



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

Minutes of Statutory Board Meeting, 1 September 2021

This meeting was conducted remotely using the Zoom application and was hosted in the Provost's Office

<i>Present</i>	Provost (Dr L Doyle), Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies (Professor K Mitchell), Professor K Ahmad, Professor S Alyn Stacey, Professor L Brennan, Professor A Burke, Mr K Byrne, Professor D Faas, Ms B Genockey, Mr D Grouse, Ms L Keogh, Professor R McManus, Professor K McTiernan, Ms M O'Connor, Professor D R Phelan, Ms G Scanlon, Professor A Seery, Ms S Mueller-Owens, Professor F Sheerin.
<i>Apologies</i>	Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (Professor J Barkhoff), Registrar (Professor B Tangney), Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation (Professor V Campbell), Professor A Nolan, Professor J Walsh, Vice-President for Global Relations (Professor J Hussey).
<i>(ex officio)</i>	Secretary to the College (Mr J Coman), Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (Mr P Reynolds).
<i>(by invitation)</i>	Chief Operating Officer (Ms Orla Cunningham), Professor O Sheils (for BD/21-22/004)
<i>In attendance</i>	Assistant Secretary to the College (Ms V Butler)

The Provost, opening her first meeting in the role, welcomed the Board to the new academic year and stated that she was looking forward to a time when Board members will again be able to physically meet in person.

SECTION A

BD/21-22/001 Statement of Interest

The Secretary to the College advised that he had received a potential statement of interest from Professor Seery in respect of agenda item A.4 – Appointment of Annual Officers as he is being nominated as Senior Tutor. Having discussed the matter with Professor Seery, the Secretary to the College recommended, and it was agreed, that Professor Seery would leave the meeting for this item.

BD/21-22/002 Statutory Declaration

The Provost welcomed the student members of Board, Ms Genockey and Ms Mueller-Owens, who were attending their first meeting and invited them to make the Statutory Declaration as provided for in the 2010 Consolidated Statutes.

Professor Phelan joined the meeting at this point.

BD/21-22/003 Provost's Welcome and Opening remarks

The Provost welcomed everyone noting that she is honoured to be in the role. She advised Board members that she was looking forward to hearing everyone's contributions to items and to having many robust conversations in the year ahead.

The Provost also took the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the great work of the outgoing Annual Officers for whom it was the last meeting.

She acknowledged the work of the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Professor Jurgen Barkhoff, in what is one of the largest roles in the University. She thanked him for his good nature, good grace and professionalism and for all he has done for Trinity.

Acknowledging the work of the Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation, Professor Veronica Campbell, the Provost commended her professionalism, commitment, and outstanding ability to manage large and complex projects.

The Provost commended the work of the Registrar, Professor Brendan Tangney, particularly his management of the Provost's Appointment Process. She also thanked him for championing in-person graduations which had had a tremendous impact on the University and demonstrated Professor Tangney's care and dedication to his role.

The Provost also thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noting his superb contribution to undergraduate education in a very challenging time for staff and students. She commended his dedication, calmness and attention to detail throughout his term.

The Provost invited the new Student Board members to introduce themselves. Ms Genockey, SU Education Officer and Ms Mueller-Owens, SU Welfare & Equality introduced themselves to the other Board members outlining their academic background to date and noting their commitment to the board for the coming year.

BD/21-22/004 Nomination of Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer

The Provost advised the Board that she had invited her nominee for the position of Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Professor Orla Sheils, to join the Board meeting to give a brief presentation of her vision for the role and to give Board members the opportunity to discuss some of these issues with her.

Professor Sheils joined the meeting at this point.

The Provost welcomed Professor Sheils to the meeting and invited her to address the Board.

Professor Sheils thanked the Board members for their time and thanked the Provost for her nomination. She advised the Board that she would be honoured and privileged to be nominated for the role of Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer.

Professor Sheils invited Board members' attention to her presentation dated 1 September 2021, which had been circulated in advance, advising the Board that she was grateful for the opportunity to highlight some of the principles that would guide her in fulfilling the role, if appointed.

She provided the Board with an overview of her educational, teaching and research experience to date noting some of her key achievements. Professor Sheils also summarised some of the roles she has held in the University including, most recently the role of Dean of Health Sciences and also outlined some of her service to the University including serving on Council, the Finance Committee and numerous ethics committees.

She also noted her service to her Discipline, the College Community and nationally and in the EU during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Professor Sheils concluded by acknowledging that the role of Vice-Provost/Chief Academic officer is a complex post with much responsibility including the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and outlined her Vision and Priorities for the role as follows:

1. Safe return and open for business and meaningful experience to students
2. Streamline processes – how decisions are made and their implementation
3. Devolve more decision making to Heads of Schools. Promotions and career pathways for staff.
4. Trinity St James's Cancer Institute.
5. Postgraduate renewal Programme with the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Provost thanked Professor Sheils and opened the item for questions.

Responding to a query from a Board member, Professor Sheils noted the significant role the University has played in her academic career to date and advised that she is excited and well placed to serve the College.

Professor Sheils, responding to comments from a Board member, acknowledged the important role of professional staff and advised that she will actively engage with professional staff and with Human Resources to listen to and address the issues facing them. The Provost echoed these sentiments and noted the importance of ensuring inclusivity and collegiality across the University.

