

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE**

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting held at 9a.m. on Thursday 23 January 2014
Boardroom, Provost's House

Present

Professor Aideen Long, Dean of Graduate Studies (Chair),
Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Professor Graeme Watson, School of Chemistry
Professor Simon Wilson, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Damian Murchan, School of Education
Professor Roger West, School of Engineering
Professor Martine Cuypers, School of Histories & Humanities
Professor Alex Schuster, School of Law
Professor Christer Gobl, School of Linguistic, Speech and
Communication Sciences
Professor John Stalker, School of Mathematics
Professor Orla Sheils, School of Medicine
Professor Anna Davies, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Anne-Marie Brady, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Lidia Tajber, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical
Sciences
Professor Louise Bradley, School of Physics
Professor David Hevey, School of Psychology
Professor Carlo Aldrovandi, Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and
Ecumenics
Professor Stephanie Holt, School of Social Work and Social Policy

Ms Patricia Callaghan, CAPSL Representative
Mr Ryan Kenny, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)
Ms Sarah Smith, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President (*Ex officio*)
Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services (in attendance *Ex officio*)

Apologies

Professor Vinny Cahill, Dean of Research
Professor Anna Davies, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Martin Fellenz, School of Business
Professor Anne Fitzpatrick, School of Languages,
Literatures and Cultural Studies

In attendance

Ms Michelle Hogan, Graduate Studies Office Secretary to the meeting (*Ex officio*)
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office (*Ex officio*)

GS/13-14/11 Minutes of 23 January 2014

The minutes were approved by the Committee as circulated.
The Dean noted that the update to GSC at the previous meeting on discussions at the IUA Deans of Graduate Studies group re teaching hours allowed for IRC-funded 1st year students (**GS/13-14/10**) was not a finalised outcome for all students but specific to an individual cohort. The IRC is due to update its FAQ page with further information.

GS/13-14/12 Matters Arising

The Dean noted that the PhD framework is going to the HEA Board later this month and indicated that she would report back when feedback on same was received by the IUA Deans of Graduate Studies Committee

GS/13-14/13 Proposal for the validation of a Professional Masters in Education (Primary Teaching)

The Dean invited Dr O’Gara to update the Committee on the Proposal for the validation of a Professional Masters in Education. Dr O’Gara stated as outlined in the document that there were 3 key changes in the proposed Masters programme. The level of the programme would become a Level 9 course instead of a Level 8. Quality assurance would become a key factor and the Associated Colleges Degrees Committee, chaired by the Registrar of TCD, will have responsibility for both ensuring quality of delivery and administration of the course and there would be six representatives on the Governing body of Marino from TCD. Dr O’Gara stated that they would be defining processes for student feedback ensuring that student feedback would be received regarding module content, assessment and teaching.

Dr O’Gara gave the Committee an overview of the course and stated that students would be required to attend school placement, foundation studies and gain knowledge of all the subjects taught at primary level. A discussion arose among the committee regarding a research-led approach to teaching and it was stated that this initiative was being driven by the Teaching Council. A committee member stated that this was not an optional development in education but a required development. It was explained that all students would need the official Irish language requirement at this time. There were no exceptions made for admission to the course if a student has not achieved this requirement. Dr O’Gara confirmed that this was expected and that Marino Institute were in a position to assist those without fluent Irish to gain same. It was stated there is an Ethics Committee in place.

The Committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to any amendments that may be required following the external assessor’s report.

GS/13-14/14 Application for New Postgraduate Course in School of Medicine

Professor Joe Barry and Professor Catherine Hayes were invited by the Dean to update the Committee on the proposed Certificate in Implementation Science. Professor Barry explained to the Committee that the School of Medicine had hosted a summer school in Implementation Science in Autumn 2012 that was attended by 70% Health Service attendees and 30% NGO's and Social Care, and was both oversubscribed and very successful. It was stated that this programme would be a 1-year part-time course and a stepping stone for development of a Post Graduate Diploma and Masters in Implementation Science in the future.

