Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE   *Item 1*
Minutes of the meeting held in Board Room in Trinity Business School and on Zoom
at 10am on Thursday 19 May 2022

XX = Council relevance

Present (Ex officio):
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*)

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Professor Rachel Mary Mc Loughlin, School of Biochemistry & Immunology
Professor Owen Conlan, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Sarah Jane Scaife, School of Creative Arts
Professor Keith Johnston, School of Education
Professor Sarah McCormack, School of Engineering
Professor Bernice Murphy, School of English
Professor Russell McLaughlin, School of Genetics & Microbiology
Professor Isabella Jackson, School of Histories & Humanities
Professor James Hadley, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Manuela Kulaxizi, School of Mathematics
Professor Lina Zgaga, School of Medicine
Professor Mary Hughes, School of Nursing & Midwifery
Professor Hongzhou Zhang, School of Physics
Professor Ladislav Timulak, School of Psychology
Professor Gillian Wylie, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
Professor Agustín Bénétrix, School of Social Sciences & Philosophy
Professor Paula Mayock, School of Social Work & Social Policy

Ms Gisèle Scanlon, Graduate Students' Union President
Dr Geoffrey Bradley, Information Technology Services Representative
Ms Ewa Sadowska Administrative Officer (Academic Affairs, TT&L)

In attendance for all items:
Ms Patricia Callaghan, Academic Secretary, Head of Trinity Teaching & Learning, (TT&L)
Ms Breda Walls, Director of Student Services
Mr Martin McAndrew, Postgraduate Student Support Officer, Senior Tutor's Office

Ms Fedelma McNamara, Director of Internationalisation, TCD Global
Ms Leona Coady, Programme Director, Postgraduate Renewal Programme
Ms Ewa Adach, Administrative Officer, Graduate Education – IT support
Catherine Allen (Executive Office, Academic Secretariat) Zoom access support

Apologies:

Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, Dean of Research
Professor Frank Barry, Trinity Business School
Professor John Boland, School of Chemistry
Professor Ioannis Polyzois, School of Dental Science
Professor Blanaid Clarke, School of Law
Professor Kathleen McTiernan, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Professor Cian O'Callaghan, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Carlos Medina Martin, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Jake Byrne, Academic Director, Tangent
Ms Abhiswetta Bhattacharjee, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President
Ms Siobhan Dunne, Sub Librarian for Teaching, Research and User Experience
Dr Cormac Doran, Assistant Academic Secretary, Graduate Education, TT&L

In attendance for individual items:
Prof. Aonghus Mc Nabola, School of Engineering, for item GS/21-22/115
Prof. Paula Murphy, Micro-credential Working Group Chair and Prof. Ruth Pritchard, Programme
Director: Micro-credentials (TT&L), for GS/21-22/117
Ms Sorcha De Brunner, Administrative Officer, Academic Affairs, for GS/ 21-22/120

The Dean welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

XX   Section A

XX   GS/21-22/113 Minutes of GSC of 21 April 2022

Apart from the DTLP's request to amend the name of their School from Religion to Religion,
Theology, and Peace Studies the minutes were approved as circulated.

XX   GS/21-22/114 Matters arising
The Dean advised members that all actions from the previous meeting had been attended to.
Actions with more specific updates provided by the Dean are referred to below. The Dean also noted
that the last Council approved all GSC decisions recommended at the April meeting.

GS/21-22/084 Proposed model for defining workload distribution for external examiners: The
Dean contacted HR and reported that HR have met with School Managers to ensure that the process
regarding PPS information and payment is clear. HR would be willing to attend a GSC meeting in
Michaelmas term if there were additional issues requiring HR clarification.

GS/21-22/102 New course proposal: MSc in Statistics and Sustainability: The course proposal was
externally reviewed, with a favourable report and has been forwarded to Council for its
consideration at the June meeting.

Action GS/21-22/105: Members should submit their feedback to genadgso@tcd.ie.

XX **GS/21-22/115 New proposal for dual PG degree arrangement with Columbia University for Integrated Engineering and Engineering with Management programmes**

The Dean welcomed Prof. Aonghus Mc Nabola, School of Engineering, and invited him to introduce his proposal on a PG dual degree arrangement between the School of Engineering in Trinity and Columbia University Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. The proposal offers students on the integrated Masters in Engineering and Engineering with Management a one year dual degree pathway by enabling them to complete their 5th year both at Trinity, and physically at Columbia where they register on 1 year Masters in Engineering in various specialisms. In parallel, students also work on an MAI research project in Trinity by remote supervision. Upon successful completion of their 5th year students will be eligible for an award of MAI (St.) in Trinity and MS degree in Columbia.

