



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

Wednesday 1 November 2017 at 9am
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. Evangelia Rigaki

Head of School of Education: Prof. Andrew Loxley

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

Quality Officer: Roisin Smith

RIAM: Director & RIAM Research Representative: Deborah Kelleher

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

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

Apologies:

Head of School of Creative Arts: Prof. Matthew Causey

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

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

In attendance:

RIAM ACDC Secretary: Ewa Sadowska

School of Creative Arts Administrator: Jo McNamara

School of Education Administrator: Victoria Bruce

Fedelma McNamara (Trinity Education Project: Project Manager) for item RIAM ACDC/17-18/100 (c)

RIAM ACDC/17-18/96 *Minutes of RIAM ACDC of 31 May 2017*

The minutes of the meeting were approved as circulated.

RIAM ACDC/17-18/97 *Matters arising*

The Quality Officer advised *Re. RIAM ACDC/16-17/90* that she intended to bring the *Linked Provider Appeal Procedure*, circulated for the May meeting, to the Quality Committee and asked if there were any queries. She re-iterated that it was a requirement of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) 2012 Act to establish such an appeal process and that it followed 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 that there were no questions. All expressed the hope that it would not be necessary to avail of the appeal procedure. The Quality Officer clarified that the person who would hear the appeals would be appointed at the time appeals would be arising and invited the RIAM members to forward queries or feedback on the appeal procedure to her directly.

RIAM ACDC/17-18/98 *Update on QQI Quality Assurance of Linked Providers – standing item*



a) QCI Quality Assurance of Linked Providers

The Registrar provided a brief update on Trinity's approval of the quality assurance procedures submitted by RIAM. She explained that Trinity commenced the process but that questions arose with respect to responsibilities, and liabilities and the review of the RIAM procedures was therefore paused to allow for legal advice. This was obtained and the legal recommendations were currently making their way through committees in College towards a full discussion at Board. The RIAM would be notified in due course of the outcome as approved by Board.

b) QCI The blended learning guidelines

The Quality Officer noted that the *Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QCI)* had distributed the White Paper Topic-specific QA Guidelines on Blended Learning in August for consultation with institutional responses due by 3rd November 2017. The RIAM Director advised that there were no modules on degree programmes delivered *via* the blending learning approach. She referred however to extra mural courses aimed at teachers which were delivered online and undertook to ensure that their delivery would have regard for the QCI guidelines. In response the Quality Officer advised that all teaching and learning whether for credit or not-for-credit was subject to quality assurance under the QCI Act 2012.

c) Amendments to the QCI Act and International Education Mark

The Quality Officer advised that the amendments to the QCI Act were thought unlikely to be passed in the life of the current Legislative Assembly due to a backlog of legislation to be passed and as a result the International Education Mark was also delayed.

d) Launch of the CINNTE Institutional Review Guidelines and Terms of Reference

The Quality Officer explained that Irish higher education institutions had primary responsibility for reviewing and improving their own quality, and QCI was responsible for carrying out external reviews on a cyclical basis. The first of QCI's cyclical review periods, the CINNTE review cycle takes place from 2017-2023, and during this period, QCI will organise and oversee independent reviews of each of the Universities including Trinity. The link to the QCI review cycle had been circulated, and the Quality Officer advised that NUIM and DCU would be the first to go through the first round.

RIAM ACDC/17-18/99 Trinity Library annual update

The Registrar advised that Ms Geraldine Fitzgerald had sent her apologies and deferred the item to the next meeting.

RIAM ACDC/17-18/100 Standing items on communication

a) inter-institutional collaboration including research

The RIAM Director noted that there was good collaboration with the School of Education on the Music Education strand of the M.Ed. programme where Academy delivered practical modules, and student feedback was very positive.

The RIAM Director further noted that the RIAM Percussion Ensemble was twenty years' old this year and was celebrating the anniversary by way of public concerts in Dublin and New York (as guests of New York University), and that Prof. Evangelia Rigaki from the Department of Music had provided a commissioned piece, developed in collaboration with Richard O'Donnell (RIAM) for the ensemble to mark the occasion.



The RIAM Director also advised that the application by the Irish Dystonia Research Group for funding from the Health Research Board had not been successful but the Group were also in the process of applying for other research grants in musician's dystonia in collaboration with the RIAM.

