

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 16 March 2011 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (in the chair), Registrar, Senior Lecturer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Acting-Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (Professor H Biehler), Dr E O'Dell, Dr M Ó Siochrú, Dr Z Rodgers, Professor J Wickham, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor G Watson, Dr D O'Donovan, Dr J P Labrador, Dr A McNabola, Dean of Health Sciences, Dr D Brennan, Professor M McCarron, Professor M Radomski, Dr H Mannan, Mr S Gannon, Dr A O'Gara, Professor G Whyte, Ms Cameron-Coen.
<i>Apologies</i>	Provost, Senior Tutor, Dean of Research, Ms J Fox, Ms M Collins, Mr R Bartlett, Ms C Keating, Ms E Hennessy, Ms L Quigley (GSU),
<i>In attendance</i>	Librarian, Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Chief Operating Officer, Head of Central Academic Administration Services.
Observers:	Secretary to the Scholars (Mr B Roantree).

SECTION A

CL/10-11/118 Minutes of the meeting of the February 16, 2011 were approved and signed.

CL/10-11/119 Matters Arising:

- (i) ***Student Case:***
Referring to Actum CL/10-11/112, the Senior Lecturer reaffirmed that for matters of confidentiality student cases presented to Council will identify the student by ID number and not student name, and that student cases will be included in Section D (personnel matters) of the Council agenda in the future.
- (ii) ***International Foundation Programme:***
Referring to Actum CL/10-11/088(ii), the Vice-Provost in response to a query noted that the contract with Study Group will be signed in the coming weeks.

CL/10-11/120 Internationalisation of Academic Titles

A covering memorandum dated 9th March, 2011 together with a proposal from the Working Party on the internationalisation of Academic Titles had been circulated. In introducing this item, the Vice-Provost advised that this Working Party had been established in October 2010 in response to the strong perception that the current academic nomenclature had fallen out of step with international standards, and its continued use was not only misunderstood, but harmful to the reputation of academic staff in College. He drew Council's attention to the rationale for changing existing academic titles used in Trinity. The Working Party held the view that a change to a more international standard would provide greater clarity of academic titles and roles externally, and would strengthen staff's ability to be competitive for external funding. The Working Party proposed that the current academic titles together with existing roles and responsibilities, and salary scales be mapped to broadly equivalent American nomenclature titles as follows:

Current title	Proposed New Title
Lecturer below the merit bar	Assistant Professor
Lecturer above the merit bar	Assistant Professor
Senior Lecturer	Associate Professor
Associate Professor	Professor
Professor	Senior Professor

It was noted that the proposal had been approved by the HR Committee, and had received support at a recent meeting of the Fellows.

Council broadly welcomed the initiative, recognising the need for use of comparable titles in the global marketplace, particularly in the competitive environment of securing international research funding. In the course of discussions, the following issues were raised:

- (i) The proposed title of Senior Professor was not favoured in general noting that it had different usage in other jurisdictions (e.g., reserved for retired professorial staff; used to denote honorary staff etc). Alternative suggestions would need to be cognisant of the *Statutes*, and in particular, the provision for Personal and Established Chairs.
- (ii) Many international research funds will only consider applications from full Professorial staff. The title Assistant Professor may undermine one's ability to secure research funding on the basis it may be perceived as a subordinate role to a Professor; it may also be interpreted erroneously as denoting staff not entitled to tenure.
- (iii) Consideration would to be given to the suitability of new titles to part-time academic staff.
- (iv) The proposal required broad consultation with the academic community.
- (v) While accepting the need to boost staff morale, it was felt that it was not appropriate to link the lack of promotional opportunities to new titles.
- (vi) Any agreed change would need to be carefully communicated and managed, with consideration being given to advancing the proposition at a national level through the IUA (Irish Universities Association).

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The Vice-Provost thanked Council for its comments, and agreed to seek wider consultation and feedback from the College's academic community, and to report back to Council at a later date.

CL/10-11/121 Graduate Studies - Course Proposals

(i) **M.Sc. in Business and Management**

A course proposal dated 8th March 2011 leading to the award of a Master in Science from the School of Business was circulated. The Dean of Graduate Studies spoke to this proposal noting that it is aimed at non-business graduates, and is in response to a market demand for such courses. In the current economic climate many non-business graduates are considering careers outside their original area of study, and the proposed course provides the foundation for a wide variety of careers in the public, private, and not-for-profit areas. Students will focus on the context of business and management as well as the fundamental functions found in business and other organisations, and will develop general and business-specific analytic and decision-making skills. The proposal had been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and Library Committee, and had also received a positive external review assessment from Professor Robin Wensley of Warwick Business School. It will be delivered full-time over a one-year period.