Students can apply for the Columbia-based pathway in Semester 1 of the SS year and must have achieved an overall minimum mark of 60% in order to be eligible. Students who take this pathway register in Trinity with a reduced bench fee for year 5, in order to complete their MAI project. They also register at Columbia and pay its fees for the coursework there. Students must accrue 30 ECTS from Columbia as well as the 30 ECTS required for the MAI project at Trinity in order to fully pass year 5.

Prof. Mc Nabola clarified that the proposed preferential but not guaranteed route to a Columbia qualification aims to (i) increase the quality of international student applications to Trinity Engineering programmes, (ii) help the School diversify and grow its international student numbers, (iii) increase attractiveness of Trinity's two Engineering programmes, (iv) internationally enhance the reputation of the School of Engineering and (v) meet E3 targets.

After Prof. Mc Nabola's presentation a short discussion followed during which a number of issues were raised, and clarifications offered:
- There will be two exit awards:
  1) Students who pass SS year (including the capstone module) but do not complete the MAI project will be eligible for the BAI degree but not the MAI degree. Any such student who successfully completes their MS course at Columbia will be awarded BA (ord) (TCD) + BAI (TCD) + MS (Columbia).
  2) Students who pass SS year (including the capstone module) but do not complete their MS course at Columbia will be eligible for the BAI degree but not the MAI degree and will be awarded BA (ord) (TCD) + BAI (TCD).
- SITS-related coding issues might be anticipated for Trinity-based students in year 5.
- Remote supervision of MAI dissertation projects might present challenges although the School has accumulated considerable experience with remote delivery during Covid.

- Internship is not an automatic right for SS students but is grade dependent and eligible students can opt to avail of it instead of applying for the Columbia pathway.
- There is a quota of 10 students maximum (irrespective of their EU or non EU status) who can go to Columbia annually.

The Dean thanked Prof. Mc Nabola for his presentation and the committee recommended the proposal to Council without being sent out for an external review.

> **Decision GS/21-22/115:** The committee recommended the Columbia proposal to the June Council.

XX   **GS/21-22/116 Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report for 2020/21**
The Dean of Graduate Studies presented her Annual Report for 2020/21 to the committee. The Report notes that the academic year 2020/21 was fundamentally influenced by the pervasive impact of the Covid pandemic on all aspects of the university functioning. Despite this, and through collaboration of staff and students, and support of the GSC members, key initiatives were progressed and business maintained. The Report is divided into three sections. Section A offers an interpretation of the data provided in the Annual Report of the Academic Registry; Section B summarises some of the key postgraduate activities and developments over the academic year 2020/21, as well as some highlights from individual Schools; and Section C discusses some of the ongoing opportunities and challenges in graduate education in Trinity.

The Report interprets data provided by the AR in their annual report, but also documents in detail the achievements of the Graduate Studies Committee and of the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Dean expressed a huge debt of gratitude to committee members for their efforts during 2020/21 and 2021/22, and also thanked Ewa Sadowska, Ewa Adach, Cormac Doran, Laoise Quinn, Ciara Conlon, Linda Darbey, Nicola Byrne and the AR staff, particularly Joe Faulkner, Ciaran O'Brien, Jennifer Pepper and Jacinta Ryan.

The Dean drew members' attention to a few highlights from the AR data:
- Despite the pandemic student numbers held well showing a small but steady increase in PG student enrollment. The highest increase was on taught programmes but for the first time in five years, the number of PGR applications and registrations increased. The increase was most marked in STEM. The Dean noted that in AHSS, the alignment of applications to actual registrations is not nearly as close, requiring a lot more work all round to 'land' a PG student in that Faculty.
- 57% of PGR students are Irish with China, the US and India making up roughly another 13%.
- Turnaround times for completion of the PhD examination process continue to improve.
- PG case numbers remained very high in 2020/21, partly as a result of numerous requests for Covid-related extensions on thesis submission.

