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

XX = Item is of significance to USC

Marino Institute of Education
Associated College Degrees Committee

A meeting of the Marino Institute of Education, Associated College Degrees Committee (MIE ACDC) was held on 19 November 2024 at 10am in the Arts Building Conference Room (2026).

Draft minutes

Present:
Professor Neville Cox, Registrar (*Chair*)
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies
Professor Vinny Wade, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Professor Ann Devitt, Head of the School of Education
Professor Teresa O'Doherty, President of MIE
Dr Seán Delaney, MIE Registrar
Dr Joan Kiely, Undergraduate Programmes
Dr Gene Mehigan, Postgraduate Taught Programmes
Ms. Amanda Ryan, MIE Quality Officer
Dr Sandra Austin, MIE International Foundation Programme

Apologies:
Mr Conn McCluskey, School of Education Manager; Professor Michael Shevlin, Second Representative from the School of Education

In attendance:
Ms Shauna Cassidy, MIE Assistant Registrar; Dr Michael Cleary-Gaffney, Quality Office; Dr Elizabeth Donnellan, Academic Affairs; Ms Rima Fitzpatrick, Assistant Academic Secretary; Ms Ellen Kampinga, Academic Affairs; Mr Brendan White, MIE IFP Programme Manager (for item MIE/ACDC/23-24/023-024)

Welcome and Introductions
The Registrar welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted the following changes to the MIE ACDC membership for 2024/25:

Professor Vinny Wade - Senior Lecturer
Dr Ann Devitt - Head of the School of Education
Dr Cliodhna Martín - MIE Head of Dept of Global, Diversity, Sustainability and Intercultural Education
Ms Ellen Kampinga, Academic Affairs - Secretary to the ACDC

MIE/ACDC/24-25/001   Minutes of the meeting of 2 May 2024
The minutes if the meeting of the 2 May 2024 were approved with one minor change.

MIE/ACDC/24-25/002   Matters arising from the minutes of the 2 May 2024
- i.   MIE/ACDC/23-24/028.1: The changes to the entries to the Calendar Part II and III for 2024/25 were approved by USC, GSC and Council.
- ii. ii. MIE/ACDC/23-24/028.2: The suspension of the Master in Education Studies (Leadership in Christian Education) for 2024/25 was approved by GSC and Council.
- iii. iii. MIE/ACDC/23-24/029: MIE's Annual Dialogue Meeting with Trinity took place on the 6 June 2024.
- iv.

The standing update on the International Foundation Programme was taken at this point.

MIE/ACDC/24-25/003 Standing update on International Foundation Programme by Recruitment Manager Global Relations & MIE IFP Manager

The Registrar welcomed Mr Brendan White, MIE IFP Programme Manager, to the meeting to present his update on the International Foundation Programme and that of the IFP Recruitment Manager, Dr Nora Varga who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr White reported that supplemental examination was introduced for the first time for the 2023/24 cohort and that of the 17 students who sat the supplemental exam in June 2024, 10 students were successful as a result. One hundred and fifteen students registered in 2024/25, which fell slightly short of the target of 119. Mr White reported that the drop-off resulted from a number of withdrawals and deferral requests received in mid/end of August due to personal reasons or visa rejections. Twenty-three countries are represented this year and there are some notable differences with last year's intake. The number of students from a Chinese background has fallen from 55 to 41 and the number of Turkish students has increased from 8 to 16. Students from Syria, Nigeria and Peru failed to get visas at the last minute, which is disappointing. Visa issues have been discussed with the relevant offices and an arrangement has been put in place for Nigerian students which will allow them to apply before their final exam and get a conditional offer from Trinity.

The Dean of Graduate Studies asked whether the success of the supplemental exam in 2024 will ensure that it is retained going forward. Mr White reported that following a review of the IFP, it has been decided to retain the supplemental exam in the programme. The timing of the exam, however, needs to be earlier that that for the typical supplement exam, to allow for the outcome to be to be communicated to AR and for them to make a timely offer to students.

MIE/ACDC/24-25/004 External Examiners

The External Examiner reports for 2023/24 were circulated with the papers for the meeting and the MIE Registrar reported that analysis of the reports would follow at the February meeting, as was the normal process. From 2025/26, however, analysis of external examiner reports will be presented as part of a broader review of each programme which will include feedback from students and staff, and data about student performance as recommended by the institutional review team. The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that in some PGT programmes, over-assessment was highlighted as an issue whereas in others, the assessment balance was praised by the examiners and she queried whether there is scope for sharing of expertise across the programmes. The MIE Registrar reported that for accredited programmes, the mode and level of assessment is determined by the Teaching Council and that therefore there would be little scope for change in these cases. The examiner for the PDE (FE) noted that one student had considerably exceeded the word-count without penalty and the Dean asked whether this has been addressed by MIE. The MIE Registrar reported that the wording in the handbooks has been strengthened to clarify that there is a strict +/- 5% wordcount rule and that this has also been made clear in the assessment brief. The Dean of Graduate Studies asked whether consideration should be given to not accepting submissions that are well outside the allowed wordcount. The MIE Registrar said that the first step was to ensure that the regulation is included in all handbooks and that MIE is now open to discussing how this can be further addressed. The Head of the School of Education noted the examiner's recommendation to stop reading beyond the word count limit and Professor O' Doherty agreed that this recommendation was clear.