In considering the course proposal, it was noted that the award title of M.Sc. was proposed in order to distinguish it from existing masters programmes offered by the School strictly aimed at business graduates which lead to the award of M.Sc. (Management) or M.B.A. (Master in Business Administration). Council noted the Library's allocation of resources in facilitating the use of electronic course related materials across College.

In response to queries, the Dean explained that the courses delivered by the Innovation Academy had a different target group, and confirmed that a proposal is being developed to address existing restrictions that prevent students exiting with a postgraduate diploma from proceeding to the master's award within the same course.

Council noted and approved the course proposal leading to an award of M.Sc. with a postgraduate diploma exit option.

(ii) **M.Phil. in Digital Humanities and Culture**

A course proposal dated 8th March 2011 leading to the award of a Master in Philosophy from the School of English was circulated. The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced this item, noting that it was proposed to introduce an interdisciplinary course involving the humanities and computer science aimed at graduates in the arts and humanities disciplines. The course aims to provide an opportunity for students to engage in a new and dynamic area of research by providing them with the technologies, methodologies, and theories for digitally-mediated humanities. The initiative will build on the institutional strengths across College between the disciplines as well as between the humanities and the library in the creation, development and exploitation of digital resources. The proposal was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and Library Committee, and had also received a positive external review assessment from Dr. Warwick of University College London. It will be delivered full-time over a one-year period.

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Council welcomed the proposal, and noted that there were many opportunities to link with external agencies in the multi-media arena. The Dean in response to queries commented that engagement with external bodies is part of the course's on-going development. She undertook to draw to the attention of the Course Director the existence of relevant modules delivered by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. The Graduate Studies Office is currently developing an e-Book of graduate modules and this will be a valuable source for schools when developing or redesigning courses in the future.

Council noted and approved the course proposal, leading to an award of M.Phil. with a postgraduate diploma exit option.

(iii) **M.Phil. in Public History and Cultural Heritage**

A course proposal dated 8th March 2011 leading to a Master in Philosophy from the School of Histories and Humanities was circulated. The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced this item, noting that the proposed course will capitalise on Trinity's strengths in many of the interlocking fields touching on public history and cultural heritage, and it supports the wider College initiative, Creative Arts, Technology and Culture. The course aims to become a bridge between the academic disciplines of the university and the professional concerns of cultural agencies, private and public, and seeks to offer professionals and prospective professionals a rich historical grounding in what constitutes public history as well as a unique preparation for the management of cultural heritage. The course is offered on a one-year full-time or two-year part-time basis, to commence in the academic year 2011/12.

The proposal was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and Library Committee, and had also received a positive external review assessment from Dr. Caldwell of the National Museums Scotland.

Council in discussing this proposal noted that the Course Director will be a new staff appointment and expressed concern that a new member of staff would be burdened with a heavy administrative workload. The Registrar noted that Council had approved a policy that new lecturing staff on a contract of five years or more should have a reduced teaching load in their first year of employment to enable them to develop teaching materials and their research career (Actum CL/08-09/200).

Council recommended that the School make suitable arrangements to ensure that the Director of the Course is supported in this role.

Council noted and approved the course proposal, leading to an award of M.Phil. with a postgraduate diploma exit option subject to adequate arrangements being in place to support a new member of staff as course director.

CL/10-11/122 Validation of Course - BSc in Education Studies

A course proposal from the Marino Institute of Education seeking University of Dublin validation of an award of Bachelor in Science in Education Studies was circulated. The *Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings*

Registrar reminded Council of the new partnership arrangements between Trinity College and the Associated Colleges of Education, beginning in the academic year 2010/11. The Associated Colleges are now fully responsible for the delivery and administration of the B.Ed. programmes and the H.Dip. Primary. The University of Dublin continues to accredit these programmes, and the 'Associated Colleges Degree Committee' (ACDC), with representation from each of the Associated College and Trinity, is responsible for ensuring a system of quality assurance and enhancement across academic programmes delivered as part of the new agreement. It is also responsible for the accreditation of new postgraduate courses proposed by the Associated Colleges of Education. The course before Council has been approved by the ACDC.