With respect to the workings of the Graduate Studies Committee the Dean noted that

- a record 24 new course proposals were considered;
- 19 new micro-credentials were also considered, and a sub-committee and a whole series of processes to support MCs was set up; The Dean extended congratulations to all involved in MCs and special thanks to those DTLPs, including Prof. Owen Conlan for establishing the whole MCs process in College.
- A PG renewal plan, structure and governance were initiated.
- An extra meeting had to be scheduled just to deal with the volume of course proposals that came through GSC, partly driven by HCI.
- CHARM-EU Quality Assurance was considered and recommended for Council approval.
- Academic integrity and plagiarism were reviewed.
- Covid-related accommodations and guidelines for teaching, learning and assessment were put together. The Dean referred to numerous sub-committees and meetings convened to address the needs of PGT and PGR students during the pandemic. DTLPs carried the burden of devolved decision-making in relation to exam accommodation requests. A new process to manage Covid-related extensions was implemented. Online viva voce exams became the norm, as did electronic submission of theses.
- With respect to Provost's PhD Project Award Scheme, the Dean stated that a record number of applications was received and a record number of 50 awards was made across 20 Schools. She extended huge thanks to those who made submissions and in particular, to colleagues who assisted in the review process. She also thanked Ms Catherine Allen for coordinating the provision of individual feedback to unsuccessful candidates.
- The international Doctoral Summer School LERU, hosted by Trinity, was a PGR highlight of the latter half of the year. The Dean reminded members that by the end of the last academic year, although the campus gradually re-opened, ongoing restrictions across the EU meant that the LERU School had to be delivered online. The School was attended by 114 students from 25 universities, including 18 students from Trinity, and collected an amazing panel of speakers who contributed their presentations online over five days. She extended thanks to Ewa Adach, Cormac Doran and Tom Hayes for their work throughout the summer, as well as Professors Cristin Ryan and Matthew Campbell, who helped select the Trinity participants.
- The Dean referred to an impressive list of PG achievements from each School included in the Report (on pp. 32-37). She thanked all who helped her showcase in the report the sheer breadth and depth of work happening in the postgraduate space in College.
- The Dean noted that there were many other activities captured in the Report, such as the publication of IUA PhD Graduate Skills Statement (3rd edition) setting out the new expectations of PhD graduates and how universities must prepare these graduates for their future place in society.
- The Dean acknowledged that many of the challenges outlined in her last report (2019/20) remained, including the pressing financial challenges in relation to PGR students, for the students and for Schools, the internal award scheme limitations, the pressing need for space for PGR and PGT students and the unique needs of international students.
- With respect to the PG Renewal project, the Dean noted that an initial proposal was approved by Council, a fledgling plan was put together as a result of a consultation process

and the governance structure was set up.
- Five research supervision workshops, in collaboration with UCD and RCSI, were delivered online and proved very popular. A needs analysis will be undertaken so that the workshop structure could be improved going forward.

In reference to Section C Looking to the Future, the Dean referred to the continuation of the PG renewal project, monitoring of PGR numbers and research supervision, monitoring PGT numbers and diversity of PGT student cohort, MCs, internationalisation and ensuring that digital infrastructure and processes be developed to adequately support the PG-related initiatives.

In a short discussion after the Dean's presentation the following issues were raised:
- Student data capturing gender, equality, diversity and inclusion should have their own designated section in the next Report.
- Much larger number of applications in the humanities translating into much smaller number of registered students in comparison to the other two Faculties may result from the lack of funding research applicants in the humanities suffer from. In the Schools of Physics and Mathematics applicants without funding would not be considered.

The DTLP from the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies thanked the Dean on behalf of committee members for her sustained leadership role in effectively driving PG issues in Trinity.

> **Decision GS/21-22/116:** The committee recommended the Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report for 2020/21 for Council approval.

XX   **GS/21-22/117 MCs: Recommendations on MC Award Pathways**
The Dean welcomed Prof. Paula Murphy, Chair of the Micro-credential Award Architecture Working Group, and Dr Ruth Pritchard, Programme Director of Micro-credentials, and invited the former to speak to the circulated memorandum.

Prof. Murphy first outlined the context of the MC project set up as a pilot funded under the HEA Human Capital Initiative with the participation of four Schools (Engineering, Nursing and Midwifery, Social Work and Social Policy and Business). Micro-credential Award Architecture Working Group was established by Council in May 2021 (CL/20-21/213.1) to review, advise on and recommend a postgraduate level award architecture for micro-credentials (toward non-major awards). Three options for award pathways were approved by Council (CL/21-22/149.1), as follows:
> (i) retaining micro-credentials as stand-alone offerings and using RPL
> (ii) setting up Non-major awards consisting entirely of micro-credentials, and
> (iii) allowing credit exemptions for approved, named micro-credentials.

