

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 27 October 2010 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

- Present* Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr E O'Dell, Dr M Ó Siochrú, Dr Z Rodgers, Professor J Wickham, Professor G Watson, Dr D O'Donovan, Dr J P Labrador, Dr D Brennan, Professor M McCarron, Professor M Radomski, Mr S Gannon, Professor G Whyte, Ms J Fox, Ms M Collins, Mr R Bartlett, Ms Cameron-Coen
- Apologies* Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Dr A McNabola, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr H Mannan, Dr A O'Gara, Ms C Keating, Secretary to the Scholars (Mr B Roantree), Librarian, Head of Central Academic Administration Services.
- In attendance* Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Chief Operating Officer.
- By invitation* Professor J McGilp and Professor D Singleton (for CL/10-11/031 )  
Dr J Scattergood (for CL/10-11/032).

SECTION A

- CL/10-11/027 Statutory Declaration**  
A new member of Council made the Statutory Declaration.
- CL/10-11/028 Minutes of the meeting of the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010** were approved subject to corrections to CL/10-11/004 (iv) to state that the Provost requested a meeting with the government committee overseeing the Employment Control Framework, and to CL/10-11/005 to replace reference to the European Universities Association with the European Commission.
- CL/10-11/029 Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising.
- CL/10-11/030 PRTL Cycle 5 Update**  
The Provost invited the Dean of Research to up-date the Council on the PRTL (Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions) Cycle 5 outcome. The Dean of

Research informed the Council of the application cycle and timeline, noting details of the three strands of Infrastructure Programmes, Structured PhD Programmes, and Emergent Areas. Trinity College made a total of 21 bids across these strands, which amounted to a total value of €123,267,000 including capital and recurrent elements. The evaluation process included peer reviews by external panels, a strategic review by Irish agencies, PhD Programme panel meetings, ten PhD panel meetings in the Higher Education Authority (HEA), infrastructure site visits, and six site visits to Trinity on biosciences and national infrastructure programmes. The Provost received notification of Trinity's success in July 2010. A total of €296.1 million was allocated, and Trinity received €81.9 million (28%) of the entire budget. All budgets were significantly reduced: there was no budget for academic headcount or innovation academy costs to facilitate the delivery of PhD programmes, and the full cost of PhD fees were not met. The Dean noted the arrangements in place to manage the completion of the Biosciences building, which received the lion's share of the PRTL Cycle 5 funds.

Council noted and congratulated the Dean of Research and his team on Trinity's success in the PRTL Cycle 5.

#### **CL/10-11/031 Mid-Term Review of Academic Restructuring**

Recommendations from the mid-term review by external consultants dated June 2010, and a draft report from the Board Review Taskforce dated October 2010 were circulated with papers for the meeting. The Provost welcomed Professors Singleton and McGilp to the Council to present on this item. Professor Singleton took the Council through the draft recommendations of the Review Taskforce and provided background information on the consultation process with relevant stakeholders in the College. He noted that there is little appetite in College for further academic restructuring but there is recognition that some modification to the existing structures is necessary. Professor McGilp commented on the high risk of implementing the review report's recommendations in respect of schools and faculties, but stressed that the status quo cannot continue. It is necessary that the Heads of School have input into the decision making processes in College, and the Taskforce feels that a Heads of School Committee should be established with the remit of reviewing and recommending high level policy developments. The Planning Group works well but it needs to engage with the proposed Heads of School Committee on high level policy development. The Taskforce addressed, among other things, the role of the Bursar, the nature and membership composition of the Research Committee, and reform of the administration.

In the discussion that followed, Council noted concerns expressed about the recommendation in respect of the Health Sciences Faculty. Integration and not separation of schools within the Faculty of Health Sciences was important. It was felt that treating the Health Sciences Faculty differently may have profound repercussions for the academic activity of the College. Referring to the recommendation on administration, the Dean of Graduate Studies informed the Council that a working group of the Graduate Studies Committee was established to consider issues in respect of establishing Graduate Schools. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts Humanities, and Social Sciences invited the Taskforce to consider having joint Faculty Executive meetings at least once a term instead of establishing a separate Committee of Heads of School. The view was expressed that much of the frustration on the ground relates to the absence of information systems that enable schools to be more efficient and

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less dependent on the centre. Council heard from a member, who is a Head of School, that the majority of schools do not want any further mergers. One member expressed his disappointment that the documents before Council were labelled confidential, adding that the matter should be debated publically. In response to a comment that the review report was discredited, Professor Singleton commented that on the contrary, the Taskforce regards the mid-term review as having done a great service to College, with particular regard to its identification of an urgent need to attenuate the concentration of power at the centre of College, to give Schools a greater role in College governance, and generally to promote bottom-up participation in academic policy development and implementation. Professor McGilp added that given the rapidly deteriorating financial situation since the report was prepared, it would not be prudent to recommend the implementation of further major restructuring at this point in time.

Referring to the proposed recommendations on annual officers, the Provost commented that the Provost of the day must have discretion in agreeing portfolios of responsibilities for Officers that take into account the needs of the moment and the skills of individuals to ensure that there is a coherent team of officers with reasonable workloads. The Vice-Provost welcomed the report, which in his view was balanced. He further endorsed the recommendations in respect of the Senior Lecturer chairing the Undergraduate Studies Committee, and the Bursar being a member of the Planning Group. He added that it is important that the Vice-Provost is aware of undergraduate matters and that s/he may wish to attend the Undergraduate Studies Committee. He stressed the importance of minutes of the academic committees of Council going directly to Council for its consideration.

In conclusion, the Council noted the reports on restructuring and thanked the Review Taskforce for its considered and balanced approach to this important matter for the College. Professors Singleton and McGilp retired from the meeting.

#### CL/10-11/032 Academic Freedom Policy

Revised policy documents on academic freedom and research quality metrics dated October 2010 were circulated.

- (i) **Policy on Academic Freedom** The Vice-Provost introduced this policy noting that a draft policy was discussed at the Council meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2010. Council made a number of recommendations in respect of the principles regarding academic freedom that were subsequently addressed by the Working Group on Academic Freedom at a meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The policy was revised to address the specific concerns in respect of teaching and research. The Vice-Provost highlighted the changes to the general principles for Council's consideration.

Council welcomed the revised policy document on academic freedom. There was general discussion on the responsibilities and obligations that academic freedom demands of both staff and students. The Provost expressed the view that given public discourse, it is important to recognise that academic freedom is not determined solely by the university. The policy document would be enhanced by adding a preamble that recognises the role of civil society in determining academic freedom. Council discussed how the policy might be disseminated, and several views were expressed, including the view

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that the principles could be incorporated into schedules of the Statutes. Following consideration it was agreed that the policy should go to the College Board for discussion, and be disseminated in the same manner as all other policy documents approved by Council and Board.

Council approved the policy document on academic freedom.

The Vice-Provost thanked members of the Working Group on Academic Freedom, and in particular Dr. Jeffrey Kallen, for their input and effort.

(ii) **Research Quality Metrics**

The Vice-Provost introduced this item, informing the Council that the Working Group on Academic Freedom was asked to revise the Research Quality Metrics (RQMs) to ensure alignment with College's policy on academic freedom. Following a meeting of the Working Group and consultation with the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences' representatives on Council, revisions to Component 1 of the RQMs were agreed. The principal changes relate to revising upwards the time period for the authoring of a book from four to six years; the amassing of output types under criteria (B) to better reflect a more coherent picture of research diversity in College; the recognition of legitimate employment breaks, and the addition of an appeals mechanism.

Council welcomed the revisions, and following some discussion on co- and joint-authoring of a piece of work, it was agreed that authors should seek to publish in the way that best suits their discipline.

Council noted and approved the revised document on Research Quality Metrics.

