



A meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee was held on 21 April 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 Stephen Smith, Senior Tutor
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 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

Apologies: Professor Alexandra Grieser, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies; Professor Andrew Jackson, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education (ADUSE); Ms Breda Walls, Student Services

In attendance: Ms. Rima Fitzpatrick, Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs; Dr. Solange Daini, Academic Affairs; Mr Ronan Hodson, Head of Admissions, Mr Ronan Smith, Associate Director of Trinity Access Programme and Wendy Crampton, Director of TAP for item USC/25-26/077; Dr Liz Donnellan, Education Policy Developer, Academic Affairs, for item USC/25-26/078; Ms. Gobnait O'Shaughnessy and Ms. Beibhinn Coman (Trinity Global) for item USC/25-26/080.

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

USC/25-26/073 Minutes of the meeting of 24 March 2026

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 24 March 2026.

The Committee noted the Action Log.

The Senior Tutor provided an update on the use of “exclude”, with a view of providing a full report in early MT 2026.

USC/25-26/074 Matters arising

It was noted that the Bachelor of Civil Laws programme proposal has received a positive external review. Full proposal will now proceed to Council for approval, including a confirmation of a Higher Diploma (level 8) as the exit award.

USC/25-26/075 Senior Lecturer updates

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies provided updates on the imminent issuing of the Senior Lecturer Annual Report.

The Committee noted that 2027/28 is likely to be the first academic year without grade inflation in CAO points.

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported on discussions with Academic Registry and the Dean of Graduate Studies regarding increasing pressure from Schools to concentrate assessments towards the end of the academic year. This matter is currently under review to determine an appropriate institutional response.

USC/25-26/076 Working Group on Modular Repeats

The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented the proposed “repeat by module” framework and outlined its rationale as a more proportionate alternative to full-year repeats. The Committee had a discussion on resource implications, student costs, equity concerns, and noted strong students’ support. A 30 ECTS threshold is proposed on a pilot basis, with a review after two years. A revised proposal will be brought back to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in May.

Action:

USC/25-26/076: The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies will update slides with OBA data and circulate to DUTLs for their schools for consultation.

USC/25-26/077 HEAR Points Reduction Review

The Head of Admissions and TAP presented the proposed revision to HEAR points reductions, aimed at expanding access in line with College’s strategy. Committee noted that modelling of proposed reduction to 390 points suggested a c.15% increase in eligible offers, still observing quotas, with evidence indicating comparable academic outcomes and no significant burden on Schools. The Committee agreed that points are not a sole indicator of academic ability.

Decision:

USC/25-26/077i: the Committee noted the proposal and its support for the project.

Action:

USC/25-26/077ii: The Directors of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning to revert with school feedback to the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting in May.

USC/25-26/078 i. Draft Policy on Recording Lectures

The Academic Policy Developer presented on a new draft on the Policy on Recording Lectures. The committee discussed the new draft. The Academic Policy Developer will return it to the Working Group for further revision, with the updated draft policy to be resubmitted to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in May.

Action:

USC/25-26/078i: The Academic Policy Developer to integrate feedback into draft wording regarding Policy on Recording Lectures.

ii. Updates to Academic Policies and related documents to incorporate reference to Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI):

The Academic Policy Developer presented on updates to Academic Policies and related documents to incorporate reference to GenAI on: i) Academic Integrity Policy; ii) Assessment and Academic Progression Policy, and iii) Updated Coversheet declaration with submitted work.

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Decisions:

USC/25-26/078ii: The Committee approved the proposed updates to the Academic Integrity Policy.

USC/25-26/078iii: The Committee approved the proposed updates to Assessment and Academic Progression Policy.

USC/25-26/078iv: The Committee approved the proposed updates to Coversheet declaration with submitted work.

USC/25-26/079 School of Nursing and Midwifery Revision of UG Curriculum Outline

The Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning for the School of Nursing and Midwifery presented proposed revisions to the School's Undergraduate Curriculum. A key change will be the reduction of the Children's and General Nursing Integrated Degree Programme from 4.5 years to 4 years. Existing award titles, entry requirements and overall ECTS values will remain unchanged. Detailed programme proposals will be submitted for final approval in Michaelmas Term 2026/27.

Decision:

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USC/25-26/079: The Committee supported the revision and approved the reduced duration for General Nursing Integrated Degree Programme from 4.5 years to 4 years.

USC/25-26/080 Trinity Marketing CAO events and marketing Supports

Ms. Gohnait O'Shaughnessy Events Manager (Trinity Global) and Ms. Beibhinn Coman Director of Marketing (Trinity Global) presented on Trinity Marketing CAO focused events and other marketing supports. They noted strong engagement at recent events and Open Day 2025. The Senior Lecturer & Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted increased attendance and improved student pre-briefing, and reiterated guidance counsellors' request for easily accessible module descriptors (see March Undergraduate Studies Committee item USC/25-26/061). He thanked both presenters for their work.

USC/25-26/081 Inclusive Curriculum advisory group Update

The Academic Secretary briefly updated USC on the establishment of the Inclusive Curriculum Advisory Group, which will support the implementation of Universal Design for Learning across curriculum design, teaching and assessment, and provide regular updates to Undergraduate and Postgraduate Studies Committee. A Terms of Reference will be presented at May Undergraduate Studies Committee.

USC/25-26/082 Any Other Business

The Committee noted the undergraduate research initiative, *Poster in the European Parliament*, and agreed that details would be circulated to DUTLs with a request to encourage suitable Senior Sophister/Capstone prize winners and their supervisors to consider applying.

USC/25-26/083 Minutes (Section B)

None.

USC/25-26/084 For Information (Section C)

The Committee noted and approved the following item:

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1. School of Law Response to External Review of programme proposal for Bachelor in Civil Laws.
2. Undergraduate Studies Committee dates for the Academic Year 2026/27.