The circulated memorandum detailed four recommendations aiming at implementing the approved award architecture.
> Recommendation 1 adopts the EU definition of a micro-credential.

Recommendation 2 approves general policy and procedure principles and stipulates recognition of individual micro-credentials as accredited small volume learning. It permits NFQ Level 9 micro-credential award pathways at 15-30 ECTS without allowing full Major award through MCs. It promotes inter-disciplinary, as well as collaborative pathway proposals with partners subject to Trinity's quality assurance procedures. It recognises Prior Learning as a bridging mechanism, to facilitate entry to programmes. It stipulates that proposals for award pathways should adequately consider the learner-centred character of micro-credentials and the administrative and financial implications for Trinity and for learners.

Recommendation 3 approves key regulations for full, Non-major awards consisting entirely of micro-credentials. It stipulates that Non-major Level 9 award with credit volume range 15-30 ECTS will lead to a Postgraduate Certificate. It recognises that micro-credentials accredited by Trinity or by other awarding bodies as prior formal learning exemptions, if eligible, will contribute to maximum one-third of the award credit volume. It requires that completion of a full Non-major award pathway will normally require from 3 to 5 years from the date of first registration. It states that proposals may include a pool of micro-credentials from which learners can select a subset (that meets the programme learning outcomes) to complete the Non-major award.

Recommendation 4 approves key regulations for credit exemption micro-credential award pathways. It stipulates that credit exemption pathways may only be approved where the Learning Outcomes of the nominated micro-credential(s) fulfil Programme Learning Outcomes of the award, that the same micro-credential(s) may be approved for credit exemption on more than one programme, where appropriate, but a learner may only receive the credit exemption once, and that Learners should have completed the credit exemption requirements for the linked programme a maximum of 3 years prior to seeking to register on the programme (subject to the finally agreed process for registering credit exemption pathways).

Prof. Murphy outlined next steps which will require:
- Development of a micro-credential award pathways policy together with guidance documentation, including a template for academic proposers which will facilitate academic review.
- Further consideration by all relevant stakeholders of the specific roles and responsibilities for the academic review of micro-credential award pathway proposals.
- Assessment of and fulfilling the IT systems requirements needed to implement the recommendation.

The Dean thanked Prof. Murphy for her presentation and stated that it is recognized in the memo that without a SITS evaluation, the proposed recommendations will be challenging (or arguably impossible) to implement and that the policy drafting and establishing of specific procedures is strongly dependent on suitable IT systems support. In a discussion which followed the following issues were raised and clarifications provided:
- MCs are limited to Non major awards as a result of a past decision of Council which would not promote modularisation of Masters courses. Development of MCs infrastructure is a gradual process and needs to be carefully managed to mitigate risks.

- Achievement of a full Non major award should normally take 3 to 5 years from the first registration which is a separate issue to a credit recognition time.
- The brief of the Working Group did not include promotional marketing of MCs.
- MCs from other Irish and foreign institutions will be recognised under the RPL policy which will be reviewed from that angle in due course.
- Currently the Academic Registry is manually setting up each MC in SITS. This is not scalable and sustainable outside of the pilot, and the College PG community should be advised accordingly.

Members agreed that IT Systems support is currently not in place to implement the proposed MCs recommendations. Given the crucial importance of this detrimental impediment it was agreed to include an additional 5th recommendation that development of appropriate IT systems support will be a critical enabling next step.

> **Decision GS/21-22/117:** Critical system dependency should be called out more forcefully in the memorandum as an additional recommendation for Council approval.

XX   **GS/21-22/118 Postgraduate Renewal – update**
The Dean invited Ms Leona Coady, Programme Director, Postgraduate Renewal Programme, to provide a brief update on progress since Council met. Ms Coady revisited some themes already discussed and explained next steps. She advised that in view of the members' feedback at the last meeting a decision had been taken not to present to Council the fledgling vision statement discussed at that meeting. Instead, Council was advised that further consultation was needed to formulate a more compelling one. A wider engagement with the College community is therefore due to start from September.

