



Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

XX = Board relevance

Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin

A meeting of the University Council was held on 10 April 2024 at 11.15am in the Trinity Board Room, Trinity Business School.

Present Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Health Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Professor L. O’Driscoll, Professor B. Fitzgerald, Ms. D. Alexander, Mr. R. Saulnier, Professor L. Carson, Professor G. Watson, Mr. E. Gilroy, Professor J. Wyse, Ms. R. Emakpor, VP for Global Engagement, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Registrar, Mr C. Reddy, Mr M. McAndrew, Mr S. Sardina, Dean of Research, Professor A. Gibson, Professor D. Romelli, Professor J. Coleman, Professor A.M. Malone.

Apologies Professor P. O’Grady, Professor B. Daly, Professor K. Neenan, Senior Tutor, Mr. A. Burgess.

In attendance Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, Librarian and College Archivist, Academic Secretary, Chief Operating Officer, Academic Affairs Education Policy Developer, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Professor Gregory O’ Hare.

SECTION A.1: Policy Matters

The Provost welcomed everyone to Council. The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance reported that there were no statements of conflict.

CL/23-24/158 (i) Minutes 13 March 2024

In relation to Council minute CL/23-24/132 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Strategy, the Academic Secretary requested that the wording of paragraph 4 on page 5 be amended to read “*There was no appetite for making an ESD module mandatory **for all programmes**, but it was felt that supporting schools to review existing curriculum with a view to integrating ESD should be considered.*”

(ii) Minutes 4 April 2024

The minutes of the Council meeting of the 4 April 2024 were approved.

CL/23-24/159 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and the Heads of School representative joined the meeting at this point.

CL/23-24/160 Dean of Research Annual Report 2022/23

The Dean of Research presented her Annual Report for 2022/23, which comprised four sections: 1) progress on the Living Research Excellence Strategy (LRES); 2) #researchMATTERS; 3) Research in numbers; and 4) Looking ahead to 2023/24. She highlighted recent organisational and structural changes for strategic policy and support for research and innovation. The Office of the Dean of Research and the Research Development Office have been united as Trinity Research, with a new Director of Research appointed, and Trinity Innovation and Enterprise is now led by a new Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer.

(i) Speaking to progress on the Living Research Excellence Strategy (LRES), the Dean drew Council's attention to the Post-Doc Academy, the Research Ethics Application Management System (REAMS), Open Scholarship, TORCH and the Research Excellence Annual Awards. Referencing the Post-doc Academy, she reported that the Associate Dean of Research Immo Warntjes was part of a Human Resources working group on employment patterns and employment contracts for post-doctoral researchers. *Guidelines for Occasional Classroom Teaching for Career Development purposes for Research Fellows/Post-docs* have been developed and approved by the Research Committee, and discussion on their implementation is ongoing with HR. The Dean specifically thanked Siobhan Ó Shea in Human Resources for her advice on how best to support researchers. A working group is considering the post-doc experience, with a view to addressing issues of isolation and disconnect from the wider College community, and a strategy has been developed to look at the long-term sustainability of the Academy.

With regard to the REAMS, the Dean thanked Associate Dean of Research Padraig Fallon and Mrs Corrinna Moore who developed and delivered the system in 2022, and she reported that it has been successfully adopted by Schools. She reported that there were two rounds of funding for National Open Research Forum (NORF) proposals in 2022/23 and that Trinity was involved in all 10 funded proposals, leading out on three. In relation to TORCH, the research arm of CHARM-EU, the Dean reported that Trinity had hosted the 2nd annual TORCH forum in March 2023. She concluded this section by reporting that the 2022/23 Trinity Research Excellence Awards were presented across nine categories to 15 academic colleagues and professional staff who support and enable research.

(ii) Speaking to #researchMATTERS, she highlighted the #researchMATTERS website, the Trinity Research Excellence Awards, the European Researchers' Night, for which Trinity secured Horizon Europe Marie Curie Actions funding in 2022 and 2023 in partnership with ADAPT and RCSI with Trinity as the lead coordinator and grant holder, and the research highlights from across the University.

