UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

TRINITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 2nd June 2011
Boardroom, Provost's House

***Present*:** Professor Veronica Campbell, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*),
Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Dr Martin Fellenz, School of Business
Dr Siobhán Clarke, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Dr Carmel O'Sullivan, School of Education
Professor Brian Broderick, School of Engineering
Dr Sam Slote, School of English
Professor Tim Foster, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Dr Joseph Clarke, School of Histories and Humanities
Dr Caitriona Leahy, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Dr Jeffrey Kallen, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Dr Stefan Sint, School of Mathematics
Dr John Gormley, School of Medicine
Dr Robin Edwards, School of Natural Sciences
Ms Anne-Marie Brady, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Dr Andrew Harkin, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dr Mauro Ferreira, School of Physics
Dr Gillian Wylie, Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics
Dr Gail McElroy, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Dr Patrick Geoghegan, Associate Dean of Research
Ms Dearbhaill Lawless, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)
Ms Simone Cameron-Coen, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President (*Ex officio*)
Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services (in attendance *Ex officio*)

***Apologies*:** Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Dr Derek Nolan, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Dr Claire Healy, School of Dental Science
Dr Melissa Sihra, School of Drama, Film & Music

Ms Alexandra Anderson, CAPSL Representative (*Ex officio*)

***In attendance*:** Ms Jennifer Hill, Graduate Studies Office, Secretary to the meeting
(*Ex officio)*
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office

GS/10-11/057   Minutes of 5th May 2011
The minutes of the meeting of 5th May 2011 were approved by the Committee as circulated.

GS/10-11/058   Matters Arising

The Dean confirmed that in relation to item GS/10-11/050, she has not yet discussed with the Registrar the issue of awarding of a second masters degree but is planning on doing so and will report back to the Committee with any update on this.

In answer to a query it was confirmed that item GS/10-11/055 International Postgraduate Student Recruitment relates to applicants for taught courses.

The Dean confirmed that, as requested by the Committee at the previous meeting, the Module Descriptor for the Industrial Internship module of the BA (Mod), M.Sc. in Computer Science (item GS/10-11/052) has been revised and will be discussed under Section B.

GS/10-11/059   Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Dean introduced Professor Paul Coughlan and asked him to speak to the item.

Professor Coughlan explained that in May 2010 the Graduate Studies Committee (and subsequently the University Council) approved two core modules ('*Innovation: from idea to value*'). Since that time additional specialised modules ('*Capitalising on innovation*') have been developed which now require approval to establish the Postgraduate Certificate.

Professor Coughlan explained that the Innovation Academy is the educational centrepiece of the TCD-UCD Innovation Alliance. Two facilitators (one TCD and one UCD) have been appointed who are central to establishing and delivery of the modules.

Two cohorts of PhD students have already engaged with the core modules and a third will begin on 13ᵗʰ June 2011. Students are challenged to think creatively and interact with other disciplines. There has been good participation from TCD students across all disciplines. It is expected that these numbers will increase next year.

The aim is for students to begin participating early and take the core modules during their first year and continue with the specialised modules in later years obtaining a total of 30 credits to complete the Postgraduate Certificate. While initially this will be offered as a TCD award, it is planned to offer the course as a joint Postgraduate Certificate with UCD in due course.

Following discussion regarding what happens if a student fails a module, the Committee sought clarification on how many times a student can repeat a module. It was noted that there might be funding implications if a student is required to pass a module. It was agreed that the "Assessment" section of text on page 16 should be expanded upon.

The Committee noted the different governance models between TCD and UCD particularly regarding the composition and co-Chairs of Management Executive.

The Committee also noted that the recognition and resourcing of Schools involved in the Postgraduate Certificate (e.g. School of Business) requires further consideration by College.

Consideration should be given to having an option for students to rescind the Postgraduate Certificate if, when the Postgraduate Diploma is fully developed, a student wishes to take the remaining modules.

The committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to the above and any additional amendments that may be required following the assessor's report.

GS/10-11/060   BA, BAI, B.Sc.(Ing), MAI (Studia) Engineering and Engineering with Management

The Dean confirmed that this is a new 5 year course whereby students will be admitted through the CAO and be under the remit of the Senior Lecturer and the Calendar Part 1 regulations. The Graduate Studies Committee was asked to consider this proposal and provide feedback. The Dean noted that the course had already been reviewed by the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the external review and submission to Council will be

coordinated by the Senior Lecturer. The Dean introduced Professor Brian Broderick and asked him to speak to the item.

Professor Broderick confirmed that this programme will be expanding the existing undergraduate programmes in Engineering (BAI) and Engineering with Management (B.Sc. Ing), to include an additional year leading to a Masters in Engineering (MAI). He explained that as the norm across Europe for Chartered Engineer status is five years of study it is now necessary for TCD to introduce this programme to ensure students will continue to qualify for Chartered Engineer status.

The proposal is for a five-year (300 ECTS Credits) programme leading to a Master's Degree with a Bachelor's degree awarded on successful completion of years three or four.

The Committee noted that the awarding of the MAI on the basis on 60 ECTS in the final year would be setting a precedent and some members were concerned about this. However, it was confirmed that the NFQ have approved 60 ECTS as part of an integrated programme and the MAI will only be awarded to students on this programme.

There was strong opposition from the Committee to awarding a classified MAI (Studia) as the current College policy is that all Masters are awarded with Pass or Pass with Distinction only. There was concern that this would be setting a precedent for College and it was confirmed that grade information is available to the student via their transcript/degree supplement. It was agreed that this would be amended in the proposal.

