Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

XX = Item is of significance to Council

A meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee was held on 12 May 2026 at 2.00 pm in the Boardroom, Trinity Business School.

Present: Professor Vincent Wade, Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies (*Chair*)
Ms Patricia Maguire, Academic Secretary
Professor Mark Sweetnam, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Common Architecture (ADUCA)
Professor Andrew Jackson, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education (ADUSE)
Professor Stephen Smith, Senior Tutor
Professor Martha O'Hagan Luff, Trinity Business School
Professor Damian Murchan, School of Education
Professor Mark Faulkner, School of English
Professor Dan Geary, School of Histories and Humanities
Professor Tylor Brand, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Professor Yvonne Lynch, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Professor Paul Dockree, School of Psychology
Professor Alexandra Grieser, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
Professor Paul Scanlon, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Professor Julie Byrne, School of Social Work and Social Policy
Professor Jean Fletcher, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor John Southern, School of Chemistry
Professor Goetz Botterweck, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Heather Reilly, School of Dental Science
Professor John Gallagher, School of Engineering
Professor Jan Manschot, School of Mathematics
Professor Robin Edwards, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Deirdre D'Arcy, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science
Professor Cormac McGuinness, School of Physics
Professor Judith Meehan, School of Medicine
Professor Jan de Vries, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Susan Pike, Academic Director of Portal
Mr. Buster Whaley, Education Officer, Students' Union
Ms. Eve Martin, STEM Faculty Convenor for TCDSU/AMLCT
Dr. Pauline Rooney, Head of Academic Practice
Ms Siobhán Dunne, Trinity Library
Ms Breda Walls, Student Services

Apologies: Professor Brian Barry, School of Law; Professor Richard Porter, Dean of Students

In attendance: Ms. Rima Fitzpatrick, Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs; Dr. Solange Daini, Academic Affairs; Prof. Eleanor Denny, Bursar, for item USC/25-26/088; Mr Ronan Hodson, Head of Admissions, for items USC/25-26/091ii and USC/25-26/092; Ms. Orla Bannon, Director of Careers, for item USC/25-26/093; Dr Liz Donnellan, Education Policy Developer, Academic Affairs, for items USC/25-26/094 and USC/25-26/095.

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies welcomed all members to the meeting.

USC/25-26/085 Minutes of the meeting of 21 April 2026

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 21 April 2026.
The Committee noted the Action Log.

USC/25-26/086 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

USC/25-26/087 Senior Lecturer updates

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies invited members to complete the annual USC self-evaluation survey. He updated members on the continued increase in end-of-semester examinations, currently rising year on year. A working group will be established to review in-class testing and assessment pressures across the academic year, as referenced in USC updates of 21 April 2026 (USC/25-26/075). The working group will report back to USC, and Directors of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning were invited to contact the Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies with expressions of interest to collaborate.

USC/25-26/088 Timetabling Project

The Bursar & Chief Strategic Developments Officer introduced an exploratory timetabling project under the Strategic Plan Management Group. The proposal is aimed to address current process and systems issues affecting both student and staff experience, and consider space utilisation and sustainability. Committee noted that the review will consider the needs of undergraduate, postgraduate, lifelong learning and research communities, alongside broader issues including large-class provision, hospital-based teaching spaces, links between research and learning environments, discipline-specific requirements, timing of timetable publication, and the balance between centralisation and local flexibility. Committee also noted that the next phase will involve developing possible scheduling scenarios, including consideration of examination timetabling, with engagement across Schools and benchmarking against other universities.

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USC/25-26/089 Senior Lecturer Annual Report 2024/25

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the redesigned Senior Lecturer Annual Report (SLAR). Members were advised that the report highlights relative stability across key indicators, improving retention rates, and ongoing challenges relating to assessment pressures and increasing system complexity. Discussion focused on student provenance and the relatively low proportion of students from outside Leinster, with accommodation and timing of admissions processes identified as key national and international recruitment challenges, particularly for high-performing students considering alternative institutions.

Decision:

XX **USC/25-26/089:** The Committee approved the Senior Lecturer Annual Report 2024/25.

USC/25-26/090 USC workplan in 2025/26

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies gave an overview of the achievements of the USC workplan in 2025/26, and thanked Committee members for their work. He noted the significant progress made across a range of strategic, policy and operational initiatives during the academic year. The Committee was informed that a new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) steering committee had been formed, and advised that all identified requirements, together with additional emerging needs, are being considered as part of an analysis of available systems on the market. No final decision on a future VLE is expected before the next academic year. The members were invited to provide feedback via USC self-evaluation survey to inform USC workplan 2026-27.

USC/25-26/091 Strategic Project Items:

i. Working Group on Repeat by Module

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the proposed "Repeat by Module" framework, following update at April meeting (item USC/25-26/076. He outlined how

the proposal would allow eligible students failing up to 30 ECTS to repeat individual modules rather than a full academic year, while remaining fully registered students with access to College supports and services. Members discussed the academic and operational implications of the proposal, including progression regulations and fee arrangements, and noted that further systems development work remained ongoing. It was agreed that the framework should be reviewed after two years.