The Acting Head of Department of Music advised that work on strengthening inter-institutional collaboration with the RIAM was in progress. She noted an active collaborative role of the Music Composition Centre Series in maintaining close inter-institutional links between Trinity and the Academy. The RIAM staff had been featured as guests invited to the Music Composition Centre Series. Deborah Kelleher, Director of the RIAM had a talk in October in the Long Room Hub on *The European Agenda for Music: The Sector Speaks*. William Dowdall, Head of Wind Section in the RIAM, would give a Masterclass in Contemporary Flute Techniques in the Boydell Recital Room in November, and Sylvia O'Brien, a vocalist from the RIAM, would give a Masterclass in Contemporary Vocal Techniques in January 2018.

The Acting Head of Department of Music also referred to a number of Musicians in Residence this academic year such as from the RIAM William Dowdall (Head of Winds), Richard O'Donnell (Head of Percussion), and Sylvia O'Brien (Voice), and from DIT Elizabeth Hilliard (Voice) and Paul Roe (Clarinet) who also teaches in the RIAM. These musicians would collaborate with the MPhil in Composition and PhD composers for the module 'Writing for Ensemble'. The result of this collaboration will be new pieces performed during the annual Graduate Show in May, in Beckett Theatre. The Graduate Show will be supported by the Visual and Performing Arts Award from Trinity.

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 some minor changes to the plagiarism policy and the Calendar entry was updated to reflect them. She further noted that a policy on reasonable accommodation prepared by the Disability Service was making its way through committees in College towards being submitted to the University Council in January. It gives effect to Trinity's legal obligation towards students with disabilities by ensuring that they have as complete and equitable access to all facets of Trinity life as can reasonably be provided.

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the Faculty Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was setting up a working group to review creative research outputs, in the areas such as music and creative writing, aiming at establishing creative and performance doctorate awards. He also noted that a new policy on data curation in research degrees was being formulated with a view to being brought to the Graduate Studies Committee in December. The policy was instigated by the concern with the currently unclear data ownership and data management practices in different Schools, and unclear legal ownership of research data generated by the research student. The RIAM Director noted that a similar policy might be useful to the Academy where doctoral students might also generate research data, and where examination results might be used for promotion.

c) Trinity Education Project

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies wished to make a reference to the circulated *Progression and Awards* document during the presentation on the Trinity



Education Project (TEP), and the Registrar invited in Ms Fedelma McNamara, the project manager. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies spoke to the circulated presentation. She explained that the TEP had resulted out of the College Strategic Plan 2014-2019 goal 3 which aimed to renew Trinity education at the undergraduate level. The first step was the identification of graduate attributes which informed the development of curriculum principles and the resulting programme architecture and assessment. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies described the parameters of four types of undergraduate programme architecture which resulted in turn in the revised progression rules as laid out in the circulated *Progression and Awards* document. She noted that the new assessment regulations were replacing the current ones which focused on final summative examinations while the new ones would put an emphasis on assessment understood as learning and for learning. She explained that the new academic year structure, to be introduced from 2018/19, would facilitate the new assessment approach by dividing the academic year into two semesters, introducing two shorter examination sessions at the end of each semester and one re-examination session at the end of the academic year. It is intended that shorter examination sessions would necessitate a review of current assessment and lead to non-examination-based alternative assessment forms. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies further noted that all taught modules would need to be expressed in volumes of 5 or 10 credits with 5-credit modules taught only over one semester. The exception would be the capstone research module of 20 credits. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained the merit and aim of approved modules and Trinity electives as part of the new programme architecture. In a short discussion which followed the RIAM members of the committee saw a huge potential of making the Academy modules available to Trinity students from various disciplines under such a provision. In conclusion, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies invited the RIAM members of the committee to bring questions and queries on the *Progression and Awards* document to the next meeting. The Registrar thanked all for a constructive discussion, and in particular Ms McNamara for her contribution to the presentation.

RIAM ACDC/17-18/101 To note membership in chairs to course committees

The RIAM Director advised that there were no changes in chairs to the course committees.

RIAM ACDC/17-18/102 Any Other Business

There was none and the meeting ended around 10am

Registrar's signature: _____

Date: 1 November 2017