



Minutes of the Royal Irish Academy of Music  
Associated College Degrees Committee  
(RIAM ACDC)

Wednesday 31 May 2017 at 8.30am  
Conference Room 2026, Arts Building

*Present:*

*Registrar (Chair): Prof. Paula Murphy*

*Dear of Graduate Studies: Prof. Neville Cox*

*Senior Lecturer/Dear of Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Gillian Martin*

*2nd Representative from the School of Creative Arts: Prof. Simon Trezise*

*Head of School of Education: Prof. Andrew Loxley*

*RIAM: Director & RIAM Research Representative: Deborah Kelleher*

*RIAM: Chair of Master in Music in Performance Committee: Colma Brioscú*

*RIAM: Chair of Doctorate of Music in Performance Committee: Dr Kevin O'Connell*

*RIAM: Chair of Diploma in Music Teaching & Performance Committee: Elizabeth Csibi*

*RIAM: Administrative Officer, Registry: Frances Hogan*

*Apologies:*

*Quality Officer: Roisin Smith*

*Head of School of Creative Arts: Prof. Matthew Causey*

*2nd Representative from the School of Education: Prof. Marita Kerin*

*RIAM: Chair of Bachelor in Music Composition/ Performance Committees: Kathleen Tynan*

*RIAM: Chair of BMusEd Course Committee (RIAM): Marie Moran*

*In attendance:*

*RIAM ACDC Secretary: Ewa Sadowska*

*School of Creative Arts Administrator: Gail Weadick*

*School of Education Administrator: Victoria Bruce*

The Registrar welcomed Ms Victoria Bruce, a new administrator of the School of Education who would be present at RIAM ACDC meetings in attendance.

**RIAM ACDC/16-17/88      *Minutes of RIAM ACDC of 1 February 2017***

The minutes of the meeting were approved as circulated.

**RIAM ACDC/16-17/89      *Matters arising***

The Registrar confirmed *Re. RIAM ACDC/16-17/83* that an information meeting with the Academy's representatives had taken place as scheduled and since the RIAM had submitted their quality assurance procedures which had initiated Trinity's review process. An annual dialogue (extraordinary) meeting with the RIAM representatives was due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The RIAM Director noted *Re. RIAM ACDC/16-17/85* that the RIAM had not made a formal contribution to the QQI on the revised White Paper on QA of Research Degree Programmes but that the item had been discussed at the doctoral programme committee.

**RIAM ACDC/16-17/90      *Update on QQI Quality Assurance of Linked Providers – standing item.***



The Quality Officer was inadvertently absent and the item was taken as the last one on the agenda by the Registrar who referred to the circulated *Linked Provider Appeal Procedure* required by the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) 2012 Act. She noted that it is a requirement of the Act to establish such an appeal process and follows a general template agreed by all Irish Universities through the Irish Universities Association. She asked whether there were any questions, and the RIAM Director confirmed on behalf of the RIAM representatives on the committee that they had familiarised themselves with the document and had no questions. All expressed the hope that it would not be necessary to avail of the appeals procedure.

**RIAM ACDC/16-17/91 Standing item on communication**

**a) inter-institutional collaboration including research**

The RIAM Director noted that she had held a meeting the day before with the Irish Dystonia Research Group comprising Prof. Richard Reilly, Research Chair of Neural Engineering from Trinity, and his two research colleagues who had found that temporal discrimination was significantly faster in professional musicians than in non-musicians. This finding increases the sensitivity of testing temporal discrimination in musicians with dystonia. The Dystonia Group proposed to collaborate with the RIAM in a number of cooperative projects. The RIAM Director advised that the Dystonia Group had applied for funding from the Health Research Board to publicise their research results and implications under the Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme (KEDS) grant scheme. If that were successful, they would aim to fund a symposium in the RIAM on *Musician's Dystonia* in early 2018 with an invited speaker, Eckart Altenmueller, an internationally recognised authority on musician's dystonia. The Group were also in the process of applying for a research grant in musician's dystonia in conjunction with centres in New York and Hannover, and the RIAM Director had agreed the involvement of the RIAM in the grant application to be submitted by 21<sup>st</sup> June. A longer-term aim would be to establish a multidisciplinary clinic for Musician's Dystonia in the St Vincent's University Hospital by mid to late 2018. The RIAM Director indicated that the RIAM would welcome and encourage collaboration with the Irish Dystonia Research Group.

The RIAM Director further noted that the RIAM Percussion Ensemble would be twenty years' old next year and would be celebrating the anniversary by way of public concerts in Dublin and New York (as guests of New York University), and that Trinity Prof. Evangelia Rigaki from the Department of Music had been commissioned a piece for the ensemble to mark the occasion.

The Head of Department of Music advised that work on strengthening inter-institutional collaboration with the RIAM was in progress.

The Head of School of Education referred to the ongoing work on reviewing the School's Masters programmes in an effort to enhance the inter-institutional collaboration.

**b) Policies and procedures relevant to RIAM: Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Graduate Studies**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that there were no new policies at the undergraduate level. In reference to postgraduate matters the Dean of Graduate Studies advised of new work on setting up a policy reflecting a general approach in Trinity to creative research. He noted that the RIAM's Performance Doctorate programme would be brought under it once the policy was finalised. In a short discussion which followed members



noted that it would be valuable to capture what was happening in creative arts area across College, and that interesting organic developments had taken place over the recent years in Trinity. The RIAM Director noted that the Association of European Conservatories had on its website a White Paper on Artistic Research which could be consulted, and that together with the conservatories in Scotland, the UK and Ireland were in the vanguard of formulating policies on artistic research in music in Europe. A special mention was made with respect to the previous Trinity lecturer Donnacha Dennehy and his past creative research in music composition.

**RIAM ACDC/16-17/92 To consider Calendar Part II and Part III changes for 2017/18**

The RIAM Director advised the committee that only minor alterations, as listed in the circulated *memorandum*, would be made on the undergraduate Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctorate programmes in 2017/18. The committee approved the proposed changes with some minor stylistic alterations. In a short discussion it was re-confirmed that Calendar entries for validated courses were to be kept at a high level of general information while details, for example pertaining to the admissions criteria, were to be included locally in the programme handbooks.

**RIAM ACDC/16-17/93 Changes to the 2017/18 handbooks**

The changes were minor and were approved as circulated.

**RIAM ACDC/16-17/94 Dates of meetings in 2017/18**

The committee approved the proposed dates of meetings in 2017/18 to take place on 1 November 2017, 21 February 2018 and 30 May 2018 (re-scheduled from 31 May 2018) in the Conference Room 2026 in the Arts Building from 9am to 11am.

**RIAM ACDC/16-17/95 Any Other Business**

There was none and the meeting ended around 9.15.

Registrar's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 31 May 2017