Further consideration (and clarification) needs to be given to the issue of students repeating Year 4.

It was noted that keeping the three concurrent awards is a broader issue that is already under discussion.

The Dean confirmed that these comments would be fed back to the Senior Lecturer.

GS/10-11/061   M.Sc. in Medicine

The Dean introduced Dr Mary Teeling and Dr Martina Hennessy and asked them to speak to the item.

It was explained that up to 700 students graduate from Irish medical schools per year with approximately 400 completing an internship in Ireland. Although the majority participate in graduate educational activities very few of these activities are recognised through formal academic accreditation. The Masters in Medicine is aimed at these medical graduates in training who wish to develop their research skills, broaden their research interests, and develop advanced knowledge in selected areas of clinical and scientific practice.

The programme will be offered on a flexible part-time basis to enable students to complete their study while continuing in clinical practice. It was confirmed that, due to this, there are no plans to introduce a full-time option at present.

The first year of the course will consist of six obligatory "core" modules common to all students. From year 2 the course will divide into two strands A) Molecular and Translational Medicine and B) Population Health and Health Implementation. Students will choose six "optional" modules from either strand according to their chosen career pathway.

There was some confusion over this structure of the course and total ECTS associated with each of the strands. It was requested that Page 11 and the subsequent tables be amended to make it clear that the strands (Strand A and Strand B) are optional but that the modules within each strand are not optional.

Following discussion, the proposal will be amended to provide further clarification regarding compensation.

The committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to the above and any additional amendments that may be required following the assessor's report.

GS/10-11/062   M.Sc. in Medical Imaging – new strand proposal in Computed Tomography

The Dean introduced Ms Suzanne Dennan and Ms Bernadette Moran and asked them to speak to the item.

It was explained that the recent advancement in Computed Tomography techniques have substantially increased the requirement for well trained Radiographers operating Computed Tomography equipment.

Following restructuring of the M.Sc. in Medical Imaging students currently follow a specific programme consisting of options either in Nuclear Medicine, in Radiation Safety or in Magnetic Resonance Imaging which run on a bi-annual basis. An additional separate strand in Computed Tomography has now been developed.

The most suitable time to run the new Computed Tomography strand is concurrently with the Magnetic Resonance Imaging strand, which will enable the sharing of core modules.

Following discussion the following points were raised:

There was concern that the programme is proposed as one-year part-time. This would involve substantial workload for one year and it is recommended that this be changed to either a one-year full-time or two-year part-time programme.

Further clarification was requested regarding the Written Assessment detailed in Table 5 (Page 9), as at 165 hours this seems disproportionately high.

The committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to the above and any additional amendments that may be required following the assessor's report.

GS/10-11/063   Course-related terminology

The Dean confirmed as per the circulated memo that considerable inconsistency currently exists in the usage of course-related terminology across College publications (websites, handbooks, etc.)

It is proposed that the GeneSIS team review all course-related terminology relating to both UG and PG courses and, in consultation with appropriate colleagues, prepare a glossary of terminology for consideration by the USC and GSC before submission to the University Council in Michaelmas Term 2011.

The Committee approved this proposal.

GS/10-11/064   PAC

The Dean confirmed as per the circulated memo that through the GeneSIS Project, the College has recently purchased a new student management system called SITS. The SITS system contains facilities that could allow applicants to postgraduate courses to apply directly to the College on-line.

The GeneSIS project team, in consultation with academic staff, will carry out an evaluation in the coming weeks and months of the SITS system as a potential replacement of the PAC system for postgraduate admissions to Trinity College Dublin.

The Dean confirmed that she will invite Michael Hughes, GeneSIS Project Manager, to present the findings to a future Graduate Studies Committee meeting. The committee expressed support for the introduction of an improved postgraduate applications facility.

Section B for noting and approval

1.   The Dean clarified that the review of the proposed Integrated M.Sc. in Computer Science is under the remit of both the Senior Lecturer and the Dean of Graduate Studies and their respective committees, that the students would follow the regulations

of the Calendar (part 1) for the duration of the 5 year courses, and retain their Tutor. The role of the Graduate Studies Committee is to provide feedback on the postgraduate elements of the programme, in particular.

The Committee approved the amended module subject to the caveat that the learning outcomes and student experience may differ depending on whether a student undertakes a industry based or university research laboratory based internship. The School was invited to consider this feedback.

2. The Committee noted and approved the withdrawal of the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Engineering (School of Medicine)
3. The Committee noted and approved the withdrawal of the M.Sc. in Chemical and Biological Techniques (School of Chemistry)
4. The Committee noted and approved the Calendar Part 2 changes for the Schools of Dental Science; Medicine; Religions and Theology; Nursing and Midwifery.

The Committee noted and approved the Calendar Part 2 changes for the Higher Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) and Postgraduate Diploma in Learning Support and Special Educational Needs.

5. The Committee noted and approved the Calendar Part 2 changes for Section 2.16 Procedure for examination of a candidate; Section 2.12 Part-time registration.

Following a query it was agreed that the Calendar Part 2 change for Section 1.17 Attendance and off-books would be looked into further with the Senior Lecturer before insertion into the Calendar Part 2.

6. The Committee noted and approved the PRTLI Handbooks.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11.18am.

Prof. Veronica Campbell   Date: 7th June 2011