(iii) Speaking to the 'Research performance in numbers' section of the report, the Dean highlighted an increase in research grant activity and expenditure from 2021/22 to 2022/23, with a research grant income of €128 million to Trinity for the year 2022/23 and expenditure of €127 million. Drawing attention to the breakdown of annual funding by source presented on page 47, she noted that, as in previous years, the majority of Trinity's funding (63% in 2022/23) comes from national sources, with a high reliance on Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) grant income. Referring to the data on Scholarly Output, the Dean reported that this is drawn from the Scopus database and does not cover material that falls outside of this. Noting that Trinity ranked 81st in the world in the QS World University Rankings in 2024, the Dean stressed that the landscape is more competitive year on year and that Trinity operates in an environment where international competitors have access to greater financial resources resulting in Trinity putting considerable effort into maintaining its current rankings. In this regard, Trinity is exploring how it can reflect better the full range of research activity through the international *More Than Our Rank initiative*, which acknowledges a broader and more diverse definition of institutional success that goes beyond the results of international rankings.

The Dean highlighted the key activities in which Trinity Innovation was involved in 2022/23, reporting that (i) a successful bid in March 2024 by TI for the new KTBoost programme had resulted in 5.5 million euro awarded, (ii) 21 LOAs were executed in a range of sectors including IP licences for seven Trinity companies, (iii) five Trinity companies had achieved Enterprise Ireland's High Performance Start-up (HPSU) status, (iv) CONSULT Trinity supported 49 consultancy engagements and (v) 11 academics across nine categories were recognised in the 2022 Innovation Awards.

(iv) Looking ahead to 2023/24, the Dean stressed the importance of addressing the issues that continue to challenge Trinity's ability to conduct high-quality research and said that the recent restructuring of administrative supports for research in Trinity was an important first step in this regard. External developments to be monitored include (i) the implementation of the Research and Innovation Bill and the new funding agency Taighde Eireann/Research Ireland, (ii) funding for research equipment and infrastructure, and (iii) the next Framework Programme for research and innovation (FP10). She concluded by reporting that a revision/refresh of the Living Research Excellence Strategy would be undertaken and that a research culture initiative for Trinity was under development. Sustainability and Open Scholarship will continue to be priorities, and a deepening engagement with all stakeholders and policy makers regarding improved funding of and support for research.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Research, commenting on the range of activities that are ongoing in the research space. With regard to the fact that Trinity has lost its number one position in Ireland in terms of drawdown from Horizon Europe funding (noted on page 51 of the report), the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer queried whether this was a once-off and she asked if it would be possible to see a year-on-year comparison with other institutions. The Dean of Research reported that the data on this wasn't currently available but that her office had started to gather it. The VP/CAO asked whether Trinity is considering how income from European Research Grants (ERC) could be increased and the Dean of Research reported that a number of training and information events on ERC proposal writing have been offered.

The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences queried the halving of citations (based on the Scopus database) between 2018 and 2022 outlined on page 54 of the report. The Provost said that during the pandemic, Trinity was given money to support researchers, and that this had been allocated across all areas in the University. This resulted in a temporary increase in research output in disciplines that may not have previously received much funding. This artificial increase is now levelling off and may partly account for the decrease in the overall number of citations observed in the last few years. She also reminded members that money invested to improve Trinity's ranking had allowed for an increase in citations. As the rankings are in arrears, we are now seeing the dropping off in citations. She remarked, however, that it is clear evidence of the impact of investment on research output. The Dean of Research agreed that there had been a reduction in citations but noted that significant fluctuations also occurred in earlier years and stressed the importance of continuing to monitor this to see what drives these changes.

Referencing the *More Than Our Rank* initiative, a member stressed the importance of highlighting Trinity's performance in other citation databases such as InSiGhts and he noted the decision of top Universities such as Utrecht and Zurich to opt out of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking 2024. He queried whether there is a conversation happening in the IUA about rankings and the Dean of Research reported that the IUA is discussing this. She also stressed that the University of Zurich operates under a different financial structure and funding system to Ireland which mandates it to serve the local community, and that, consequently, rankings are less important.

The Provost stressed the importance of keeping international students in mind in the discussion, a large number of whom will not be funded by their home country if the intended university is not in the top 100. She expressed a wish to get involved in the *More Than Our Rank* initiative but acknowledged the requirement to balance the needs and varied expectations of

individual schools, noting that the School of Medicine would suffer should Trinity withdraw from the rankings. She suggested that it is a question that we should touch back on.

