



A meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee was held on 17 February 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 Richard Porter, Dean of Students
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 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 Goetz Botterweck, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor John Gallagher, School of Engineering
Professor Jan Manschot, School of Mathematics
Professor Robin Edwards, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Cormac McGuinness, School of Physics
Professor Heather Reilly, School of Dental Science
Professor Judith Meehan, School of Medicine
Professor Jan de Vries, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Deirdre D'Arcy, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science
Ms. Eve Martin, STEM Faculty Convenor for TCDSU/AMLCT
Dr. Pauline Rooney, Head of Academic Practice
Ms Siobhán Dunne, Trinity Library

Apologies: Professor Stephen Smith, Senior Tutor Professor Susan Pike, Academic Director of Portal; Mr. Buster Whaley, Education Officer, Students' Union; Ms Breda Walls, Student Services

In attendance: Ms. Rima Fitzpatrick, Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs; Dr. Solange Daini, Academic Affairs; Dr. Jonathan Johnson, Policy & Research Advisor, Trinity Global, for item USC/25-26/050; Director of Academic Registry and Ms. Karen Bebbington Deputy Director and Head of Operations for item USC/25-26/051; Dr. Aileen Patterson and Ms. Orla Mulligan for item USC/25-26/052; Dr. Liz Donnellan, Academic Affairs for item USC/25-26/053; Mr. Martin McAndrew Postgraduate Student Support Officer for item USC/25-26/055.

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

USC/25-26/047 Minutes of the meeting of 27th January 2026

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 27th January 2026.

The Committee noted the Action Log.

USC/25-26/048 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

USC/25-26/049 Senior Lecturer updates

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies updated the Committee on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) review. The migration to the current Blackboard Ultra platform had been successfully completed. The VLE Review Committee, which was investigating requirements for future VLE (long term) procurement had been paused while this migration was taking place. The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised the USC that VLE review Committee will now restart their work on requirements and tendering for new VLE.

USC/25-26/050 Report on Strategic Review of Recognition of Learning on Mobility

Dr Jonathan Johnston, Policy & Research Advisor, Trinity Global, spoke to a memorandum, dated 10 February 2026, outlining findings of a report of Trinity's use of grade conversion for recognition of learning on mobility. He highlighted variability in international practices in relation to grade conversion and pass/fail approaches, and highlighted the key challenges around workload, transparency, maintaining partner/curricular insights, associated grading, resit/progression and SITS constraints. The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies emphasised that the report represents a substantial investigation and invited members to review it in detail, noting that the matter will return to the Committee for further discussion.

Decision:

USC/25-26/050: The Committee noted the report.

USC/25-26/051 Examinations Paper Errors Review

Ms. Jennifer Pepper, Director of Academic Registry and Ms. Karen Bebbington Deputy Director and Head of Operations presented a report on Examinations and Exam Paper Errors for MT 2025. They reported an increased number of examination sittings in Semester 1. They also identified issues arising from questions and instructions on the actual examination papers and noted a rise in progression re-openings—particularly for study-abroad cases—now being managed via Halo student cases system. The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies recommended that Schools review improvement plans minimise examination errors. Committee noted that this item will come back for review and discussion at a future USC meeting, as needed.

Actions:

USC/25-26/051: Senior Lecturer and Academic Registry to meet the individual Schools to review exam paper errors.

USC/25-26/052 Medicine Programme review of Year 2

Dr. Aileen Patterson, Associate Professor (Medical Education) and Ms. Orla Mulligan Curriculum Reform Project Manager presented Medicine programme proposal for Year 2 on behalf of the School of Medicine Curriculum Reform Committee. Dr. Patterson outlined the review's aim to enhance healthcare education through integrated, clinically focused teaching. The revised structure introduces new modules, early clinical placements, a supervised research project, and expanded small-group learning, with an emphasis on integrated biomedical sciences, professional identity formation, and interprofessional education. Committee noted that accreditation processes by Irish Medical Council is ongoing, and that Year 1 and 2 curricula will

be reviewed by an external reviewer also as part of Trinity's Quality Assurance process before proceeding to Council.

Decision:

XX USC/25-26/052: The Committee approved the revised curriculum for Year 2, subject to external review.

USC/25-26/053 Working Groups Updates

i. Presentation of the Working Group on Recording Lectures Policy

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the progress to date of USC working group on Recording Lectures Policy. The emerging recommendations of the working group is that video recording will be strongly encouraged for lectures. The policy will provide clarity regarding issues such as recording usage (as a teaching aid), access and storage.

ii. Interim Update on progress in the Working Group for Modular Repeats

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented an interim update on the Working Group for Modular Repeats. The Committee noted that benefits include improved proportionality to full year repeats, and an alternative to Off Books repeats. The working group expect to report again in the April or May USC.

USC/25-26/054 Practice Sharing: Experience of attendance management in Trinity Business School

The Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning, School of Business prof. Martha O'Hagan-Luff presented on 'Experience of attendance management' in Trinity Business School. Prof. O'Hagan noted that post-pandemic the attendance at lectures have declined. The presentation outlined how the use of Vevox App can promote immediate polling/capture of student responses in the class, is simple to use, and has an automated recording of attendance. The Committee noted that this has resulted in higher average attendance and positive student feedback supporting expanded use. The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies encouraged Schools to consider similar approaches.

USC/25-26/055 Capacity to Study Policy

Prof. Richard Porter, Dean of Students, presented this new policy which replaces the former Fitness to Study policy. The new policy is aligned with the revised statutes, with the overarching aim of supporting students to remain in or return to study where possible.

Decision:

USC/25-26/055: The Committee approved the Capacity to Study Policy.

USC/25-26/056 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

USC/25-26/057 Minutes (Section B)

None.

USC/25-26/058 For Information (Section C)

The Committee noted and approved the following item:

1. Centre for Academic Practice Annual Report

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked the Centre for Academic Practice for its work.