



A meeting of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Associated College Degrees Committee (RIAM ACDC) was held on the 5 May 2021 at 9am via Zoom

Present: Registrar (Chair): Prof. Brendan Tangney
Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Kevin Mitchell
Dean of Graduate Studies: Prof. Martine Smith
Head of School of Creative Arts: Prof. Ruth Barton
Second Representative from the Creative Arts: Prof. Evangelia Rigaki
Head of School of Education: Prof. Damian Murchan
Second Representative from the School of Education: Prof. Marita Kerin
Quality Officer: Roisin Smith
RIAM:
Director: Prof. Deborah Kelleher
Research Representative: Prof. Lynsey Callaghan
Chair of Undergraduate Committee: Prof. Sarah Sew
Chair of Postgraduate Committee: Prof. Kathleen Tynan
Chair of Doctoral Committee: Prof. Colma Brioscú
Administrative Officer, Registry: Pádraig Rynn

In attendance: RIAM ACDC Secretary: Lucy Shah; Assistant Academic Secretary, TT&L: Linda Darbey; School of Creative Arts Manager: Jo McNamara.

RIAM ACDC/20-21/016: Minutes of RIAM ACDC of 3 February 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 3 February 2020 were approved as circulated.

RIAM ACDC/20-21/017: Matters Arising

Decision/Action:

ACDC/20-21/010: The Quality Officer provided the RIAM Director with information on QQI seminars.

RIAM ACDC/20-21/018: Update on Covid-19 response from RIAM Director

A memorandum from the RIAM Director dated 20 January 2021, was circulated. The RIAM Director provided an overview of the response to COVID-19 since her February update. She reported that since March 15 there has been a return to face-to-face teaching for small groups and individuals and noted that in person examinations had taken place observing social distancing guidelines. She advised that performance projects had also taken place under these guidelines, and that learning outcomes had been met for these students, with these projects forming 60% of assessments. She reported that academic classes and assessments were now complete for students, with lessons taking place until June. She noted that there had been no deferrals or student attrition as a result of Covid.

The Registrar praised RIAM for their teaching under Covid-19 restrictions. The Dean of Graduate Studies congratulated RIAM on achieving their learning outcomes so well.

RIAM ACDC/20-21/019: Update on Quality Assurance of Linked Providers from the Quality Officer

The Registrar invited the Quality Officer to provide an update on the Quality Assurance of Linked Providers. The Quality Officer advised that the first Extraordinary meeting had taken place and that minutes from this would go to the next Quality Committee. She reported that the focus now is on the Trinity Institutional Quality Review, in which Linked Providers will also be invited to participate.

RIAM ACDC/20-21/020: Standing Items on Communication

The Registrar invited an update relating to the item.

a. Inter-Institutional Collaboration including research – Heads of School of Education and Creative Arts

The Head of School of Creative Arts noted that there was nothing to update at this point. The Head of School of Education reported that the collaboration with the B.Mus. Ed. programme continues. He advised that challenges with school placements have been largely overcome. He reported that the Teaching Council has issued new CEIM standards, and that the B.Mus. Ed. will need to align with these by September 2022, adding that there will be close collaboration with RIAM on this over the next year. He noted that the Teaching Council will accredit the programme, once it is aligned with the new standards, by the second quarter on 2023, and that the programme changes will need to be considered by the relevant Trinity academic committees during 2020/21. The Second Representative from the School of Education advised that she had been in contact with RIAM on the CEIM standards.

b. Policies and procedures relevant to RIAM – Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Graduate Studies

The Registrar invited the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to provide updates. The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that there a formal launch of the Postgraduate Renewal Project is forthcoming and noted that she would be linking with RIAM on this where appropriate.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the focus is on planning ahead to 2021/22, noting that three possible scenarios are currently being planned for teaching in 2021/22, the best, worst and middle case scenarios. He advised that ongoing discussions are taking place around what positive learnings can be retained from teaching and learning under the pandemic.

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/021: Undergraduate Curriculum Revision

A memorandum from the RIAM Director, on the proposal to combine the Bachelor in Music Composition and the Bachelor in Music Performance courses into one undergraduate course in Music Performance and Composition, leading to the degree of Bachelor in Music (Mus.B.) with changes in place from the academic year 2022/2023 for new intake students, dated 30 April 2021, was circulated and the RIAM Director gave members an overview of it. She provided members with the context of the revisions, explaining that graduates want more breadth in their degree title, and that a move to the degree title 'Bachelor in Music (Mus.B.)' would satisfy this, and align the degree title with common international practice. She explained that the Bachelor in Music Performance and the Bachelor in Music Composition are very similar, and combining them gives students the natural flexibility to move between performance and composition through electives. She noted that the programme learning outcomes remain the same. She added that discussions have taken place with the School of Creative Arts on this already and it has been ensured that there will be no overlap between the RIAM offering and the School of Music's offering.

