



A meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee was held on 18 November 2025 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 Andrew Jackson, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education (ADUSE)
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 Brian Barry, School of Law
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 Alexandra Grieser, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
Professor Jean Fletcher, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor John Southern, School of Chemistry
Professor John Gallagher, School of Engineering
Professor Cormac McGuinness, School of Physics
Professor Jan Manschot, School of Mathematics
Professor Robin Edwards, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Jan de Vries, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Judith Meehan, School of Medicine
Professor Heather Reilly, School of Dental Science
Professor Deirdre D'Arcy, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science
Professor Richard Porter, Dean of Students
Dr. Pauline Rooney, Head of Academic Practice
Ms. Eve Martin, STEM Faculty Convenor for TCDSU/AMLCT
Ms Breda Walls, Student Services

Apologies:

Professor Mark Sweetnam, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Common Architecture (ADUCA), Professor Stephen Smith, Senior Tutor; Professor Miranda Fay Thomas, School of Creative Arts; Professor Goetz Botterweck, School of Computer Science and Statistics; Professor Juan Pablo Labrador, School of Genetics and microbiology; Mr. Buster Whaley, Education Officer, Students' Union; Professor Ana Perez-Luno, Academic Director of Portal; Ms Siobhán Dunne, Trinity Library

In attendance:

Ms. Rima Fitzpatrick, Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs; Dr. Solange Daini, Academic Affairs; dr. Aileen Lynch, School of Nursing and Midwifery for item USC/25-26/024; Professor Eoin O'Sullivan, Senior Dean, for item USC/25-26/025; Dr Claire McAvinia, Academic Developer, Centre for Academic Practice, for item USC/25-26/026; Ms. Wendy Crampton, Director of Trinity Access Programme and Dr. Lisa Keane Associate Director of Trinity Access Programme for item USC/25-26/027; Professor Neville Cox, Registrar, and Dr. Liz Donnellan, Academic Affairs for item USC/25-26/029.

USC/25-26/021 Minutes of the meeting of 14th October 2025

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 14 October 2025 subject to two corrections: (1) under USC/25-26/010 Matters arising, reference to items USC/25-26/008.1 and USC/25-26/005.i were added; and (2) on Item USC/25-26/018 the phrase “though points adjustments are controlled by CAO” was removed because it was inaccurate.

USC/25-26/022 Matters arising:

USC/25-26/012.1 Examination Operations. All Schools except one confirmed their examination paper review processes to Academic Registry. Academic Registry is action under item USC/25-26/012.2 to analyse any errors in examination papers in Semester 1 exams and report back to USC in the January/February period.

USC/25-26/023 Senior Lecturer's Updates

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies encouraged all Schools to strongly support Trinity's Open Day on 28th November, noting its influence on applicant decisions. Trinity's Open Day was successfully promoted at the Higher Options event, and Schools were asked to follow up and facilitate staff attendance.

ADUSE reported on representing Trinity at the Global Undergraduate Awards ceremonies (<https://undergraduateawards.com/>) and encouraged circulation of information to final-year students and recent graduates.

USC/25-26/024 Tertiary degree proposal for BSc in Intellectual Disability Nursing and BSc in Mental Health Nursing

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies welcomed Professor Aileen Lynch to present on the proposal for a new tertiary-entry pathway leading to the BSc in Intellectual Disability Nursing and the BSc in Mental Health Nursing. The presentation highlighted key aspects such as the “1+4 structure”, in which students complete their first year in an ETB/FET College before progressing to four years in Trinity. The proposal would represent Trinity's first admissions route of this kind collaborating with City of Dublin ETBs and National Tertiary office.

The Academic Secretary outlined the broader national tertiary framework—including multiple ETB–HEI progression models, co-design requirements, funding mechanisms, and potential alignment with part-time pathways. The Senior Lecturer and the Academic Secretary encouraged Schools to consider future programme development within these structures.

Action/Decision:

USC/25-26/024. USC approved the Tertiary degree proposal for BSc in Intellectual Disability Nursing and BSc in Mental Health Nursing and recommended it to Council.

USC/25-26/025 Report of the Taskforce on Academic and Institutional Links

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies invited the Senior Dean to present on the report of the Taskforce on Academic and Institutional Links in his role of secretary to the Taskforce. The USC held a short discussion on the item and noted the report as a consultation item. The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies encouraged feedback from the Committee on governance aspects of the report.

Action/Decision:

USC/25-26/025. The SL to pass on feedback from the Committee to the Senior Dean.

USC/25-26/026 Update on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at Trinity

Dr. Claire McAvinia (Academic Developer in the Centre for Academic Practice) presented an Update on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at Trinity College. Key highlights included an update on the mapping of ESD across undergraduate programmes, the delivery of

professional development to 140 staff, and the piloting of the Enacting ESD module with 507 first-year students. All of these contributed to the exceeding of the 2024/25 targets in the HEA Performance Framework Commitments 2023-28. The Committee was also briefed on plans for 2025–26 which included further curriculum integration, expansion of Postgraduate Course mapping, continued staff development, and publication of research underpinning the ESD framework.

USC/25-26/027 Trinity Access Programme Annual Report 2024/25 update and Future Direction

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies welcomed Ms. Wendy Crampton and Dr. Lisa Keane to USC to speak to the TAP Annual Report 2024/25 and future directions of the Programme. Key highlights of the presentation included ongoing progress in widening participation, outreach, admissions pathways, student supports, and upcoming initiatives under the THRIVE Strategic Plan. The Committee commended the work of TAP.

USC/25-26/028 Practice Sharing: Managing Exam papers – School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Professor Paul Scanlon, DUTL of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy shared the School's structured review process for producing accurate, consistent exam papers, involving lecturer submission, academic review, external examiner input for Sophister year papers, and detailed administrative checks to ensure conformity with AR guidelines. The Committee noted the importance of understanding where current exam paper errors arise from. SU representatives encouraged the extension of such robust quality processes into in-class assessments where possible.

Action:

USC/25-26/028. The Director of Student Services will request AR to send each school the details of their exam paper errors from Semester 2 academic year 2024-25.

USC/25-26/029 Revised Appeals Policy

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies welcomed Dr. Liz Donnelan and the Registrar to USC to speak to the Revised Appeals Policy, the new procedure for Court of First Appeals and the Academic Appeals Committee Terms of Reference. The USC noted key revisions in Appeals Policy, the updated Academic Appeals Committee Terms of Reference and the forthcoming online resources for Appeals.

Decision: USC/25-26/029i. The Committee approved the Revised Appeals Policy.

Action: USC/25-26/029ii. The Procedure for Courts of First Appeal will come back for approval after further consultations.

USC/25-26/030 Any Other Business

No other business was noted.

USC/25-26/031 Minutes (Section B)

USC noted and approved the following minutes:

- i. Undergraduate Common Architecture Governance Committee - minutes of the meeting of 30 September 2025.
- ii. Royal Irish Academy of Music Associated College Degrees Committee - draft minutes of the meeting of 04 November 2025.

USC/25-26/032 For Information (Section C)

USC noted and approved the following items:

- i. Suspension in offering BSc Cur General Nursing to non-EU Fee paying entry to 2027-28
- ii. Revised Transfer to External Examiners of Students' Assessed Work policy