



Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

Minutes of Board Meeting 17 June 2020

This meeting was conducted remotely using the Zoom application and was hosted in the Yeats Room.

- Present* Provost (Dr P J Prendergast), Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (Professor J Barkhoff), Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies (Professor K Mitchell), Registrar (Professor B Tangney), Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation (Professor V Campbell), Professor D Ahern, Professor S Alyn Stacey, Ms L Beston, Professor L Brennan, Professor A Burke, Mr K Byrne, Ms J Donoghue, Professor D Faas, Ms S Farrell, Dr D Fayne, Mr D Grouse, Ms A Leen, Ms N McCay, Professor K McTiernan, Professor R Moss, Professor B O'Connell, Professor E O'Halpin, Ms S Oye, Professor D R Phelan, Professor A Seery, Professor F Sheerin.
- Apologies* There were no apologies received.
- In attendance* Assistant Secretary to the College (Ms V Butler).
- (ex officio)* Secretary to the College (Mr J Coman), Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (Mr P Reynolds).
- (by invitation)* Chief Operating Officer (Ms G Ruane), Vice-President for Global Relations (Professor J Hussey).

SECTION A

BD/19-20/260 Statements of Interest

The Secretary to the College advised that he had received a statement of potential conflict of interest from Professor Sheerin in relation to item C.21 Headship of Schools. Having discussed the matter with Professor Sheerin, the Secretary to the College proposed, and it was agreed that Professor Sheerin would leave the meeting for discussion on this item.

BD/19-20/261 Declaration by New Member

The Registrar, Professor Brendan Tangney, made the Statutory Declaration as required by the 2010 Consolidated Statutes and the Provost welcomed him to the Board.

BD/19-20/262 Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting of 27 May 2020 subject to the following minor amendment to minute BD/19-20/235:

The last sentence of the third paragraph is to read 'The need for teaching arrangements for staff and students who are immunocompromised or have caring responsibilities to be carefully considered by Schools was acknowledged.'

BD/19-20/263 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The following items were raised under Matters Arising:

(i) BD/19-20/247 Web Policies

In response to comments from Board members in respect of the management of content on the University's website, and in particular in relation to who has the authority to authorise the removal of content, it was agreed that the Secretary to the College and the Director of Public Affairs and Communications may authorise the removal of any material from the Trinity website. As such, it was agreed that the wording in the Web Policies be amended to reflect this.

(ii) BD/19-20/235 Provost's Report

In response to a query from a Board member in respect of School budgets and the potential need for funding to allow the purchasing of appropriate equipment to assist with online teaching and working remotely, the Provost clarified that the Deputy Chief Financial Officer was examining potential funding options to assist Schools in responding to financial challenges arising from the Pandemic.

(iii) Audit Matters

Responding to comments from a Board member in respect of a Benefit in Kind item in the external audit reports, the Provost clarified that all appropriate information is contained in the audit reports presented to the Board and has been in place since 2011.

The Treasurer/Chief Financial advised Board that the Comptroller and Auditor General, when conducting the annual external audit of the University, does not view the matter as material enough to bring to the Board's attention when preparing its findings. The findings of the audit are then reviewed by the Finance Committee and presented to Board for approval.

BD/19-20/264 Provost's Report

As the Provost had provided a comprehensive report at the last meeting of the Board, no report was made at this meeting.

BD/19-20/265 Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus (TTEC) Early Activation Business Case

The Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Dr Diarmuid O'Brien; and the Director of Trinity Research and Innovation, Mr Leonard Hobbs, joined the meeting via Zoom for this item.

Mr Hobbs introduced the item with reference to a presentation which had been circulated in advance. He advised the Board that approval was sought of the early activation business case which would enable the project to progress to January 2021 and he summarised the rationale behind the proposal. Mr Hobbs outlined 4 scenarios for the progression of the project and concluded by recommending that Scenario 1 is pursued.

In response to a query and comments from a Board member in respect of funding and potential market changes, Dr O'Brien clarified the grants available to the University for the project and the potential negative impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on this and the whole TTEC project was acknowledged. The Provost clarified that an update on the TTEC project would be provided at the next Board meeting. Dr O'Brien agreed the overall TTEC project should be reassessed in light of the Pandemic but that analysis to date demonstrates that the impacts may not be overly negative and noted that the business case for the early activation project remains robust.

Responding to comments and queries from a Board member expressing some queries and reservations regarding the proposal, Mr Hobbs summarised the costs to be incurred by the project to end of Quarter 1 2021. The need to consider the proposal in a wider context including taking consideration of the possible reduction in student numbers in the University was acknowledged.

Responding to queries from a Board member in respect of staffing proposals, Mr Hobbs advised that the proposed roles had been fully costed and noted the importance of resourcing the project appropriately at this stage.