**CL/10-11/033 Learning Outcomes**

A report from Dr. John Scattergood on behalf of the Bologna Desk and CAPSL (Centre for Academic Practice and Student Learning), dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010, was circulated. The Provost welcomed Dr Scattergood to the meeting to present the report. Dr Scattergood informed Council of the progress to-date towards the implementation of learning outcomes at programme and module levels. He noted how the process of developing learning outcomes is facilitated by the Bologna Desk and CAPSL. On the whole, progress in implementation the learning outcomes project is very good, approximately 90% of undergraduate and postgraduate programme learning outcomes have been completed, and 85% of module learning outcomes completed. He drew the Council's attention to the proposals in respect of managing the project in the coming years.

It is proposed:

- (i) to put final learning outcomes on a website so that they can be consulted by both teaching staff and students;
- (ii) that learning outcomes be put into the course handbooks of schools, but not into the Calendar;
- (iii) schools and departments should, at the time they think about Calendar changes, review and update where necessary their learning outcomes, particularly those at module level;

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- (iv) that external examiners should be drawn to the learning outcomes in their disciplines and they should be invited to make reference to them, where appropriate, in their report;
- (v) the current arrangements for managing the learning outcomes project remain in place for at least a further two-years.

Council in discussing these proposals queried when those courses that have not completed their learning outcomes would do so. Dr Scattergood stressed the importance of persuading rather than demanding course staff to complete this exercise as there are currently many demands on schools and departments. The Provost commented on the importance of achieving completion this academic year as the HEA has made it clear that institutions will be required for funding purposes to link student number returns to modules, ECTS, and learning outcomes. There was some discussion about ownership of the management of learning outcomes, and while it was generally accepted that they should be owned locally at school level, it was agreed that they should be managed for now by the centre of College. It was noted that the roll out of the new student administration system, GeneSIS, will greatly facilitate the maintenance of learning outcomes at local school level.

Dr Scattergood drew Council's attention to the possible implications for College of future initiatives in respect of life long learning and the need to recognise prior and experiential learning.

Council noted and approved the proposals contained in (i) to (v) above and further approved the Provost's recommendation that all courses should complete their learning outcomes at programme and module level this academic year. Council reaffirmed its commitment to full completion of the learning outcomes project.

The Provost, on behalf of the Council, thanked Dr Scattergood and all those involved in implementing the learning outcomes project. Dr Scattergood retired from the meeting.

**CL/10-11/034 Quality Review - Progress Report from the School of Dental Science**  
This item was deferred in the absence of the Dean of Health Sciences.

**CL/10-11/035 Regulations in respect of Degrees *post obitum intempestivum***  
A memorandum from the Registrar, dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010, was circulated. The Registrar introduced this item. The regulations attempt to achieve a balance between the integrity of our examination system and the wish to offer, by way of awarding a posthumous degree, recognition to the achievements of the deceased student, and to provide comfort to her/his next-of-kin. The regulations before the Council will allow the University to award, where appropriate, degrees *post obitum intempestivum* in line with the new provision in 2010 Statutes on posthumous degrees. He highlighted the different aspects of the regulations in respect of undergraduate, postgraduate taught, and research degrees. Referring in particular to research degrees, he drew attention to the provision for instances where a thesis for a doctorate has been submitted by the student, but the death of the student occurred prior to the viva being held. Referring to the section on procedural matters, the Registrar noted the need to modify these slightly to make provision to hold a private reception in

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instances where relatives may not wish to step forward to the Caput to receive the degree parchment from the Chancellor.

Council welcomed the regulations and congratulated the Registrar on his work. Referring to the sentence that states ' Degrees *post obitum intempestivum* shall not normally be awarded to students whose death occurred prior to the academic year 2006/07', it was pointed out that there was a need to consider a statute of limitation as this provision is too loose. It was agreed to remove 'normally' from this sentence.

Council noted and approved the Regulations in respect of Degrees *post obitum intempestivum*, which are appended in full to this minute.