With respect to the work programme for Horizon 1, Council's approval was obtained. Council also recognized that the planned deliverables could only be achieved with considerable investment. An implementation timeline is being developed and resources to achieve the objectives are being identified with a view to a detailed business case being in place in September. The summer will be used to establish a student forum to be brought into the Horizon 1 governance structure. Schools are being asked to recommend students. Students participating in the forum would need to be on the live register at least for 2022/23.

> **Action GS/21-22/118:** Schools to recommend students for the Horizon 1 student forum by emailing the Dean.

GS/21-22/119 GSC Survey 2021/22
The Dean reminded members to complete an anonymous online Annual Survey 2021/22 evaluating the effectiveness of the GSC in conducting its business. She advised that members were requested to complete the survey by mid-June and responses would help with the future planning of GSC meetings.

Action GS/21-22/119: Members to complete the GSC Annual Survey online by 17 June 2022.

XX   **GS/21-22/120 Curriculum Glossary**

The Dean welcomed Ms Sorcha De Brunner, Administrative Officer from Academic Affairs, to speak to a glossary of terms related to the theme of curriculum in Trinity. Ms De Brunner noted that in consolidating these terms, a significant level of duplication was found across different documents, and in many cases, with slightly differing definitions. Consultation was undertaken to add new and to refine existing definitions and, in cases of duplication, to agree on the preferred wording. The circulated glossary has been organised in simple alphabetical order. However, further work will be carried out on its presentation to facilitate ease of use of this resource. The glossary is a "living" document and in addition to standard periodic reviews, it will be updated with Council approved terms and definitions arising from different curriculum projects in Trinity, for example, Postgraduate Renewal, Micro-credentials project etc. Ms De Brunner noted the College definition of MC has shifted slightly from the EU one and that the glossary reflects the newest version. The Director of Internationalisation, TCD Global, raised an issue of possibly including examples to some of the definitions and Ms De Brunner offered to liaise with her off line to discuss the need in more detail. Ms De Brunner finally concluded that the Undergraduate Studies Committee had already considered the glossary earlier in the week and recommended it for Council subject to some minor clarifications. The Dean thanked Ms De Brunner for her presentation and the committee recommended the glossary for Council approval.

Decision GS/21-22/120: GSC recommended for the circulated glossary for Council approval.

XX   **GS/21-22/121 Any Other Business**

(i)   It is expected that the leaving certificate results will be released late, making it difficult to decide on a date when the new academic year will commence in September. The Dean reminded members that there were two start dates the previous academic year, with all continuing and new PG students starting together, and new JF students starting 2 weeks later. The Vice Provost/CAO is seeking members' views with respect what to do for the coming academic year. The request from Heads of School is for a single start date – which will mean starting later than last year. As a result, it is likely that exams will happen after Christmas, Schol will be later, Semester 2 will start later. In addition, a later start date for Semester 1 will have implications for when applications can open for new PG applicants. On the other hand, a staggered start date has knock on effects also – and is disruptive on many levels. The Dean was interested to hear members' views on to the implications of either the 'staggered start' or 'delayed start' choices lying ahead. In a short discussion which followed there were opponents of each of the two choices.

-Members arguing against the 'staggered start' stated that staff found it very disruptive the previous year, and that there should be one starting date for all student cohorts.

-Members arguing against the 'delayed start' stated that the practice necessitated carrying exams over Xmas which proved difficult as it did not leave students any rest time and practically rolled the exams over into the Hilary term teaching. Consequently, Counselling

service had to deal with more student cases on mental health grounds. Furthermore, the implications of delaying opening the system for PG applications until such time as all student cohorts were significant.

Re the latter issue, members enquired whether the system could open early for PG applications to enable academic staff to start processing applications at the School level even though registration was still going on.

(ii)   The Dean noted that Covid has not gone away, and it is possible that students may need to request deferrals on Covid grounds. In order to ensure Courts of Examiners can proceed smoothly she suggested that Course Coordinators should contact her directly, copying the DTLP, with any request for a student that needs permission to defer to the next session or for an extension. If it turns out there is a large volume of requests, the situation may need to be re-considered. The Dean's aim is to ensure that members can enter a PIT code that minimizes the risk of a student being returned as excluded, with all the administrative burden that represents.