A Council member stressed the growing seriousness of the condition of the physical infrastructure and equipment in some areas of Trinity and, more widely, across the sector. He referenced the microscopy lab in the School of Physics as an example, stating that the microscopes there were coming to the end of their life and that having them in good working order was essential for the continued provision of the necessary laboratory sessions for relevant undergraduate programmes. He stressed the need to act now on this issue. The Dean of Research acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and said that it had been raised with the funding agencies. The member suggested that as the issue will impact employers, they might be called on to lobby for additional funding on the universities' behalf.

With regard to the Post-doc Academy, a student member welcomed the *Guidelines for Occasional Classroom Teaching* and queried whether any initiatives were planned as part of the Academy regarding job security for post docs. He also asked what the main issues are with the merger of funding agencies for research and innovation. The Dean of Research clarified that, in relation to the postdoc academy, the goal was to engage with the PhD community on career development advice and training opportunities, and to provide information on funding opportunities. With regard to the Research Funding Bill, the Dean reported that the main issues concern the types of funding that will emerge under the new Taighde Eireann/Research Ireland funding agency, and she expressed disappointment that there is no increase in the budget for the new agency.

A member expressed her agreement with the concerns raised regarding funding for equipment. She queried whether there was any strategy under development for retaining researchers on ERC grants. The Dean of Research reported that work is underway to evaluate the seriousness of the problem and the barriers to retaining research staff, noting that issues such as availability of equipment, facilities and career progression were of concern.

The Provost acknowledged the need to retain research talent, but she noted that the issue of the allocation of funding overheads and how that differs across the funding providers needs to be considered. The Dean of Health Sciences raised new legislation around the ethical approval of research proposals as an issue, stating that the overly complicated process needed to be addressed as a matter of priority.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Research for her report.

Decision:

CL/23-24/160.1:

Council approved the Dean of Research Annual Report 2022/23

Ms Doris Alexander left the meeting at this point.

CL/23-24/161 The Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2022/23

The Librarian and College Archivist presented her Annual Report for 2022/23, reporting that the Library is over halfway through a 15-year strategy which has been recalibrated through the lens of Sustainability, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), articulated in a new 'Continuity and Development of the Library Strategy 2026'. She also referenced the Library's Manifesto, which sets out the Library's responsibilities to its stakeholders in a number of areas.

Referring to the sustainability issue and in response to the challenge issued by Professor Mary Robinson at the 87th World Library and Information Congress for libraries to 'increase tenfold' and 'move faster' in playing their part in addressing the climate crisis and in becoming a 'Green Library', Ms Shenton reported that the Library has created a Sustainability framework across

the Library and has already implemented a number of initiatives that will have an impact on the sustainability of its activities.

Reporting that the five strategic pillars of the Library Strategy will continue, Ms Shenton advised that they will be underpinned by two new cross-cutting themes – (i) Sustainability and Climate Action and (ii) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. She presented selected highlights for each of the Pillars as follows:

Pillar 1: Integrated Space. The Librarian and College Archivist highlighted the three parallel building projects for the Old Library Redevelopment Project; firstly the conservation of the Old Library; secondly the conservation of the Printing House, which will host the Book of Kells while work progresses on the conservation and protection of the Old Library building; and thirdly, the Ussher Library Basement which will provide an alternative reading space for the Research Collections during the closure of the Old Library. The latter, she reported, is due to open on the 7th May 2024. This fulfils the commitment of continuity of access to all the collections throughout the whole of the Old Library Redevelopment Project.

Pillar 2: Integrated Digital. Ms Shenton reported that a Library Services Platform upgrade was underway and she stressed the importance of this system to the running of the Library, describing it as 'the central nervous system' of the Library. She advised that the 10th anniversary of UK legal deposit occurred in 2023, which has now provided access to over ten million e-journal articles and almost 800,000 e-books. The collaboration between the six legal deposit libraries in four nations has effectively created a seventh transnational electronic Library. The challenges concerning access to the resources outside of the physical Libraries continue. The Librarian and College Archivist observed that the interplay between print and e-material was increasingly important, from technological, financial, and sustainability perspectives. Ms Shenton highlighted how digitised content and research emanating from the major Virtual Trinity Library programme, has contributed to the immersive Book of Kells Experience., through Research collections.

Pillar 3: Teaching, Learning and Research

Commenting on the role of the Library in catalysing research, the Librarian and College Archivist reported that several collaborative projects had been undertaken in 2022/23 that had resulted in a number of joint publications. The Library's research and interventions to address universal design principles in library services and supports was captured in the publication '*Adopting a UDL Attitude within Academia*'. The work of the Library, and in particular the Subject Librarians, in showcasing undergraduate research skills through a digital and in-person exhibition of zines by undergraduate Drama students was highlighted by Ms Shenton.

Pillar 4: Prioritising Funding

Referring to philanthropy in support of the Old Library Redevelopment Project, the Librarian and College Archivist reported that a delegation to New York, led by the Provost, had resulted in substantial financial support. She drew Council's attention to the donation of the Elsbeth and Bettina Bollman Collection of fine bindings, which she said was the most important donation of printed books in 200 years.

Pillar 5: Suite of policies and procedures

The Librarian and College Archivist highlighted the Stewardship Policy 'in action', as part of the decant of the 750,000 items from the Old Library. The decant comprises significant conservation, as the volumes are cleaned, RFID (radio frequency identification) tagged, catalogued, and measured. As well as the benefits of conserving the collections, Ms Shenton outlined the benefits of access for researchers which are already materialising from this work.

Speaking to the highlights of 2022/23, the Librarian and College Archivist reported that illustrations from the Book of Kells had been included on two postage stamps for St. Patrick's Day in 2023; an exhibition to celebrate the Fagel Collection was held in June 2023; and a physical and digital exhibition to mark 400 years since the publication of Shakespeare's first

folio was digitised and launched in the Old Library in April 2023 by author Anne Enright. She reported that the installation in the Library of four new sculptures celebrating the lives of four trailblazing women scholars was a highlight of the year, and continues to resonate.

Referring to a slide which outlined a breakdown of overall expenditure on Library resources, by Faculty, for 2022/23, the Librarian and College Archivist reported that this did not include material sourced through the IReL (Irish Research electronic Library) consortium and under UK and Irish Legal Deposit.

Speaking to wider issues and plans for the future, she highlighted cyber security as the highest risk to both the Library and the University, along with emerging risks around knowledge security. In the coming year, the outcome of the Trinity Legacy Review's implementation of the 'de-naming' of the Library will be known and wider legacy issues of the Library's historic collection will start to be formulated as one strand of the 'Content and Collection Development Strategy'. The Sustainability Framework will be implemented in line with the University's strategic sustainability imperatives and the Library will contribute to research around the sustainability and accessibility of e-resources. In concluding, the Librarian and College Archivist thanked all of the Library staff for their tremendous work in facilitating the considerable change programme and major programmes underway in the Library.

A Council member queried the timescale for completion of the physical work on the Old Library. The Librarian and College Archivist reported that there was a pause last year in the light of pre-tender estimate escalation, and a rescoping of the project. The timescale has been impacted by the requirement, under EU procurement law, to produce a new design tender. The Provost thanked Ms Shenton for her report.

Decision:

CL/23-24/161.1: Council approved the Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2022/23

CL/23-24/162 Status of PhD Researchers: Briefing note

The Provost began by expressing her disappointment at the blockading of the Book of Kells by members of the Trinity branch of the Postgraduate Workers' Organisation (PWO), who were demanding that postgraduate students are recognised as employees of the University, thereby affording them benefits such as maternity and sick leave pay. She stressed that the University is dependent on income from sources such as the Book of Kells, which brings in revenue to the University of approximately €10,000 per day. She reminded members that Trinity was the only university that pushed for the increased PhD stipend of €25,000 and the only university that ensured that PhD students received the Covid payment. She advised that provision of maternity leave is a revenue-related issue and not within the gift of the University to facilitate.

The Dean of Graduate Studies spoke to a briefing note summarising discussions at two recent meetings of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) on issues of concern for PhD researchers, particularly in relation to whether PhD researchers should have student or employee status. The discussions were informed by a number of publications, including (i) the first report from the *National Review of State Supports for PhD Researchers*, (ii) an IUA document *Universities Supporting Postgraduate Researchers*, (iii) a paper from the Postgraduate Workers' Organisation entitled *Workers in all but name* and (iv) a response from the PWO to the IUA document.