In response to comments from a Board member, Professor Sheils acknowledged the importance of ensuring a work-life balance for students and staff, particularly those with families and caring responsibilities. She advanced that several measures have already

been taken to design a flexible return to work and study which had received input from the Graduate Students' Union and the Students' Union.

Professor Sheils, in response to a query from a Board member, advised that she is aware of many of the issues facing staff across the university and feels well placed to address these and will continue to engage with staff and staff representative groups in this regard.

In response to comments from a Board member, Professor Sheils thanked the Board member for his support in respect of her nomination as Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and gave her commitment to reviewing and further developing postgraduate education in the University.

Professor Sheils, responding to comments from a Board member in respect of the importance of education in the University and the role of the Schools, advised that she will focus specifically on those issues that impact on the delivery of courses and will continue broad engagement with colleagues in the Schools and Faculties.

In response to comments from a Board member in relation to the academic promotions process, Professor Sheils advised that she intends to work closely with the Provost and Human Resources to ensure certainty in respect of the frequency of the process and to ensure there are appropriate levels of transparency and equity in the process.

Professor Sheils then withdrew from the meeting.

The Provost advised Board members that she was delighted to nominate Professor Sheils and recommended her nomination to the Board for consideration and approval.

Several Board members expressed their support for Professor Sheils to be appointed as Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer.

Action/Decision

004.01 The Board considered and approved the memorandum from the Provost dated 26 August 2021 and the nomination of Professor Orla Sheils as Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer.

(ii) Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

The Board noted and approved the nomination of Professor Brian O'Connell as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences until a Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences is appointed.

BD/21-22/005 Change in Title of Annual Officer

The Provost, with reference to her memorandum dated 31 August 2021, advised the Board that it is proposed to change the title of the Community Liaison Officer to more accurately reflect the remit of the office holder, and that this change will be with

immediate effect. The proposed change is from the title 'Community Liaison Officer' to the title of 'Associate Dean of Civic Engagement & Social Innovation'.

Action/Decision

005.01 The Board approved the memorandum from the Provost, dated 31 August 2021 and the title change as requested within.

Professor Seery left the meeting for this item.

BD/21-22/006 Annual Office

The Board approved the following nominations for Annual Officers for 2021-2022 with effect from the conclusion of the meeting:

Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer	Professor Orla Sheils, FTCD
Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation	Professor Eleanor Denny, FTCD
Registrar	Professor Neville Cox, FTCD
Vice-President for Global Relations	Professor Emma Stokes, FTCD
Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies	Professor David Shepherd, FTCD
Dean of Graduate Studies	Professor Martine Smith, FTCD
Dean of Research	Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, FTCD
Senior Proctor	Professor Jürgen Barkhoff, FTCD
Junior Proctor	Professor Michael Rowan, FTCD
Senior Dean	Professor Tomás Eoin O'Sullivan, FTCD
Junior Dean	Professor Philip Coleman, FTCD
Dean of Students	Professor Catherine McCabe
Senior Tutor	Professor Aidan Seery
Public Orator	Professor Anna Chahoud, FTCD
Associate Dean of Civic Engagement & Social Innovation	Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers
Registrar of Chambers	Professor Dónall Mac Dónaill, FTCD
Associate Dean of Research (HS)	Professor Maria Brenner
Associate Dean of Research (STEM)	Professor Brian Broderick, FTCD
Associate Dean of Research (AHSS)	Professor Immo Warntjes
Associate Dean of UG Science Education	Professor Áine Kelly, FTCD
Associate Dean of UG Common Architecture	Professor Graeme Murdock, FTCD
Dean of Development	Professor Gerard McHugh, FTCD
Associate Vice-Provost for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	Professor Lorraine Leeson, FTCD

Professor Seery re-joined the meeting at this point.

BD/21-22/007 Development of Biodiversity and Climate Action

The Provost invited Board's attention to a memorandum, dated 26 August 2021, which had been circulated outlining proposals to create the Officership of Vice-President for Biodiversity and Climate Action. This Officer will be empowered to develop and implement a plan of action for the College, building and expanding on the College's current Strategic Plan and will develop an Action Plan for the College to address climate-change and biodiversity matters. The Provost also advised that, if approved, she will bring forward a nomination to a future meeting.

In response to comments from a Board member in relation to embedding biodiversity and climate action in to the work of all members of the University, the Provost advised that as an initial step she would like to integrate this item into the Board work programme.

In response to comments from a Board member in relation to the lawns at Front Gate, the Provost advised that she would share the comments with the new Vice-President for Biodiversity and Climate Action.

A Board member extended her thanks to the Provost for the measured plans and approach returning to campus for the next academic term noting the challenges and difficulties which had been faced by many of the professional staff in keeping the services and buildings on campus running smoothly during the periods of national restrictions and lockdown.

In response, the Provost advised that the University’s plans are aligned with national plans and it is hoped that public health guidelines will have changed hugely in the coming months which will facilitate a greater level of in-person interactions.

A Board member, welcoming the establishment of the new Officership, advised the Board of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) taking place in Glasgow on 31 October 2021 noting that this could be a platform to complement the launch of the new role. In addition, it was noted that Ireland is chairing the UN Security Council for first time in twenty years where climate security will be promoted. The Provost thanked the Board member for the helpful and informed suggestions.

Action/Decision

006.01 The Board considered and approved the memorandum from the Provost dated 26 August 2021.

BD/21-22/007 Any Other Urgent Business

There were no other items of urgent business.

The Provost thanked the Board members for their time and brought the meeting to a close.

Signed:

Date: