



A meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee was held on 24 March 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 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 Judith Meehan, School of Medicine
Professor Jan de Vries, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Mr. Buster Whaley, Education Officer, Students' Union
Ms. Eve Martin, STEM Faculty Convenor for TCDSU/AMLCT

Apologies: Professor Richard Porter, Dean of Students; Professor Deirdre D'Arcy, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science; Professor Heather Reilly, School of Dental Science
Professor Susan Pike, Academic Director of Portal; Dr. Pauline Rooney, Head of Academic Practice; Ms Siobhán Dunne, Trinity Library; Ms Breda Walls, Student Services

In attendance: Ms. Rima Fitzpatrick, Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs; Dr. Solange Daini, Academic Affairs; Dr Cuisle Forde, ESD Fellow, Centre for Academic Practice for item USC/25-26/062; Prof. Oran Doyle (Head of School of Law) and Prof. David Prendergast (School of Law proposal coordinator) for item USC/25-26/063; Ms Jennifer Pepper, Director of Academic Registry, and Ms Ambhalika Sounderraj, Programme Manager for HALO Student Cases for item USC/25-26/064; Mr Ronan Hodson, Head of Admissions, Mr Declan Trainor Director of Disability and Mr Ronan Smith (Trinity Access Programme) for item USC/25-26/066; Mr Ronan Hodson, Head of Admissions, for item USC/25-26/067; Dr Liz Donnellan, Education Policy Developer, Academic Affairs, for item USC/25-26/068 and USC/25-26/069.

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

USC/25-26/059 Minutes of the meeting of 17 February 2026

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 17 February 2026.
The Committee noted the Action Log.

USC/25-26/060 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

USC/25-26/061 Senior Lecturer updates

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies updated the Committee on recent travel disruption affecting a small number of students returning after Reading Week and noted that appropriate accommodations should be put in place where required. He also reported concerns regarding the accessibility of module information for prospective students. The Committee further noted that the Senior Lecturer Annual Report has been restructured, expanded and would be circulated to members in advance of the next Committee meeting.

Action:

USC/25-26/061: The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies to discuss with Schools an action plan how a standardised and accessible presentation of indicative module information for all undergraduate programmes could be developed.

USC/25-26/062 Mapping Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Trinity electives: methods and findings.

Dr Cuisle Forde, ESD Fellow, Centre for Academic Practice, presented the findings of the Phase 1 mapping of ESD in Trinity Electives. Members welcomed the progress made, noted the importance of maintaining student choice, and discussed the need for further consideration of meaning of interdisciplinarity in this context.

Action:

USC/25-26/062: The Committee recommended that the ESD Management Group follow up on the definition of the interdisciplinarity.

USC/25-26/063 New Programme Proposal: Bachelor in Civil Law (Graduate Entry)

Prof. Oran Doyle and Prof. David Prendergast presented the proposal for a new Bachelor in Civil Law (Graduate Entry), a two-year full-time programme. The Committee noted that the programme would comprise a separate cohort, a revised sequence of foundational law modules and new practice- and skills-based modules. The Committee had a brief discussion on student workloads, exit options, teaching and assessments.

Decision:

USC/25-26/063: The Committee approved the proposal for **Bachelor in Civil Law (Graduate Entry)** subject to the following:

1. the programme and award titles will be amended to *Bachelor in Civil Law*, rather than *Bachelor of Civil Law*, as originally proposed;
2. assessments will be revised towards ensuring that no module is assessed by 100% final term examination.
3. a satisfactory External reviewer report.

USC/25-26/064 HALO – Student Cases

Ms Jennifer Pepper, Director of Academic Registry, and Ms Ambhalika Sounderraj, Programme Manager for HALO Student Cases, presented an update on the implementation of the new HALO Student Cases process. The Committee noted that the new process provides a single, structured route for submission and case management, with clearer ownership, improved governance, enhanced data protection and a more student-centred approach.

USC/25-26/065 Proposed Replacement of the Term "Exclude" in Academic Progression Update

Prof. Stephen Smith, Senior Tutor, presented an update on the proposal to replace the term "Excluded" in Academic Progression outcomes. It was noted that any vocabulary in academic

progression outcome would require appropriate Calendar change and a clear communication plan.

Action:

USC/25-26/065: Senior Tutor to engage with Academic Registry and Academic Affairs to finalise a proposal which would include Calendar amendments and a communication plan.

USC/25-26/066 DARE and HEAR Impact report 2025

Mr Ronan Hodson, Head of Admissions, presented the DARE and HEAR Impact Report 2025, with contributions from Mr Declan Trainor and Mr Ronan Smith. The Committee noted the continued decline in HEAR applications and discussed possible contributory factors, including the complexity of the application process and the limited support available to applicants.

Action:

USC/25-26/066: The presenters of the Report would make a proposal regarding thresholds associated with HEAR applications to TCD.

USC/25-26/067 Updating of English language requirements with new TOEFL

Mr Ronan Hodson, Head of Admissions, presented a proposal to update Trinity's English language requirements to reflect the new TOEFL scoring structure introduced from 21 January 2026. The Committee noted that the revised bands had been aligned with existing CEFR equivalences and that the old and new scoring systems would run in parallel until January 2028.

Decision:

USC/25-26/067: The Committee approved the proposal for Updating of English language requirements with new TOEFL.

USC/25-26/068 Updates to Academic Awards Policies

Dr Liz Donnellan, Education Policy Developer, Academic Affairs, presented proposed updates to the i) Academic Awards Policy and ii) the Dual and Joint Awards Policy.

Decision:

USC/25-26/068i: The Committee approved the updated Academic Awards Policy.

USC/25-26/068ii: The Committee approved the updated Dual and Joint Awards Policy.

USC/25-26/069 Updates to Academic Policies and related documents to incorporate reference to Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Dr Liz Donnellan, Education Policy Developer, Academic Affairs, presented proposed updates to: the i) Academic Integrity Policy; ii) the Assessment and Academic Progression Policy; iii) the Late Submission of Assessments (Extensions) Policy; iv) the Curriculum Glossary and v) the Coversheet Declaration.

Action:

USC/25-26/069i: The Senior Lecturer to circulate revised draft wording regarding i) Academic Integrity Policy; ii) the Assessment and Academic Progression Policy.

Decision:

USC/25-26/069ii: The Committee approved the proposed updates to the Late Submission of Assessments (Extensions) Policy.

Decision:

USC/25-26/069iii: The Committee approved the proposed updates to the Curriculum Glossary.

Decision:

USC/25-26/069iv: The Committee noted the updated Coversheet, and a revised wording will be circulated following the meeting.

USC/25-26/070 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

USC/25-26/071 Minutes (Section B)

The Committee noted and approved the following items:

- I. Draft Minutes RIAM ACDC 3 February 2026
- II. Draft Minutes TESC 16 February 2026
- III. UCAGC-Minutes-20-January 2026

USC/25-26/072 For Information (Section C)

The Committee noted and approved the following items:

- I. Bespoke Open Modules in Law for 2026/27
- II. TE Module Proposal – SLSCS Beginners Cantonese Language and Culture March 2026
- III. TE Module Proposal – SLSCS Post-Beginners Korean Language and Culture March 2026
- IV. Module Requirements for Trinity Electives: Amendments for 2026/27