participants from developing countries to travel to Ireland to enrol on it. Dr Mahon expressed additional concern that the proposal did not address in any detail the way the course was going to be organised and staffed. Prof. MacLachlan stated that the proposed programme in Global Health was intended as a faculty-based course and that he had already received positive feedback from a number of staff in the Faculty of Health Sciences willing to participate in it. Dr Mahon noted that there were numerous staff members with the expertise in globalisation in other areas in College such as the Faculty of BESS. Prof. MacLachlan expressed his willingness to consider any offer of participation in the course coming from outside the Faculty of Health Sciences. Dr Falkiner suggested that it might be appropriate to make some modules (such as Ethics) already in place in the Faculty of Health Sciences available to participants of the newly revised course in order to utilise the resources better and to broaden up the course's academic base. Given the support of the Faculty for the Trinity Global Health Initiative, Dr Falkiner indicated that it might be possible to feed some academic aspects of the course into the undergraduate medical programme to enhance that component of its professional training. Mr Trevor Peare confirmed that before being considered by the GSC each revised course should also go before the Library Committee so that the Library could ensure timely provision of the resources required by a change of the course's focus. The revision of the programme and the new course title (**MSc in Global Health**) were approved by the Committee.

#### **176.4 M Phil in Literary Translation: 1 year full-time (a new course for approval for entry from October 2004/05)**

The Dean welcomed Prof. Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and invited her to speak to the circulated documents about the proposal. Prof. Ní Chuilleanáin explained that the course would be Faculty of Arts (Letters)-based even though initially its administrative "home" would be the Department of Italian. Its aim would be to provide an introduction to postgraduate studies leading towards

further research, and to teach translation as an art. The latter would thereby address the absence of this kind of expertise in the Dublin area. Good English competence would be an essential criterion for admission. Prof. Ní Chuilleanáin noted an amendment with regard to the issue of assessment. The translation element would not be compensatable. Students would need to achieve a pass mark in the dissertation and the translation portfolio. Other elements may be compensatable, and this would be reflected in a transcript produced by the course coordinator locally in the department. Prof. Ní Chuilleanáin stated that the core assessment would be carried out with respect to a student's portfolio of individual work. A number of concerns were expressed in relation to the proposal. Some Committee members were of the view that there would be a significant burden on the teaching resources of departments if classes were to be run for small numbers of participants. Some doubt was also expressed as to there being sufficient market for literary translators given that it would normally take a lot of time and resources for each individual to establish themselves in that market. Prof. Ní Chuilleanáin stated that the course might be appealing to those people who were translators already, also to those who could see it as an entry into research and to those who might potentially express interest in the creative writing course. With regard to additional workload to academic staff, Prof. Ní Chuilleanáin stated that those academics who contributed an option to the course would be bought out from some of their undergraduate teaching from the course's income and that participants in the course would be allowed to join undergraduate options already running in departments. She envisaged the heaviest workload for staff in terms of their assessment of the students' portfolios and supervision of dissertations but noted that since the whole Faculty contributed to the course, the workload falling on individual academics should be bearable. Prof. Singleton expressed the view that given the nature of the course more consideration should be given to the incorporation of a linguistics component into it, and the Committee decided to approve the course subject to that *proviso*.

#### **176.6 Responses to a review of 4 Postgraduate Diplomas in Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering**

The Dean noted that reviews of postgraduate courses come before the Graduate Studies Committee for comments and the Head of Department concerned shares his/her view with the Committee about the conduct of the review process. The reviews would then feed back into the department's review. The Dean welcomed Dr Roger West, Head of Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, and invited him to speak to the circulated responses to the reviews of four diploma courses carried out in October 2003. The following courses were reviewed: Postgraduate Diploma in Construction Law and Contract Administration, Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Physical Planning, and Postgraduate Diploma in Highway and Geotechnical Engineering. Dr West explained that the Department had been running a significant number of self-financing and core postgraduate courses both at the Diploma and Master's level. The reviewers confirmed that the courses were well established, highly respected, fully accredited to the Institution of Engineers and had high-calibre students attending them. Dr West stated that the department was committed to high quality teaching on those courses but was concerned that, given the current difficult financial situation in College, too high a proportion of the income generated from them had to be diverted towards the running of core-teaching in the department leaving inadequate resources to address the recommendations of the reviewers, and depriving the departmental staff of incentivisation to work on those courses. Dr West referred also to the issue of historic disparity between individual departments' commitment to their self-financing courses and its relation to the core-courses, and the problem of internal weighting within the Faculty of ECC. The Dean congratulated Dr West on such positive reviews.

There was a general feeling at the meeting that the issue of "incentivisation" should be looked into in more detail. It was agreed that the faculty representatives would collect data from departments into Faculty submissions for the GSC before the beginning of Trinity Term on the number and scale of self-financing and core courses run locally and on the way they fit into the department's profile. The data would be collected with a view to inviting then either the Bursar or the Treasurer to attend a GSC meeting before the end of the year to comment on the information gathered in the context of a possible increase in incentivisation for departments in terms of diverting more funds to departments from the income generated from the self-financing and core courses.

**176.7 Postgraduate Admissions 2004**

The Dean deferred his report to the next meeting due to the lack of time.

**176.7 Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.30 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

Prof. John Saeed

Signed:

Date: 4 March 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saeed', written in a cursive style.