MIE/ACDC/24-25/005 Proposed Module Amendments

XX   The MIE Registrar reported on the following proposed updates to the assessment for BO8310 Sociology of Education and Sociolinguistics:

1. To reduce the wordcount on the essay to 2,000 words (as 70% of the overall module grade) and retain the task in the essay to 'construct a vignette of a child and addressing a minimum of one Sociological theory, discuss in detail how the teacher as an agent of change can positively influence the child's outcomes'.
2. To require students to upload four forum posts of 250 words each during the semester to the Discussion Board (total of 1000 words) for summative assessment at the end of the semester contributing to 30% of the overall grade.

No changes are suggested in relation to module learning outcomes. The suggested change is in relation to the BOid programme only.

Dr Kiely reported that the aim of the changes is to make the module more interactive and discursive, and to address the issue of students including text generated by AI in their assessments. The MIE Registrar reported that the changes had been approved by the MIE Academic Council.

> **Action/Decision**
> **MIE/ACDC/24-25/005.1:** The MIE ACDC approved the proposed updates to the assessment for BO8310 Sociology of Education and Sociolinguistics.

MIE/ACDC/24-25/006   Standing update on Quality Assurance of Linked Providers

The Quality Office administrator stated that the MIE Institutional Quality Review Report had been approved by Council and Board and sent to QQI for publication, and that the Implementation Plan was approved by Council in October. A revised MIE Attendance Policy and Procedure will be considered by Council on the 20 November and Dr Cleary-Gaffney welcomed the collaboration with MIE Quality Officer on workflow and planning. He reported that the TrustEd Ireland statutory quality mark (formerly the International Education Mark (IEM)) was launched in September. There are two windows to apply for the mark, the first of which is in March 2025.

In the discussion that followed, the Head of the School of Education queried whether the spreadsheet format prepared for the institutional review could be used to present the data for the new programme review. The MIE Quality Officer said that she would work with the Trinity Quality Office in this regard. She also reported that a very helpful a meeting with the Trinity Quality Office and with the Assistant Academic Secretary: Academic Affairs had taken place concerning the TrustEd application.

MIE/ACDC/24-25/007 Standing items on communication:
a.   Inter-institutional collaboration, including research

The MIE President reported that the TOBAR project, jointly run between MIE and TCD which is designed to provide support for members of the travelling community to access teacher training, is ongoing. A new module for upskilling in Irish is also in development. The Head of the School of Education reported that there are ongoing collaborative arrangements across research groups and that 3-4 colleagues are also looking at co-supervision arrangements.

The MIE President concluded by reporting that the Association for Teacher Training in Europe (ATTE) Annual Conference will be hosted by MIE from 26 to 29 August 2025, and she invited members from the School of Education to attend.

b. Policies and procedures relevant to MIE

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that a revised Recognition of Prior Learning Policy had been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee on the 17 October and was being considered by Council on the 20 November.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies spoke to a number of strategic initiatives:

i. Trinity's Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI was being considered by Council on the 20 November and a Gen AI hub, available on the Centre for Academic Practice website, has been developed to provide supports to academics in this area. The next stage will be the development of additional guidance and support for students, a large proportion of whom are already using Gen AI. The Senior Lecturer also spoke about Trinity's involvement in the 'GenAI for Teaching and Learning Course', developed by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in partnership with DCU and UL. This train-the-trainer course will be offered to all universities to help spread an understanding of Gen AI and provide support to academics. The President of MIE said that MIE would welcome the training.

ii. A proposed Learning Innovation and Research Hub was being considered by Council on the 20 November and will then be considered by Board. Innovation in teaching and learning is happening at local level but mainstreaming it is difficult. The Hub aims to provide support for academics to innovate and to give them access to the resources to do this. If approved by Council and Board, the Hub will be piloted for 2 years using staff from Academic Practice and IT training, and from Academic Affairs in relation to relevant policies.

iii. An initiative to mainstream universal design and inclusion (EDI) is underway, driven by the Centre for Equality and Diversity. The Centre has piloted a course on inclusive design and the aim is now to move this into Academic Practice and make resources available to train academics. An external evaluation will finish in December and from January to April the process for migrating the course more centrally will be considered.

iv. Work is progressing on mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the undergraduate curriculum and four ESD fellows have been appointed to work with the Centre for Academic Practice to develop resources for staff. A one-semester ESD module introduced in the Trinity Business School has been completed by 520 first year students and talks are underway with academics interested in launching modules in other degree courses.

v. A new Academic Integrity Policy and supporting Procedures were approved for implementation in 2024/25.

The MIE Registrar reported that MIE has been working on Gen AI and AI policies, and he asked whether Trinity distinguishes been student use of paid versus unpaid large language modules in terms of equality of access.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, noting that Chat GPT version 4.0 is a considerable step up from the free version (3.5), stressed that it is a student's choice which one to use but that the high cost is prohibitive for many students. He mentioned that with Microsoft 3.5, users get access to a web version of Co-Pilot, a general AI tool.

Trinity is looking to LERU and COIMBRA group universities for knowledge sharing in this area, and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted that the University of Upsala has taken the approach of having their own Gen AI open course trained on its own content for their students.

The MIE President expressed interest in getting access to training and resources for staff and Professor Wade undertook to liaise with the Head of Academic Practice in this regard.

MIE/ACDC/24-25/008   Any Other Business

The MIE Registrar asked whether the quality of the paper and the size of the Certificates for Professional Diplomas in Further Education could be improved. The Registrar said that he would discuss this with Academic Registry.

There was no other business, and the meeting closed.