**CL/10-11/036 Academic Appeals Committee**

The Council noted and approved the minutes of the meetings of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

**CL/10-11/037 Any Other Business**

The Vice-Provost declared his intention to contest the Provost election and to step aside from the exercise of the functions of the office of Vice-Provost. The Provost, on behalf of the Council, warmly thanked the Vice-Provost for his contribution to the work of Council and College. The Vice-Provost withdrew from the meeting. The Provost informed the Council that he would now proceed to seek a Pro-Vice-Provost.

## SECTION B

**CL/10-11/038 Graduate Studies Committee**

Draft minutes of the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> October were circulated. The Senior Lecturer referring to GS/10-11/009 noted that the concern expressed in respect of students going 'off-books' for financial reasons is also a concern in respect of undergraduate students, and she commented on the importance of addressing this matter.

**CL/10-11/039 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Undergraduate Studies Committee from its meeting of 12 October 2010, which had been circulated.

**CL/10-11/040 Research Committee**

The Council noted and approved the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Research Committee from its meetings of 8 June 2010 (revised) and 5 October 2010, which had been circulated.

## SECTION C

**CL/10-11/041 Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 29 September 2010 and noted by Board on 13 October 2010, as circulated.

**(i) Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

**MD** Mahwash Babar; Teck Wee Boo; Patrick John Peter Hayden; James Oliver Murphy.

**(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

**PhD** Pihla Tuulia Alava; Dorothee Almacija; Enda Bates; Paul Biggar; Coilín Boland; Jonah Brucker-Cohen; Nicole Jessica Burns; Adar Cohen; Gillian Cooke; Aidan Corcoran; James Grant Couper; Jean Louise Cushen; Enda Dempsey; Kerstin Diekmann; Gerard Jeremiah Dineen; Clare Finnegan; Stefano Gherardi; Christiane Hellmanzik; Anne Marie Horan; Thomas Lupton; Oscar MacAnaney; Lucie Mathieu; Johannah McCarthy; Louise Ann McGuigan; Kathleen Michelle Middleton; David Misstear; David Moloney; John Murray; Bláithín Nora Ní Ainín; Anthony Joseph Nolan; Zeldine Niamh O'Brien; Alexander Thomas-Paul O Connor; Suzanne O'Neill; Joseph Palmisano; Ioannis Polyzois; Barbara Procuranti; Conor Quinlan; Alan Brent Rabkin; Rafael Ramos; Trevor Redmond; Fiona Alexandra Sharp; Agnieszka Skrzypek; Cathy Louise Spillane; Patricia Verity Swan; Cheryl Sweeney; Natacha Vanattou-Saifoudine; Sebastian Wiesmaier; Yvonne Williams.

**MSc** Daniel Duff; Orla O'Connor; Ian O'Gorman; Siobhan O'Kelly; Sarang Shah; Ruth Ann Shields; Nithin Tharakan; Franziska Walter.

**MLitt** Helen Connolly; Roisín Farrelly; Ciaran Folan; Simon Mac Hale; Aonghus William Alum Mayes; Kelly Thompson.

**CL/10-11/042 School Directors**

The Council noted and approved the nomination of the following:

- (i) School of Biochemistry and Immunology - Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) 2009-2010: Dr C Gardiner;
- (ii) School of Histories and Humanities - Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) 2010-2012 - Dr P Cherry.

**CL/10-11/043 Foundation Scholarship - Derogation for BSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics Students (Joint DIT-TCD Degree)**

The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the School Administrator, School of Medicine, the Deputy Director, Joint DIT-TCD BSc Programme in Human Nutrition and Dietetics and the Head of School of Medicine, circulated, dated 14 July 2010.

**CL/10-11/044 Senior Promotions Committee - Membership**

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Dr P Coleman as a member of the above committee for the academic years 2010-2013, in place of Ms A FitzGibbon.

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....