The Dean outlined that there was consensus in these documents and from the discussions at the Graduate Studies Committee on the common issues of concern relating to PhD researchers. The first relates to the stipend level and the Dean reported that while the new Trinity Research Doctorate Awards provide stipends of €25,000, as recommended by the National Review, not all awards are at this level and many students struggle on unacceptably low stipends. The second relates to entitlements around paid maternity leave and sick leave benefits. The Dean

reported that while universities have always facilitated leave periods for students through off-books mechanisms, students are then no longer entitled to the tax-free stipend as they must be on the University register to receive it. This is a problem across the sector, linked to Revenue regulations, that the IUA has been unable to resolve. The third issue relates to visa requirements for many international PhD students. In this regard, the cost associated with the requirement to renew a visa every year and the limitations on travel which can impact the ability of students to attend conferences abroad are the main issues of concern. It was hoped that these problems could have been addressed through the national review, but they remain unresolved.

The Dean reported a diversity of views during discussions at GSC, where the advantages and disadvantages of different scenarios were the primary focus. The student representatives on the Committee were supportive of moving towards employee status for PhD researchers as they felt that this would afford them entitlements to a minimum wage, maternity and sick leave pay, pension contributions and HR supports. Additionally, stipend-funded students must self-declare that they are not contributing a service to the University in order to retain their tax-free status. This can cause stress for students, who often generate publications with their supervisors and thereby contribute to the University's citation score. Additionally, the growing trend across Europe for employee status for PhD students may ultimately make Ireland a less attractive destination for research students. It was suggested that the increasing formalisation of PhD programmes implies that a shift towards an employee model is already happening, as students are required to submit reports to funding bodies and undergo progress reviews as part of this arrangement. Finally, students proposed that the current model favours more well-off students who have additional financial support or those who have the capacity to undertake paid external work.

The arguments in favour of retaining the student model included the fact that PhD students currently have autonomy to pursue their own research track, unlike Postdoctoral researchers who are contracted to conduct a specific piece of research; supervisors have a fundamentally different relationship with postdoctoral researchers than with PhD students, the former being more that of a manager and primarily output focussed; as only a proportion of PhD students are in receipt of stipends, a move to employee status risks creating a two-tier system; any change in status may have implications for the recruitment of non-EU students for whom the current system offers advantages in terms of visa access; the change in status would have financial implications for the University and funding bodies, possibly resulting in potentially less awards being available; and there is a cost implication to the sector if potentially up to 10,000 PhD students are made employees of the state, in terms of the pay purse and pension contributions.

The Dean reported that while there has been a move across Europe for employee status for PhD Researchers, there are dual status models that are also working well. These include models where students are externally funded or externally employed but registered as students. She stressed that importing a model from the EU, where the context and financial landscape are different, would present difficulties and she concluded by recommending that while discussions in this area are ongoing, the University should not postpone acting on things that are within its control. She reported that the Postgraduate renewal programme, currently underway, would greatly enhance the experience of PhD researchers.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies and invited comments from the meeting.

A postgraduate student member stated that he stood over the blockade of the Book of Kells, stressing that it was a last resort rather than a first-choice option as students felt that nothing had been done to-date to address the issue. He suggested that only well-off students have benefitted from the increased stipend and that less well-off students have seen no improvement as they can't have second jobs, can't continue to be paid when pregnant, and are not entitled to sick leave benefits. He concluded by stating that students felt that they had no other recourse than to blockade the Book of Kells, suggesting that the University is only

invested in the discussion now that there is something at stake and that it was only through the direct action of students that the issue has been raised on the Council agenda.

Mr. E. Gilroy left the meeting at this point.

The Provost responded by saying that it was not true to say that the PhD stipend had only been increased as a result of student protests. She stated that she considered the University and its students to be on the same side and that there was a need to work collectively to improve the PhD student experience. Referencing the extensive work that has been undertaken as part of the PG renewal project, she whole-heartedly rejected the suggestion that the issue was only being addressed as a result of the student blockade. A Council member, emphasising that there is empathy in the room for PhD students, noted that employment status has unexpected aspects to it such as probation reporting, which can be unpleasant and stressful. She suggested that in the absence of being able to offer paid maternity leave, Schools should look at other ways in which they can support students.