(iii)   The Dean noted that nominations for the Research Supervision Awards were being collected in Schools for the first time this academic year with two awards (one for early career supervisors) to be available within each Faculty. The process will be reviewed for future iterations, on the basis of feedback from Schools. Members were asked to share their initial views:
   -   There was amazing feedback from students nominating their candidates. However, as nominations go directly to the Head of School, nominated supervisors do not see that feedback. It would be gratifying to supervisors to have early access to the student feedback.
   -   It is very awkward for colleagues in Schools to choose one nomination over others as there is generally little difference between them.
   -   It is unclear in the current process who decides the final nominee, i.e., whether the decision is based primarily on a student's nomination or on a holistic rounded assessment of the candidates in terms of their sustained supervision record in the School.
   -   More detailed and uniform guidelines should be developed for Schools as it appears that each School approached the selection process differently this year.
   -   The selection timeline was too short and should be extended.

The Dean thanked members for their feedback and undertook to revise the selection criteria.

Action GS/21-22/121 (iii) : The Dean to revise selection criteria for the Research Supervision Awards.

(iv)   The DTLP from the School of Nursing and Midwifery raised an issue in relation to the training and support needs of staff in preparation for REAMS start date in September. The School's

Ethics Committee members are expected to undertake "train the trainer" training for this, and then instruct the School community on the use of REAMS. This is to take place over the Trinity term, and the view of the SNM Ethics Committee is that this is not feasible. They do not think the timeline for training is sufficient or appropriate for the commencement of the system and that it will lead to major issues for PGT and PGR students at start of Michaelmas. They are fully supportive of REAMS as a system and look forward to working with it, but the timeline and resourcing of the rollout is not practical or achievable in their view. It was noted that this issue had been raised by the Dean of Research at recent Planning Group meeting and is currently under consideration.

Action GS/21-22/121 (iv): The Dean undertook to follow up with the Dean of Research, on the issue of the "train the trainer" training on the use of REAMS in Schools.

(v)   The Dean proposed an additional Calendar III change for 2022/23 on behalf of the Library, to replace the existing text on Abstract (paragraph 95 in Section I) as follows
"One copy of an abstract, printed on a single sheet of A4 paper, must be submitted loose with each copy of the soft bound thesis. Two copies of an abstract must be submitted loose with the final hard bound copy."

Decision GS/21-22/121 (v) : The committee recommended the proposed Calendar III change for 2022/23 to do with the existing text on Abstract (paragraph 95 in Section I) for Council.

(vi)   The Dean drew members' attention to a set of the new GSC dates for 2022/23. Meetings will take place on 22 September 2022 (no course proposals; 13 October 2022, 10 November 2022, 8 December 2022 (no course proposals), 26 January 2023, 23 February 2023, 23 March 2023 (no course proposals), 27 April 2023, 25 May 2023 (no course proposals).

(vii)   The Dean thanked all members for their contributions throughout the year and especially extended her gratitude to those stepping down as DTLPs the following year.

XX   **Section B for noting and approval**

XX   **GS/21-22/122 PG course/strand title changes from 2022/23:**
The Dean presented three memoranda from The School of Education, the School of Engineering, and the Department of the History of Art and Architecture in the School of Histories and Humanities all seeking minor changes to postgraduate course/strand titles without altering the course learning outcomes:
        (i)   MEd strand in *Special Education* to *Diversity and Inclusion*
        (ii)   Pg Dip in *Sustainable Energy* to *Sustainable Energy and Environment*
        (iii)   MPhil in *Art History* to *History of Art and Architecture*

Decision GS/21-22/122: GSC recommended for Council approval the three sought PG course/strand title changes from 2022/23: (i) MEd strand in *Special Education* to *Diversity and Inclusion*; (ii) Pg Dip in *Sustainable Energy* to *Sustainable Energy and Environment*; (iii) MPhil in *Art History* to *History of Art and Architecture*

XX   **GS/21-22/123 Pg Cert in Innovation and Entrepreneurship**
A memorandum from Tangent requested a deferral of the course start date from September 2022 to January 2023. The Dean stated that this request is worth noting as it highlights that any fee changes or anything that potentially impacts on the finances associated with a PG course must have the support of the Faculty Dean – not the Dean of Graduate Studies. Only requests with fee changes with respect to PG courses newly approved by Council but not yet commenced go for Council approval via the GSC while all other fee-related requests go via the Finance Committee.

> **Decision GS/21-22/123:** GSC recommended for Council approval the deferral of the start date of the Pg Cert in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from September 2022 to January 2023.