The Registrar thanked the RIAM Director, noting that there had been work done in the background to bring this revision to ACDC and that the proposal seems sensible. He noted that there is broad support from ACDC for the proposal, and that it has been agreed by RIAM and the School of Creative Arts that there is sufficient distance between their two offerings. He noted that the degree title Bachelor in Music was already in place in Trinity, but had not been awarded since the 1980's, and that this was referred to as Mus.B. rather than B.Mus. He noted that the offering from the School of Music is a B.A. Mod. in Music. The Head of School of Music added her support for the proposal, noting that discussions with RIAM had taken place around differentiating the course through marketing the course title as an undergraduate programme in Music Performance and Composition. Responding to a query on whether there will be opportunity for students to take a Major degree with a minor within the Mus.B., the RIAM Director noted that this is possible, but that the focus now is on examining the curriculum module by module.

(i) Suspension of Bachelor in Music Composition, 2021-22

The Assistant Academic Secretary noted the reference to the suspension of the Bachelor in Music Composition in 2021/22 in the memorandum and advised that this would need to be considered by ACDC in line with RIAM's policy on programme suspension and cessation. In response to a question raised by the Senior Lecturer the RIAM Director explained that there had been no applicants to the course for 2021/22 as the course had been placed under temporary review. She undertook to advise Trinity Admissions of the suspension of the programme in 2021/22.

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Decision/Action:

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/021: The undergraduate curriculum revision which proposes to combine the Bachelor in Music Composition and the Bachelor in Music Performance courses into one undergraduate course in Music Performance and Composition, leading to the degree of Bachelor in Music (Mus.B.) from the academic year 2022/2023 for new intake students was approved by ACDC and recommended to USC.

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Decision/Action:

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/021: ACDC supported the proposal for the suspension of the Bachelor in Music Composition in 2021-22, and recommended it to USC. RIAM to notify Trinity Admissions of the suspension of the Bachelor in Music Composition in 2021/22.

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/022: Calendar II and III changes for 2021/22

Updated Calendar II and III entries from the RIAM Director were circulated and she spoke to the updates.

a) RIAM undergraduate courses

She noted that the Calendar entry for the Bachelor in Music Composition had been updated to note that the programme is to be suspended in 2021/22. She added that all other amendments were minor.

b) RIAM postgraduate courses

She noted that all updates here were minor.

Decision/Action:

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RIAM/ACDC/20-21/022: The Calendar II and III changes for 2021/22 were endorsed to progress through the approval process in College.

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/023: Changes to the RIAM Handbooks for 2021/22

A memorandum from the RIAM Director, dated 28 April 2021, was circulated, and she gave a brief overview of the changes. She noted that the changes were minor and included some updated information on some changes made to the RIAM Holistic programme and the monthly research seminars.

Decision/Action:

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/023: The changes to the RIAM Handbooks for 2021/22 were approved as circulated.

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/024: ACDC dates for 2021/22

The dates for ACDC for 2021/22 were noted.

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/025: Any Other Business

The School of Creative Arts Manager noted that Trinity is currently undergoing an inclusive curriculum project, managed by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) division. The RIAM Research Representative noted that RIAM are currently working with a consultant on creating a roadmap of diversity, equality and inclusion, and that discussions have taken place with the Trinity EDI. The School of Creative Arts Manager advised that the institutional plan on sexual consent is under review in Trinity and offered to provide information on this to the RIAM Director.

The Registrar advised that he will be bringing a memorandum to Council to propose the amendment of the parchment for the B.Mus. Ed. He explained that a memorandum of understanding was being drawn up between Trinity, Technological University Dublin (TUD) and RIAM to look at the Latin text on the parchment. He advised that it is proposed that this text is modified to make reference to TUD or RIAM as appropriate.

The Registrar noted that the new Trinity Provost will be appointing new academic officers, and so there may be a change of academic officers the following year. The Head of School of Education advised that this will be his last meeting with ACDC as he is finishing his term as Head of School, with Prof. Carmel O’ Sullivan taking his place the following year. He gave thanks to the members of ACDC.

Decision/Action:

RIAM/ACDC/20-21/025: The School of Creative Arts Manager to provide RIAM Director with information from the Equality Office on the review of the institutional plan on sexual consent.

Registrar: _____
Date: 10 November 2021