Decision:

XX **USC/25-26/091:** USC approved the Repeat-by-Module framework, enabling students to repeat failed modules on a modular basis up to a threshold of 30 ECTS.

ii. Admissions Regulations Working Group

The Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education and Chair of Admissions Regulations Working Group presented an update on the review of Trinity's admissions policies and requirements. A working group, led by the Head of Admissions and Academic Affairs and including representation from faculties, Schools and College Secretary's Office, would examine issues relating to matriculation requirements, subject-specific entry requirements, non-EU qualifications, governance processes and systems development. It was noted that entry and subject requirements had diverged across programmes over time, making navigation difficult for applicants, and that the rationale for certain requirements is questionable, including language criteria. The review aims to simplify and better align requirements across programmes, improve accessibility through standard and non-standard entry routes, and strengthen engagement with schools, counsellors and international stakeholders. The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked the Associate Dean of Science Education and the Head of Admissions for progressing the simplification of requirements.

iii. Learning Innovation and Research Hub feasibility project

The Academic Secretary presented an update on the Learning Innovation and Research Hub, noting that the four pilot projects approved under the feasibility phase are progressing well. Updates were provided on projects including the "MethodMentor" AI-supported research methods chatbot, simulated practice and avatar-based learning tools to support diverse learning needs, AI teaching assistants in Engineering, and curriculum co-design work in Nursing and Midwifery. Members noted that current access to generative AI tools relies largely on ADAPT capacity or individual subscriptions, creating challenges around scalability and sustainability.

USC/25-26/092 HEAR admission point reduction updated proposal

Mr Ronan Hodson, Head of Admissions, presented a proposal to revise the HEAR admissions points framework across undergraduate courses, following an earlier presentation in April (USC/25-26/077). The proposal would allow courses with CAO cut-offs between 470 and 625 to offer places to HEAR applicants with 390+ points, while courses below 470 would retain the existing reduction table, including the 350-point floor for STEM programmes. Committee members discussed the declining number of HEAR-eligible applicants and the need to sustain access targets, agreed that the revised approach should apply across all courses, and recommended that its impact be reviewed after two years, once the first cohort has completed its initial stage of study.

Decision:

XX **USC/25-26/092:** USC approved the proposal to replace the CAO point reduction model for HEAR applicants with a minimum entry threshold of 390 points applicants to programmes with standard entry points of between 470 and 625. The existing 100 point reduction model will continue to apply for programmes with points below 470, with separate arrangements to be developed for Medicine.

USC/25-26/093 Graduate Outcomes Survey Report Class of 2024

Ms. Orla Bannon, Director of Careers, presented on the HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey for the Class of 2024, which highlighted strong employment outcomes for Trinity graduates relative to national trends, including salaries approximately 6% above national averages and particularly strong representation in Human Health and Social Work sectors. Members noted signs of slight tightening in some sectors, particularly ICT, and reduced postgraduate recruitment in the pharmaceutical sector. No evidence has yet emerged of generative AI negatively impacting graduate employment. The report, developed using Power BI, SurveyMonkey and SITS data, may be made available to Schools, with members invited to indicate what forms of School- or course-level data would be most useful for future reporting and engagement. Directors interested in further discussions on placements and capstones were invited to contact the Assistant Academic Secretary.

USC/25-26/094 Draft Policy on Recording of Lectures

The Academic Policy Developer presented the Committee with a final update on the Draft Policy for the Recording of Lectures, following consideration by the working group established in Michaelmas Term 2025 and the incorporation of ongoing feedback from the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Studies Committees. Discussion clarified that Trinity retains ownership of the lecture slides and teaching materials, while the lecturer retains rights over the recorded performance. Members emphasised the importance of reviewing, in two years time, not only the policy itself but also its impact in practice, particularly in relation to student attendance. Further consideration will be given, in consultation with the Centre for Academic Practice, to potential initiatives aimed at supporting and enhancing lectures attendance.

Decision:

XX **USC/25-26/094ii:** The Committee approved the updated Policy on Recording of Lectures.

USC/25-26/095 Calendar Updates

Calendar updates and amendments for 2026/27 were proposed for: i. General Regulations (primarily academic year and registration dates for 2026–27, revised "fitness to study" terminology to "capacity to study", expanded Fitness to Practise procedures and disability-related provisions, clarified progression, compensation and reassessment regulations, and updated Courts of First Appeal and Academic Appeals Committee procedures); ii. Common Architecture; iii. Trinity Joint Honours (TJH); iv. Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; v. Faculty of Health Sciences; vi. Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; vii. Scholarships and viii. Validated Courses.

Decision:

USC/25-26/095: The Committee approved Calendar updates to i. General Regulations (academic year and registration dates for 2026–27, revise "fitness to study" terminology to "capacity to study", expand Fitness to Practise procedures and disability-related provisions, clarify progression, compensation and reassessment regulations, and update Courts of First Appeal and Academic Appeals Committee procedures, minor drafting and policy-reference updates); ii. Common Architecture; iii. Trinity Joint Honours (TJH); iv. Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; v. Faculty of Health Sciences; vi. Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; vii. Scholarships and viii. Validated Courses.

USC/25-26/096 Any Other Business

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked the members of the Committee, particularly the outgoing ADUCA and Directors of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning, for their significant contribution and service during the academic year.

USC/25-26/097 Minutes (Section B)

The Committee noted and approved the following items:

i. Approved Minutes MIE ACDC 24 February 2026
ii. Draft RIAM ACDC Minutes 31 March 2026
iii. Draft MIE ACDC Minutes 1 May 2026
iv. UCAGC Minutes 24 February 2026

USC/25-26/098 For Information (Section C)

The Committee noted and approved the following items:

i. School of Medicine Response to External Review of Year 2 Undergraduate Curriculum Revision

XX ii. Updated Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy

XX iii. Updated College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI (GenAI) in Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Research

XX iv. Proposal to change Programme title for TR080 Global Business

v. Expansion of Irish entry requirements to include TEG B1 level equivalency

vi. Extension of the Law Pilot Request

vii. List of Open Modules for 2026/27

XX viii. Cessation of German/Polish; German/Russian and Polish/Russian combinations within European Studies Programmes