The Registrar pointed out that students can access money through the student hardship fund, which itself is funded through commercial ventures such as the Book of Kells. He reported that under Irish employment law, the position of students would worsen if they no longer had student status as it would be easier to dismiss them. He also noted that it would be more difficult to recruit international students as it would be difficult for them to get a work permit. He rejected out of hand the suggestion that the University was only addressing issues facing PhD students because the student protests had highlighted the issues, and he questioned whether the Postgraduate Workers' Organisation (PWO) was representative of PhD students.

A student member responded that the PWO was representative of the PhD cohort in Trinity and that PhD students should be given credit for getting the issue of supports for PhD students on the national agenda. He welcomed the increased PhD stipend and the Postgraduate renewal project, acknowledging that PhD students and the University have shared objectives in terms of the PhD student experience, but stated that it was the actions of PhD students that had brought this issue to the fore.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reiterated that even with government support, it would take time for any changes to be implemented. In the meantime, she would like to see open debate on the issues with contributions from a range of diverse student bodies. A student member raised the issue of the student-supervisor relationship, noting that it is already becoming more formalised, and stressed the need to protect the student voice in that relationship and to acknowledge students' contribution to scholarly output.

A member stated that the University has supported PhD students for several years, reporting that the School of Physics had first discussed the issue of funding for PhD students in 2018. He stressed the financial cost to Schools in raising the PhD stipend to €25,000 and noted that the provision of paid maternity leave for PhD students is a government issue and not within the gift of the University to provide. With the University under an unprecedented financial burden, he said that blocking access to the Book of Kells was not helping to alleviate that situation.

The Postgraduate Student Support Officer stated that while he had sympathy with the student perspective and the desire to move towards employee status for PhD researchers, issues such as non-engagement, progression, fitness to study, discipline etc. would be dealt with in a different, less compassionate way if students were employees than is currently the case, as students would be subject to employment law and therefore accountable to the University in a different way. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences welcomed the open discussion and the balanced presentation from the Dean of Graduate Studies. She reported that in the Netherlands, PhD research students are employed by their university for 35 hours a week and required to write their PhD in their spare time. This model is stressful for students and expensive for the university.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

The Provost thanked Council members for their input to the discussion, and acknowledged that it was a complex issue that would require further consideration and discussion.

Decision:

CL/23-24/162.1: Council noted the briefing note on the Status of PhD Researchers.

CL/23-24/163 Titling of Non-Major awards

The Academic Secretary introduced the item by stating that QQI has invited Higher Education Institutions to consider and provide feedback on a document entitled '*Proposed Convention on the Titling of Minor, Special Purpose and Supplemental Classes of Awards*,' which aims to bring consistency to the titling of non-major awards across the HE sector. She reported that the proposal invites institutions to consider (i) whether institutions agree to abide by a proposed titling convention for Minor, Special Purpose and Supplemental award classes as outlined in the proposal, (ii) whether institutions think that these non-major awards should be regulated by a formal NFQ determination and (iii) whether there should be a convention restricting the use of the term 'professional' in NFQ award stems to qualifications that are not recognised as preparing a person to practise a well-defined (but necessarily regulated) profession.

The Academic Secretary noted that the proposal had been discussed with the Registrar at USC and GSC in March 2024. There was agreement that (i) Trinity abide by the proposed titling convention and (ii) that the non-major awards should be regulated by convention rather than by formal NFQ determination, the exception to this being the level 7 Diplomas in (a) Dental Nursing and (b) Dental Hygiene, that carry 120 ECTS even though they don't lead to a major award in Trinity. With regard to the use of the term 'professional', the Academic Secretary reported that the internal consultation process had raised a number of concerns around the proposed definition, which was ambiguous and confusing. She noted, for example, that Trinity has 14 major awards that are classified as 'Professional', though only four have 'professional' in the stem of the award. She advised that further work would be required before a response to QQI on the use of 'Professional' in the stem of awards could be provided. The Academic Secretary concluded by recommending that Council approve the proposals outlined in questions 1 and 2, but that further discussion would be required before a response to question 3 could be provided.