XX   **GS/21-22/124 MSc Global Mental Health – fee change – an updated MSc financial statement for 2022/23**
A memorandum from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences requested permission to modify the fees for the MSc Global Mental Health, based in the Trinity Centre for Global Health and housed in the School of Psychology. This new Masters course was approved by Graduate Studies Committee in December 2021.
The course fees approved at the time included the 3% annual fee increase but subsequently College Board confirmed a 0% increase as the Fee Certainty % for AY 2022/23 and a consequent revision of the course fees was sought.

> **Decision GS/21-22/124:** GSC recommended for Council approval the requested modification of fees for the MSc in Global Mental Health.

XX   **GS/21-22/125 Cessation of Orthopaedic Nursing stand on multiple PG nursing programmes from September 2022/23**
A memorandum from Dr Mary Hughes, DPGTL, in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, sought the cessation of the Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice - Orthopaedic Nursing delivered as postgraduate framework and traditional pathways with effect from September 2022. The Dean noted that there is a process in place which requires that GSC must recommend the cessation to Council if a strand or a programme is going to cease.

> **Decision GS/21-22/125:** GSC recommended for Council approval the cessation of the Orthopaedic strand of the Specialist Nursing postgraduate course with effective from September 2022 as follows:
> 1. DPCNM-SPOR-1P09 Specialist Practice – Orthopaedic Nursing (P.Grad.Cert.)

2. DPTNM-OROT-1P09 Nursing - Orthopaedic Nursing (Other) (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip.)
3. DPTNM-ORTA-1P09 Nursing - Orthopaedic Nursing (AMNCH) (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip.)
4. DPTNM-SNOR-1P09 Specialist Nursing - Orthopaedic Specialist Nursing (M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip)

XX   **GS/21-22/126 MCs: Academic Registry Memo on retrospective and prospective approvals of Micro-credential intakes**

An Academic Registry memorandum on the retrospective and prospective approvals of micro-credential intakes proposed that the existing suite of micro-credentials be approved retrospectively to recruit three times per academic year i.e., in September, January, and March, and that by default, all future micro-credentials be approved to recruit three times per year. This solution will apply for the duration of the micro-credential pilot and will be limited to micro-credentials. The proposed three intakes in the year can be set up in advance, with only one being 'live' at any point. This will mean that if an MC has to be deferred, there is no need to 'approve' a change of start date. Dates will be agreed with the MC team.

> **Decision GS/21-22/126:** GSC recommended for Council approval the retrospective and prospective approvals of micro-credential intakes (in the current pilot) be approved retrospectively to recruit three times per academic year i.e., in September, January, and March.

XX   **GS/21-22/127 MCs: rescheduling changes – Memo from Programme Director: Micro-credentials**

The Dean drew members' attention to a memorandum from Dr Ruth Pritchard, Programme Director: Micro-credentials, requesting rescheduling, entry requirement amendments and application closing dates in the School of Social Work and Social Policy with respect to the following MCs: Legal Training for Child Protection and Welfare Practitioners; Digital Technologies in Human Services; Disability, Mental Health and Child Protection: Towards New Understanding; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Policy and People. The Dean hoped that the two requests for permission to defer the start date of an approved MC should be the last such request members will have to consider, if the previous agenda item is approved and implemented.

> **Decision GS/21-22/127:** GSC recommended for Council approval the requested rescheduling, entry requirement amendments and application closing dates in the School of Social Work and Social Policy with respect to the following MCs: Legal Training for Child Protection and Welfare Practitioners; Digital Technologies in Human Services; Disability, Mental Health and Child Protection: Towards New Understanding; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Policy and People.

XX   **GS/21-22/128 MCs: Minor USC and GSC Sub-committee ToR/membership changes on HCI Pillar 3 Micro-credentials – Memo from Chair of USC & GSC Sub-committee on Micro-credentials**

The Dean drew members' attention to a memorandum from Prof. Owen Conlan, Chair of USC & GSC Sub-committee on Micro-credentials requesting members' support for the proposed minor amendments to the Terms of Reference and membership of the MC sub-committee. One key change

is that there will be no UG representation, given that the MCs really operate only in the PG space. The Dean noted that Prof. Conlan is staying on as Chair of the MC sub-committee in spite of stepping down as DTLP.

> **Decision GS/21-22/128:** GSC recommended for Council approval the proposed minor amendments to the Terms of Reference and membership of the MC sub-committee.