## Appendix 1 to Actum CL/10-11/035

**Regulations governing the award of Degrees *post obitum intempestivum*.****Undergraduate Degrees:**

- Where a student has successfully completed the Junior Sophister Year and the death occurs during the Senior Sophister Year, an ordinary B.A. can be awarded.
- Where a Final Year student has sat all required examinations and has submitted the required coursework and assignments for a degree to satisfy the Examination regulations prior to his/her untimely death, and where the relevant Courts of Examiners have established an overall result on this basis, the relevant degree *post obitum intempestivum* can be awarded.

**Postgraduate Taught Degrees:**

- Where a student on a taught Postgraduate Masters programme has successfully completed all taught elements of the course and has prior to his/her untimely death fulfilled all the requirements for the course including the submission of a dissertation, and where the relevant Courts of Examiners have established an overall pass result on that basis, the Masters degree *post obitum intempestivum* for that course can be awarded.
- Where a student on a taught Postgraduate Masters programme has successfully completed all taught elements of the course and has prior to his/her untimely death fulfilled all the requirements for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma of that course, but has not submitted or has failed the required dissertation, the Postgraduate Diploma *post obitum intempestivum* for that course may be awarded.
- Where a student on a Postgraduate Diploma programme has successfully completed all taught elements of the course and has prior to his/her untimely death fulfilled all the requirements for the award of that Postgraduate Diploma, the Postgraduate Diploma *post obitum intempestivum* for that course may be awarded.

**Research Degrees:**

- Where a thesis for a doctorate has been submitted by the student, positive reports from the examiners have been received, a successful *viva* has been held and no major corrections are required, the relevant doctoral degree *post obitum intempestivum* can be awarded. In this case minor corrections can be undertaken by the supervisor with a note to that effect to be included on the first page of the thesis submitted to the library. Where the supervisor is unable to make such minor corrections, the note should state that certain minor revisions are outstanding.
- Where a thesis for a doctorate has been submitted by the student, reports from the Examiners have been received, a *viva* has been held, but major corrections are required, an M.Litt. or an M.Sc. *Indagatio post obitum intempestivum* can be awarded at the discretion of the examiners.
- Where a thesis for a doctorate has been submitted by the student, but the death of the student occurred prior to the *viva* being held, the appointed external and internal examiners shall provide their reports. If these reports are positive and require only minor corrections, a

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second external examiner can be appointed at the discretion of the Dean of Graduate Studies. That second external examiner should be made aware of the circumstances pertaining to this thesis and should be asked to present a further written report on it. If this report is positive, it shall take the place of the *viva* in the fulfilment of the requirements for the degree and a doctoral degree *post obitum intempestivum* can be awarded.

In this case minor corrections can be undertaken by the supervisor with a note to that effect to be included on the first page of the thesis submitted to the library.

- Where a thesis for an M.Litt. or an M.Sc.(Indagatio) has been submitted, positive reports have been received from the two examiners and no major corrections are required, an M.Litt. or an M.Sc.(Indagatio) *post obitum intempestivum* can be awarded.

In this case minor corrections can be undertaken by the supervisor with a note to that effect to be included on the first page of the thesis submitted to the library.

#### Procedural matters:

Degrees *post obitum intempestivum* shall be awarded at regular Commencement ceremonies before the award of *in absentia* degrees.

- After the Proctor presents the candidate, up to two next-of-kin will step forward to the Caput to receive the degree parchment from the Chancellor.
- The number of family members admitted as guests to the ceremony shall be flexible and family wishes in this respect should be accommodated as much as possible.
- The Senior Tutor shall normally be the liaison person for the College with the family in relation to the award, as she/he would normally have been in contact with the family at the time of the student's death.
- Where appropriate, the Senior Tutor shall arrange a small reception for the family and friends of the deceased student after the ceremony.
- Honorary degrees shall not be awarded posthumously.
- Once approved, the Latin formulae relating to Degrees *post obitum intempestivum* will be included in Schedule 2 'Procedures at Public Commencements' to the Chapter on the Senate in the 2010 Statutes.
- Degrees *post obitum intempestivum* shall not be awarded to students whose death occurred prior to the academic year 2006/2007.