A discussion arose regarding the competition in the market for this course or whether it a ground-breaking new course. Professor Barry stated that there was no similar course and that there was a need for this course as there has been a deficiency in this area in the school's strategic plan. Professor Barry also explained that a sound foundation in Implementation Science was becoming more essential within the HSE and that the course would have broader appeal across large organisations. It was stated that E-Learning would be included in the course structure and that there was a plan to discuss this with the Associate Dean of Online Education (Assoc. Professor Tim Savage). A question was raised regarding the possibility of rescinding the certificate qualification if the Certificate develops to a Diploma. Professor Hayes said they had queried this and were advised that that would be the preferred option but it was not officially decided.

A discussion arose regarding the fee structure with committee members expressing concern that the fee was not commensurate with the level of the course. Both Professor Barry and Professor Hayes agreed to review the proposed finances with their School Financial Accountant. GSC members felt that the course fee should be raised.

The Committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to the above amendments to the proposal and any additional amendments that may be required following the external assessor's report.

GS/13-14/15 Plagiarism

The Dean informed the committee of a number of issues which had arisen over recent months with respect to plagiarism and particularly with respect to the current published regulations on same. She referred the committee to the definition of Plagiarism, and the section dealing with the college processes and sanctions for plagiarism in the Calendar Part II. The committee discussed their concerns regarding acceptable methods of detection of plagiarism, how to deal with cases of plagiarism when they arise and how to deal with students presenting work that is not their own. A discussion arose around the practise of students tendering for full assignments online and how, in cases like this, it was difficult to prove that submitted work was not that of the student in question. The committee welcomed the Deans suggestion that a working group would be established to advise on the current regulations and

practises at PG level and it was noted that as the regulations with respect to plagiarism are applied college-wide, representation from the USC would also be required. The Dean agreed to report back to the GSC on the findings and recommendations of the working group once it had completed its task. It was agreed that a working group would be put in place to deal with these issues.

GS/13-14/16 Appeals following PhD examinations

The Dean opened discussion by explaining that a number of recent PhD students had lodged formal appeals against the decision of their examiners where either an award of lower degree or an outright fail was recommended. She commented that the number of formal appeals was rising which gave cause for concern but that the regulations as they currently stood did not facilitate any positive outcome except that of re-examination of the students work. The Dean explained that whilst this dealt with the immediate issue it was not the correct remedy in some of the cases she was dealing with and that in these cases the examiners, particularly the External examiners, were understandably aggrieved with the proposed solution. A discussion ensued and the committee referred to the regulations as published in Calendar Part II and broad agreement was reached that these regulations should be reviewed. The Dean suggested that a working group be established to undertake this and the committee welcomed this suggestion.

GS/13-14/17 AOB

The Dean reminded the Committee that schools must return their Research Handbooks to the Graduate Studies Office for approval by the Graduate Studies Committee and that it is a requirement for all students to see this handbook.

The Dean advised the Committee that the Registrar (in her capacity as Chair of the Academic Appeals Committee for Taught Postgraduate Students) had recommended that all taught postgraduate courses have a minimum of one formal examination (written or oral) as opposed to all modules being assessed through assignments/continual assessment. The committee agreed that this recommendation should be put on the agenda for discussion by the working group on plagiarism.

The Dean updated the Committee on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (pilot survey held last year), which will be running from February 17th to March 7th 2014. A logo advertising this will be circulated to all DTLPGs for use in electronic email signatures. She advised the Committee that all taught Post Graduate students would be surveyed and asked them to encourage students to get involved.

The Dean introduced the Academic Secretary and asked her to update the Committee on PG admissions issues which had been raised by the Global Office. The Academic Secretary explained that the Global Relations Team reported a loss of at least 30 PG non-EU applicants this year and that they felt this was due to delayed response/offer times. The Dean reminded the Committee of the college commitment to turn around completed application files within a two week period and also reminded the members that each course should have a non-EU quota of at least

15% of total enrolments. The Dean confirmed that the PG admissions staff prioritise non-EU admissions and requested details of the specific applicants who were affected to ascertain if there were any commonalities or trends emerging. A discussion ensued on the level of completeness required to assess applicant's files and on the merits and perceived disadvantages of non-EU quotas. The Dean clarified that the non-EU quotas and prioritisation should not detract from the course committees' selection processes which are based on merit. The Dean agreed that she would follow up with regard to the 2013/14 PG non-EU applicants and would contact Schools/Course Committees as required.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.50am

Professor Aideen Long

Date: 24th January 2014