XX **GS/21-22/129 MCs: two new TBS proposals and Memo from Chair of USC & GSC Sub-committee on Micro-credentials**
The Dean drew members' attention to a memorandum from Prof. Owen Conlan, Chair of USC & GSC Sub-committee on Micro-credentials requesting members' support for the proposed approval by the Sub-committee on 9 May 2022 of two MCs from Trinity Business School i.e. Entrepreneurship for the Nature-based Enterprise and The Principles and Practices of Business & Human Rights (both Level 9, 5 ECTS, to commence Semester 2, 2022/23.

> **Decision GS/21-22/129:** GSC recommended for Council approval the proposed two MCs from Trinity Business School i.e., Entrepreneurship for the Nature-based Enterprise and The Principles and Practices of Business & Human Rights.

XX **GS/21-22/130 Calendar III changes 2022/23 for validated PG courses from MIE and RIAM**
The Dean drew members' attention to a memorandum from Prof. Neville Cox (College Registrar) seeking members' recommendation for Council of changes to entries for validated courses delivered by MIE for the academic year 2022/23 considered on the 28 April 2022 by the Marino Institute of Education Associated College Degrees Committee (MIE ACDC) and Calendar entries for the validated courses delivered by the Royal Irish Academy of Music considered by the RIAM ACDC on 11 May 2022.

> **Decision GS/21-22/130:** GSC recommended for Council approval the proposed changes to validated courses delivered by MIE and RIAM for the academic year 2022/23.

XX **GS/21-22/131 Calendar III changes 2022/23: revision of Plagiarism section**
The Dean drew members' attention to the proposed changes to the Plagiarism entry in Calendar III for 2022/23 reflecting changes to the Plagiarism entry in the General Regulations of Calendar Part II, Undergraduate Studies, proposed at the meeting of Undergraduate Studies Committee on 17th May 2022.

> **Decision GS/21-22/131:** GSC recommended for Council approval the proposed changes to the Plagiarism entry in Calendar III for 2022/23.

XX **Section C for noting**

XX **GS/21-22/132 Draft Minutes of the Marino Institute of Education Associated College Degrees Committee (MIE ACDC) of 28 April 2022**

The draft minutes of 28 April 2022 of the Marino Institute of Education (MIE) Associated College Degrees Committee were circulated to members.

XX   GS/21-22/133 Draft Minutes of the Royal Irish Academy of Music Associated College Degrees Committee (RIAM ACDC) of 11 May 2022
The draft minutes of 11 May 2022 of Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) Associated Colleges Degrees Committee were circulated to members.

XX   GS 21-22/134 Marketing Memo from Beibhinn Coman, Director of Marketing, and Declan Coogan, Associate Director- Student Recruitment (Trinity Global)
A memorandum from Declan Coogan, Associate Director-Student Recruitment and Beibhinn Coman, Director of Marketing was noted which recommended that new full-time postgraduate programmes should be approved and be open for applications by 1 October or should not include formal non-EU and EU student recruitment targets for the first year of admissions. Programmes approved after this date will be promoted but can expect challenges in meeting student recruitment ambitions. The Dean noted that the memo reflects the increased marketing support now being targeted at postgraduate programmes. The Dean clarified that formal non-EU student number targets should not be included in plans unless the programme can be open for applications by October 1st, in order to ensure there is sufficient time available to provide some assurance that the targets may be met. This doesn't mean that non-EU students can't apply, only that the business case should reflect the likelihood that only EU students will be recruited if a course is not approved and ready for applications at the peak time for non-EU students.

GS 21-22/135 Submission of Course Proposals to GSC – key dates for the academic Year 2022/23 – Memo from Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs
This agenda item is of particular significance to Schools considering to develop a new PG course. A memorandum from Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs was noted which was proposing dates for the submission of course proposals to GSC for consideration in 2022/23 and associated timelines for the development of new course proposals in order to facilitate planning in TT&L and at GSC, to ensure proposals come in in good time.

GS 21-22/136 Postgraduate Course Proposal: course outline form – Memo from Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs
A memorandum from Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs was noted which was proposing an introduction of the expression of interest form aimed to facilitate Academic Affairs in planning the supports provided to Schools in the development of course proposals which will include the delivery of a workshop on 21 June 2022, and in progressing course proposals through the approval process.

The Dean thanked all the committee members and invited them to a light lunch. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12pm.

Prof. Martine Smith   Date: 19 May 2022