Decision:

CL/23-24/163.1:

- (i) Council approved the proposed titling convention for Minor, Special Purpose and Supplemental Award classes.
- (ii) Council approved that the non-major awards should be regulation by convention rather than by formal NFQ determination.
- (iii) Council did not approve the convention restricting the use of the term 'professional' in NFQ award stems to qualifications that are not recognised as preparing a person to practise a well-defined (but necessarily regulated) profession and determined that further discussion on this was required before a response to QQI was provided.

CL/23-24/164 Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's Report

Given the time constraints, the VP/CAO stated that she would provide an update at the next meeting.

CL/23-24/165 Provost's Report

The Provost did not provide any update.

CL/23-24/166 Any Other Urgent Business

SECTION A.2:

Policy Matters which have already been considered by Committees

CL/23-24/167 Postgraduate Renewal Programme (Horizon 2): Proposed Framework for Postgraduate Taught Research Supervision.

Decision:

CL/23-24/167.1: Council approved the Proposed Framework for Postgraduate Taught Research Supervision as part of the Postgraduate Renewal Programme (Horizon 2).

CL/23-24/168 Postgraduate course proposals

(i) New Irish Language pathway in Professional Master in Education (Primary Teaching) validated programme.

(ii) New Master in Education Studies validated programme in Further Education (Online).

Decision:

CL/23-24/168.1: Council approved the new Irish Language pathway in Professional Master in Education (Primary Teaching) validated programme.

CL/23-24/168.2: Council approved the new Master in Education Studies validated programme in Further Education (Online).

CL/23-24/169 Admission requirements for the Bachelor in Music Education.

Decision:

CL/23-24/169.1: Council approved the admission requirements for the Bachelor in Music Education.

CL/23-24/170 Title change from Discipline of Germanic Studies to Discipline of German.

Decision:

CL/23-24/170.1: Council approved the title change from Discipline of Germanic Studies to Discipline of German.

CL/23-24/171 Revised Policy Management Framework

Decision:

CL/23-24/171.1: Council approved the Revised Policy Management Framework

**SECTION B – Reports
from Committees**

CL/23-24/172 Graduate Studies Committee

Decision:

CL/23-24/172.1: Council noted and approved the draft minutes of the meeting of the 21 March 2024.

CL/23-24/173 Research Committee

Decision:

CL/23-24/173.1: Council noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of 13 February 2024.

CL/23-24/174 Undergraduate Studies Committee

Decision:

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

CL/23-24/174.1: Council noted and approved the draft minutes of the meeting of the 26 March 2024.

SECTION C

CL/23-24/175 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 10 April 2024.

M.D. Elzahra Ibrahim Mohamed.

Ph.D. Hannah Joanne Baker; Cordula Doris Bieri; Philip Cooney; Michelangelo Domina; Amrita Dwivedi; Olivia Anne Frehill; Sarah-Marie Feighan; Nina Georgoulea; Richard Hogan; Siobhan McQuaid; Marjorie Metzger; Thomas Julius Pahlen; Conor Parle; Wei Ren; Sukid Rueangruea; John Ryan-Purcell; Aaron Sinnott; Dermot Louis Walsh; Xining Wang; Aoife E-Wah Yeow; Abel Abdul Zandamela; Shelby Beth Zimmerman.

M.Sc. Eoin Silke; Marlene Marlene Tahedl.

CL/23-24/176 Heads of School

The Council noted that Board had approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Justin MacGregor as Head of School of Creative Arts from 28 March 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2027.
- (ii) Professor David Kenny as Head of School of Law from 3 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2027.

CL/23-24/177 Heads of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Constantine Boussalis as Head of Discipline of Political Science, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2027.
- (ii) Professor Samson Shatashvili as Head of Discipline of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, School of Mathematics, from 1 May 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2027.
- (iii) Professor Katrin Wendland as Head of Discipline of Pure Mathematics, School of Mathematics, from 11 April 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2027.

CL/23-24/178 School Directors

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Norah Campbell as interim Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), Trinity Business School, from 19 March 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2024.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

- (ii) Professor Kathleen McTiernan as acting Director of Global Engagement, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.
- (iii) Professor Yvonne Lynch as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2026.

CL/23-24/179 Dates of Board and Council Meetings 2024/25

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from Secretary to the College/Director of Governance dated 2 April 2024.

SECTION D

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts, this information is restricted.

Signed

Date