The Senior Lecturer noted that the course proposal was approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee. The course is concerned with the development and application of knowledge and skills related to education, particularly in non-traditional education settings. The course combines three-years of academic study with one-year of practical application through a guided field experience and action research study that are tailored to meet each student's unique career aspirations. The proposal received a positive external review assessment from Dr Bell of Stranmillis University College, Queen's University, Belfast.

Dr. O'Gara, President of the Marino Institute, commented on the rationale for the course, noting that education and learning today are no longer confined to the classroom and school, but delivered across all sectors of society, in public and private settings. There has been a burgeoning of occupations in education-related fields, such as instructional materials development, software design, corporate training, customer service, and on-line learning. The course is different from the existing Bachelor in Education in that it does not confer graduates with eligibility to teach in the school system.

Dr. O'Gara, responding to a query, commented that Science education was not a pillar selected for this course, and noted the need to develop this at a later stage.

Following general discussion, Council recommended to the Senate the validation of the award of Bachelor in Science for the course in Education Studies.

CL/10-11/123 Any other urgent business

In response to a concern expressed by the Secretary to the Scholars, the College Secretary confirmed that no decision has been taken or approved to house postgraduate scholars in Trinity Hall in the future.

SECTION B

CL/10-11/124 Graduate Studies Committee

Draft minutes of the meeting of 3rd March, 2011 were circulated. The Dean of Graduate Studies drew Council's attention to Actum GS/10-11/039 and noted that the production of a TCD e-Book of postgraduate modules was underway.

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Council noted and approved the minutes of the Graduate Studies Committee meeting of the 3rd March, 2011.

CL/10-11/125 Human Resources Committee

Draft minutes of the meeting of 9th February 2011 were circulated. In response to a query in respect of HR/2010-11/25, the Vice-Provost confirmed that a retention policy for Professor and Associate Professor grades was already in place and the proposal is to extend this policy to permit promotion from the grade of Lecturer to that of Senior Lecturer. Following a discussion on the impact of the Employment Control Framework (ECF), it was agreed that the ECF should be an agenda item on a future meeting of Council.

CL/10-11/126 Research Committee

Draft minutes of the meeting of 1st March, 2011 circulated were noted and approved by Council.

SECTION C

CL/10-11/127 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 16 February 2011 and noted by Board on 2 March 2011, as circulated.

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

MD Eavan Gabrielle Muldoon.

DEd Aidan John Kenny.

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

PhD Gary Garfield Barrington Baugh; John Michael Breen; Amy Brogan; Linda Ann Buckley; Erin Marie Dyer; Bartosz Piotr Fabianowski; Ann Foley; Serena Fritsch; Alicia Claire Gauch; Maciej Antoni Gorecki; Pamela Ann Henry; Paraic Keane; Romana Kopeckova; Hilary Lennon; Tatyana Lysakova-Devine; David Mangan; Rachel McGrath; Deanne Nolan; Barbara C. A. Pels; Eileen Claire Relihan; Roman Romero Ortuno; Wu Kuang Soh; Stephanie Toetsch; Thomas Williams.

MSc Aislinn Amory; Giovanni Parick Borza; Jason Devoy Keegan; Donal Lynch; Babak Meshkat.

(iii) ***Post obitum intempestivum***

MSc Mary Corcoran.

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- CL/10-11/128 Graduate Studies - Business Requiring Approval of University Council**
The Council noted a memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, circulated, dated 7 March 2011 and approved an amendment to the MSc in Nursing to introduce a new strand from September 2011 entitled, 'Specialist Nursing'.
- CL/10-11/129 Admissions 2011 - CAO Statistics**
The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Admissions Officer, circulated, dated 8 March 2011.
- CL/10-11/130 Dean of Students Annual Report 2009-2010**
The Council noted the Annual Report of the Dean of Students for 2009-2010, as circulated.
- CL/10-11/131 Strategic Plan - Engagement with Society Group**
The Council noted minutes of the meeting of 14 December 2010, as circulated.
- CL/10-11/132 Head of Discipline - Botany (2011-2014)** The Council noted and approved the nomination of Dr D L Kelly.
- CL/10-11/133 Abridged entry and the award of the B.A. Degree**
The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Administrator, School of Engineering, circulated, dated 18 January 2011.
- CL/10-11/134 Consolidated List of Teaching Assistants and External Examiners (Supplementary)**
The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Senior Lecturer, circulated, dated 9 March 2011.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date

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