The Provost closed the item for discussion noting that further consideration is to be given to this item at the next meeting of the Board when the Board will have the opportunity to consider this proposal in the context of the whole TTEC project. Consideration is also to be given to the impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the project in respect of the demand for working spaces and a potential downturn in the property and commercial markets. A further analysis of the

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

robustness of the identified revenue streams is also to be developed.

He then thanked Dr O'Brien and Mr Hobbs who left the meeting at this point.

Action/Decision

265.01 The Board considered the memorandum from the Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer and the Director of Trinity Research and Innovation, dated 12 June 2020.

265.02. Further consideration is to be given to this item at the next meeting of the Board when the Board will have the opportunity to consider this proposal in the context of the whole TTEC project.

265.03 Consideration is also to be given to the impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the project in respect of the demand for working spaces and a potential downturn in the property and commercial markets. A further analysis of the robustness of the identified revenue streams is also to be developed.

BD/19-20/266 E3 Research Institute (E3RI) Vision Document

The Dean of Research, Professor Linda Doyle joined the meeting via Zoom for this item.

The Provost welcomed the Dean of Research to the meeting noting that this item did not require a decision but was for the information of Board members and that all input was welcomed. Professor Doyle, with reference to her presentation, dated 17 June 2020, provided Board members with an update on the proposed vision for the E3 Research Institute noting that there has been a variety of inputs from several people and through the use of workshops. She gave a summary of the value of E3RI to Trinity, Dublin and Ireland and provided an overview of some of the challenges facing the project. Professor Doyle concluded her presentation by outlining the next steps for the project which included the development of an appropriate governance framework and business model for operating costs. It was also noted that further information was contained in the document from the Dean of Research dated 16 June 2020, which had been circulated in advance.

The Provost opened the item for discussion and several Board members welcomed the project.

In response to queries from Board members in respect of funding for the proposed research, Professor Doyle advised the Board that much European research and funding is focused on environmental initiatives and looking at world challenges, which is in keeping with the vision for the project. She also emphasised the importance of effectively communicating the value of research to the Government and funding bodies.

Responding to a query from a Board member, Professor Doyle, noting that the vision is very much influenced and informed by the Environmental Humanities and Natural Sciences, welcomed the suggestion to further demonstrate this in the examples used in the document.

In response to comments from Board members, the potential challenges for inter-disciplinary research was acknowledged and the uncertain impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the use of buildings and spaces in the long term was noted. The potential contributions from colleagues in the Arts and Humanities was also acknowledged and Professor Doyle agreed to revisit the document so that these relationships are more easily visible for there are already collaborations with the School of Creative Arts and more with other disciplines envisaged. Professor Doyle also acknowledged the important role that Professional staff will have in the running of the E3RI building and it was noted that meetings to aid this discussion are to be put in place.

Following welcoming comments from a Board member, it was noted that this project would increase the potential for engagement with other universities around the world.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

Action/Decision

214.01 The Board considered and approved the document from the Dean of Research dated 16 June 2020.

The Dean of Research left the meeting at this point.

BD/19-20/267 Panel of Enquiry – Student Case

The Secretary to the College introduced this item emphasising the sensitive and confidential nature of the matter. He then invited the attention of Board members to a report from the Chairperson of a Panel of Enquiry dated 11 June 2020, which was tabled, and advised that the Panel had recently been convened to address a student disciplinary matter.

The Secretary to the College read out the relevant section of the 2010 Consolidated Statutes noting that the Board could (a) seek clarification of the report from the Panel, (b) adopt the report, or (c) refer it to the Visitors or to a new Panel for further consideration.

The Board, having assured itself that all appropriate procedures had been followed, accepted the report.

Action/Decision

267.01 The Board accepted the report from the Chairperson of the Panel of Enquiry dated 11 June 2020.

It was noted that one Board member did not have access to the document electronically and so did not participate in the discussion on this item.

BD/19-20/268 Appointment of the Provost: Recommendation Committee

The Secretary to the College advised that he had received a statement of potential conflict of interest from Mr Grouse and Professor Phelan in relation to this item. Having discussed the matter with Mr Grouse and Professor Phelan the Secretary to the College proposed, and it was agreed that Mr Grouse and Professor Phelan would leave the meeting for the discussion on this item.

Mr Grouse and Professor Phelan left the meeting for the discussion on this item.

The Board noted and approved the memorandum from the Provost dated 16 June 2020 and the membership of the Recommendation Committee as contained within.

BD/19-20/269 University Council

The Board noted and approved the draft Acta of the Council meeting of 3 June 2020.

A Board member raised a query in respect of the provision of accommodation to Scholars, and, in particular, to Dublin-based Scholars.

In response, the Provost advised that he had discussed the matter with the Head of Accommodation, the Warden, Trinity Hall and the Registrar of Chambers and that this was an exceptional measure as the University tries to deal with the implications of the Covid-19 Pandemic and that it is aimed at making as much accommodation available to those who need it as possible, particularly in light of social distancing requirements.

BD/19-20/270 Any Other Urgent Business**Rates of Pay for Teaching Assistants**

The President of the Graduate Students' Union raised this matter, seeking the support of the Board in ensuring that postgraduate students who are engaged as Teaching Assistants are

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

appropriately remunerated. The Provost noted that the Board had approved rates of pay for Teaching Assistants and that these rates are to be implemented across the Schools.

Following comments from a Board member, it was noted that some postgraduate students in receipt of certain scholarships can be required to teach a low number of hours as part of the criteria of their scholarship.

Action/Decision

270.01. The Board re-affirmed the existing policy and rates of pay for Teaching Assistants as had been previously approved.

SECTION B

BD/19-20/271 Board Business

i) Callover

The Board noted the callover updated to

- a. 22 April 2020;
- b. 27 May 2020.

ii) Outcomes

The Board noted the Board outcomes from the meetings of

- a. 22 April 2020;
- b. 27 May 2020.

BD/19-20/272 Coiste na Gaeilge

The Board noted and approved the draft Minutes of the meeting of 1 April 2020.

BD/19-20/273 Engagement Advisory Group

The Board noted and approved the draft Minutes of the Meetings of

- (i) 6 June 2019;
- (ii) 12 September 2019;
- (iii) 23 January 2020;
- (iv) 16 April 2020.

BD/19-20/274 Equality Committee

The Board noted and approved the draft Minutes of meeting of 9 April 2020.

In response to a query from a Board member in respect to an email hours protocol for the University, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised the Board that the Chair of the Equality Committee had written to him on the matter. He subsequently raised the matter with the Associate Vice-Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion who had confirmed that work on drafting a protocol was underway.

BD/19-20/275 Finance Committee

The Board noted and approved the draft Minutes of meeting of 6 May 2020.

BD/19-20/276 Human Resources Committee

The Board noted and approved the draft Minutes of the Meetings of

- (i) 6 February 2020;
- (ii) 9 March 2020.

BD/19-20/277 Library and Information Policy Committee

The Board noted and approved the draft Minutes of the Meeting of 30 March 2020.

BD/19-20/278 Quality Committee

The Board noted and approved the draft Minutes of the meeting of 2 April 2020, and the Appendix: Report of the Linked Provider Working Group (LPWG) on the Review of the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) Quality Assurance Procedures.

BD/19-20/279 College Safety Committee

The Board noted and approved the draft Minutes of the Meeting of 23 April 2020, and the Appendix: Terms of Reference

SECTION C**BD/19-20/280 Proctors' Lists for Spring Commencements**

The Board noted that an amended Proctors' List was approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 26 May 2020.

BD/19-20/281 Higher Degrees

The Board noted Higher Degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 3 June 2020.

BD/19-20/282 Headship of Schools

Professor Sheerin left the meeting for this item.

The Board noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Derek Nolan as Head of School of Biochemistry and Immunology for a three-year term commencing 1 July 2020;
- (ii) Professor Michael Lyons as Head of School of Chemistry for a second three-year term to end on 30 June 2023;
- (iii) Professor Fintan Sheerin as Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery for a three-year term to end on the last day of the academic year 2022/23;
- (iv) Professor Jonathan Coleman as Head of School of Physics for a three-year term commencing 1 July 2020.

BD/19-20/283 Prizes and Other Awards**(i) A. J. Leventhal Scholarship**

The Board noted and approved the Memorandum from the Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences dated 8 June 2020.

(ii) New Prize in Irish (Duais De hÍde)

The Board noted and approved the Memorandum from the Head of School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies dated 26 May 2020.

BD/19-20/284 Gold Medal Recommendation 2018

The Board noted and approved the Memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies dated 10 June 2020.

BD/19-20/285 Board Membership – Graduate Students' Union

The Board noted that Ms Gisèle Scanlon has been elected as President of the Graduate Students' Union for 2020/21 and will serve as a member of the Board in 2020/21.

BD/19-20/286 Board Attendance – Meeting of 24 June 2020

The Board noted and approved that the following may attend the Board meeting of 24 June 2020 as observers:

- (i) **Graduate Students' Union**

Ms Gisèle Scanlon, President 2020/21

(ii) Students' Union

Mr Eoin Hand, President 2020/21

Ms Leah Keogh, Welfare Officer 2020/21

Ms Megan O'Connor, Education Officer 2020/21.

SECTION D

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

Signed:

Date: