

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 24 October 2012 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

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| <i>Present</i> | Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Professor M Junker-Kenny, Professor D Faas, Professor J Walsh, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor G Watson, Professor J P Labrador, Professor A McNabola, Professor T Connor, Professor D Brennan, Professor J Nunn, Dr S Bloomfield, Ms D Jones, Dr A O’Gara, Professor A Piesse, Mr D Ferrick, Ms S Leydon, Mr E Tebay, Mr S Maguire, Mr A McEwan, Ms J Spillane. |
| <i>Apologies</i> | Professor E O’Dell, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor S Smith, Professor J Ohlmeyer, Academic Secretary. |
| <i>In attendance</i> | Librarian, Secretary to the College, Chief Operating Officer, Ms O Sheehan. |
| <i>Observers</i> | Ms M Dee (Graduate Students’ Union), Secretary to the Scholars (Mr T O’Connor). |

SECTION A

The Provost opened the meeting by welcoming the new College Secretary, Mr John Coman. As it was their first meeting of Council Mr Tebay, Ms Dee and Ms Spillane made the Statutory Declaration.

CL/12-13/023 Minutes

Minutes of the meetings of 26 September 2012 were approved and signed after the following amendments:

CL12/13/004 (page 2, line 10), The sentence, ‘A member of Council ...offered in Trinity.’ was replaced by, ‘A member of Council suggested that the additional 25 points awarded to honours Maths in the Leaving Cert was more significant than the number of course codes offered in Trinity.’

CL12/13/005 (page 4, last sentence) - delete ‘graduate education of teachers’ and insert ‘postgraduate education’.

Appendix 1 to Actum CL/12-13/020 page 10- amend the School affiliation of Professor Fletcher to Biochemistry and Immunology and Medicine.

CL/12-13/024 Matters Arising:

CL/12-13/005(i) The Assistant Academic Secretary reported that the majority of students have now registered online in SITS, the exception being those students who

sat special supplemental examinations or who received late offers from the CAO. The two issues highlighted at the last Council meeting - the allocation of tutors and availability of online timetables - have now been resolved. The Senior Tutor drew Council's attention to a delay in processing applications for fee remission. While this is not directly affected by implementation of SITS she believes that the delay in making decisions on individual cases has been caused by staff being diverted to work on SITS. The Senior Tutor considers it unacceptable that in week 5 of term students are unable to register and access resources such as the library and course/tutorial timetables.

CL/12-13/006 The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that Board had approved the proposal that the Royal Irish Academy of Music become an Associated College. An implementation plan is being developed and this new relationship will be formally launched in due course.

CL/12-13/007 The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that the Working Group on the Recommendations of the IRIU Review has had its first meeting and developed a work plan to be conducted in two phases. It will focus immediately on the recommendations to overhaul the student evaluation system, develop a Trinity Education strategy and examine the role and remit of the Quality Committee. Work on other recommendations will commence in the second phase of the work plan starting in January. Council will note from the minutes of the meeting of the Quality Committee of 4 October that it also discussed its role in implementing the recommendations.

CL/12-13/009 The College Secretary reported that work is continuing on production of the College Calendar which is expected to be available in a printed version in December. The College community has been kept informed of progress through an email sent out after the last Council meeting. Implementation of the harmonisation regulations has resulted in many course entries being longer than heretofore. Given the lateness of production of hard copy of the Calendar it has been decided to print fewer copies. The Provost suggested that it may be timely to examine whether there is a case to be made for moving from printing the Calendar in its present format towards online availability of course entries. Publication in this format would not merely be a pdf copy of the existing Calendar which can be difficult to navigate but would fully utilise technology to make the entries accessible and user-friendly.

CL/12-13/025 Provost's Report

- (i) The Provost informed Council of some developments arising from the HEA's 'Landscape' project to provide what it sees as consolidation in the third-level sector.
- A review of higher education provision in the creative arts and media in the Dublin region is being conducted by an international panel of reviewers. College has had an opportunity to comment on a background paper which has been provided to the reviewers and will meet them on 1 November.
 - The Minister for Education and Skills has accepted the recommendations of the Report on the Structure of Initial Teacher Education (CL/12-13/005(i), CL/12-13/018) which recommends that teacher education be provided in six national centres and that Trinity join with UCD, Marino Institute of Education and the National College of Art and Design to form one of these centres. The HEA has asked institutions to respond by 7 November on how they propose to implement the recommendations. The Provost will be consulting with the School of Education and the heads of the other institutions on how to

proceed. It will obviously only be possible to give a response in general terms given the HEA's unrealistic deadline.

- Individual institutional meetings with the HEA to discuss their 'Landscape' documents have been postponed from October until, probably, early in 2013. The Provost understands that the report of the reviewers will be published before the end of this year. One recommendation of the reviewers, that TCD and UCD should be amalgamated, has already received press coverage. The Minister for Education and Skills has confirmed that this is neither desirable nor in line with government policy. The College Secretary has confirmed that such a merger would require a change in the Universities Act.
- (ii) An amendment to the Universities Act, 1997 which would give the Minister for Education and Skills power of direction over universities has been brought to Cabinet. The amendment gives draconian powers to the Minister to compel universities to comply with industrial relations agreements, with government regulations on remuneration, allowances and staff numbers. The sector is working hard behind the scenes to resist such a measure as it would seriously erode institutional autonomy. If necessary this opposition may well become more public.
- (iii) The Provost informed Council that he has asked the Dean of Graduate Studies to convene a group to examine online provision of courses (not confined to postgraduate courses). It is important that College engage with the latest pedagogies on how we deliver learning. The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the first meeting of the group, made up of Council representatives, those with an interest in online education and external experts, is to be held shortly. Among the issues the group will consider are the resourcing of such new provision, support for staff to ensure that an excellent student experience of online learning can be guaranteed, developing curricula for blending learning. As part of the wider discussion about online delivery a symposium will be held in Hilary Term. The Dean of Graduate Studies looks forward to bringing a discussion paper on the academic issues to Council. The Dean of Students brought attention to an online course in DIT which aims to facilitate the transition from second to third level education and the Dean of Graduate Studies is already aware of an offering in the School of Education.

CL/12-13/026 Review of the Scholarship Examination

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies spoke to the report of the Scholarship Review Working Group, September 2012, circulated with the papers. Council is invited to consider and comment on the recommendations of the Working Group before they proceed to Board. The group was set up to address concerns raised about the rigour and consistency of the procedures used across College for identifying and recommending students for Scholarship and its membership included representatives from the Scholars, from the Students' Union, from the Central Scholarship Committee and from the academic community. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies recorded his thanks to Professor Ó Siochrú who had in the past been a Scholar and is now an examiner for Scholarship. The Working Group's first recommendation is that the definition of Scholarship be revised and expanded to reaffirm that it is an examination to select students of outstanding ability and that this definition be widely disseminated each year. It further recommends that each course of study must hold a court of examiners and thus provide an opportunity to review each candidate's full performance in the Scholarship examination. A number

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of recommendations (recommendations 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10) are suggested to safeguard the consistency of procedures and quality across courses. From discussion with existing Scholars there appears to be a misconception that Scholarship is not awarded on performance in the examination alone. It is hoped that the recommendations that anonymous marking and second marking be introduced go some way to addressing this. Since the timing of the Scholarship examination moved to January the number of Junior Sophister students taking, and achieving, Scholarship has increased from 3 in 2008 to 25 in 2012. Recommendation 11 of the report is that the Scholarship examination be limited to candidates in their Senior Freshman year and caused much discussion among Scholars. A vote by them on the proposal resulted in 99 cast in favour, 99 against. The recommendation had majority support of the working group recognising that the objective of the examination is to identify students who, at a level of evaluation appropriate to the Senior Freshman year, can consistently demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of their subjects.

Council noted the recommendations of the Review of the Scholarship Examination Working Group, 2012 before they proceed to Board.

CL/12-13/027 Proposed Feasibility Study in Undergraduate Admissions

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented to Council a feasibility study which explores better mechanisms to admit the student body, dated 15 October 2012. For over three decades there has been criticism of the points system and its effect on second-level education and the preparedness of second-level students for third-level education. Over the last year College has discussed methods of admitting undergraduate students - a discussion paper was circulated to Heads of School and Directors of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) in February 2012 and a conference held in Trinity Term 2012. The proposal now brought to Council is informed by that debate and by consultation with academic officers responsible for admissions in some American universities which have used a range of admission methods for some time. There is consensus among those consulted that admitting on one metric alone is poor practice. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies acknowledged the assistance of the HEA and the Department of Education and Skills in formulating the feasibility study. If approved by Council the study will run in partnership with the CAO and its results will be shared with other universities. The objective is to see whether it is possible to admit students who are enthusiastic and motivated, who have the potential to be academically excellent and who are a good match for their proposed course of study. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies emphasised that there is no connection between the feasibility study and the already very successful schemes in place to admit students from under-represented groups.

Three courses - Law, History and Ancient and Medieval History and Culture - have agreed to take part in the feasibility study for admission in 2013-14. A total of 25 places have been set aside for the study. When applying through the CAO to these courses applicants will be invited to opt into the study or to remain out. Those who choose to opt into the study will be asked to provide supplementary material including a short essay. Once the Leaving Cert results are available applicants will be judged on three criteria: their CAO points, their Relative Performance Rank (performance in the Leaving Cert compared to the rest of their class) and their supplementary material. The supplementary material will be assessed by two professionally trained readers. The process throughout is completely anonymous and

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will be overseen by a Final Review Committee with external membership including an external chair. The criteria for judging the success of the study, which will run for two years, will include whether there are sufficient resources available to roll it out, whether there was public trust in the new metrics, whether the three scales produced meaningful results. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reminded Council that if the Leaving Cert grading scale is reduced to eight points there would be a greater degree of random selection for undergraduate admissions. It is surely preferable that places be allocated on the basis of agreed admissions criteria rather than randomly. He concluded his comments by reminding Council that the failings of the points system have long been a matter of public debate and that it is entirely appropriate that universities develop admissions criteria which address these criticisms. By accepting this proposal Council will demonstrate leadership in an issue that is of national importance. In the discussion Council members made the following comments:

- In the US education system there is no standard quality of achievement comparable to the Leaving Cert so universities have had to develop their own admission criteria. Consequently their admissions offices are larger and better resourced.
- That there are dangers in using the US system, with its elitist private schools, as a model for the Irish system.
- That the additional criteria would disempower the second-level student as the direct link between the student and the examiners' judgement is altered.
- That other mechanisms, such as visiting days, could be used to judge a potential student's match with a course.
- Will it be possible to prevent faked or enhanced personal statements?
- That the production of personal statements will add pressure to applicants and that applicants disadvantaged by their social background may be further disadvantaged.

Representatives from the Students' Union supported the proposal with its transparent metrics as a step towards reforming the CAO points system which it considers inequitable. A representative from the Faculty of Health Sciences welcomed the feasibility study. The Faculty has long expressed concerns about the existing admission methods for its courses. Other members of Council supported the feasibility study noting:

- That the Leaving Cert judges performance in a once-off event and that performance is affected by family environment and social context.
- That it avoids the use of interviews which are problematic as a metric.
- That reform of the points system is inevitable and that this feasibility study provides a first step in that reform.
- That the feasibility study is a strategic response to improving a poor system.
- That the feasibility study allows us to judge applicants on those qualities we want them to achieve - creativity, writing skills and self-reflection.
- That the RPR will go some way to motivating students and providing context for a student's performance.

Council agreed that for 2013/2014 a total of 25 places on three courses will be allocated as outlined in the Proposed Feasibility Study, 15 October 2012. The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies for his skill and commitment in developing the proposal.

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CL/12-13/028 Quality - Review of School of Physics

The Provost's Report to Council on the Quality Review of the School of Physics was circulated with the papers. The Provost described the reviewers' report as very thorough and interesting. It recognises the excellence within the School but suggests that the School should consider expanding its curriculum beyond the traditional offerings. The Provost drew Council's attention, in particular, to his recommendation that it should have oversight of academic workload models and ensure implementation across College. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that following development of the principles of an academic workload model by the Dean of Research last year each Faculty is discussing appropriate models for implementation in their respective Schools in 2013/2014. Consideration will then be given to how Council may oversee the models and their implementation. In response to a point made by the Senior Tutor the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer agreed that the workload models may be one mechanism for recognising the contribution of tutors should it not be possible to continue the existing one.

The Faculty Dean also described the report as being very comprehensive. It commends the School on its remarkable progress since the last review in 2003. Its research activity has benefitted from SFI funding but the recently changed funding environment presents challenges to the School, and College, in retaining high-quality researchers. The School has increased its undergraduate course offerings and diversified from single honors Physics to offer separate entry courses in Nanoscience, Physics and Chemistry of Advanced Materials and Theoretical Physics. It finds it difficult to attract Leaving Certificate students into the single honors course, particularly female students who have not had the opportunity to take the subject at second-level. The School does run transition year programmes as part of its student recruitment and it will engage with the Institute of Physics Juno award programme as suggested by the reviewers to attract more female students. The Faculty Dean and the School acknowledge the need to maintain academic disciplinary balance in order to provide the full undergraduate curriculum. This is currently under pressure due to resource constraints and the focus of researchers in only some areas of Physics. The School looks forward to engaging with College on ensuring there is sufficient academic leadership within the School. The Faculty Dean will work with the School to bring forward an implementation plan of the reviewers' recommendations - bearing in mind that some of the recommendations require action at a higher level.

The Provost thanked the Faculty Dean for his report and asked if the School intended to act on recommendation 3.12 - that Theoretical Physics students should have the opportunity to undertake a substantial project, one of the core elements of a Trinity Education. The Faculty Dean replied that the course management committee had reconvened, under his Chair, and is taking steps to meet this recommendation.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate reported that in a recent meeting with the School he had been impressed with the School's level of engagement with the undergraduate curriculum and with the innovative modules it offers to students.

Council noted and approved the Report and Recommendations arising from the Quality Review of the School of Physics.

CL/12-13/029 Digital Legal Deposit

The Librarian introduced the memorandum Digital Legal Deposit, 17 October 2012. The Library benefits from legal deposit legislation in both Ireland and the United Kingdom to receive a copy of printed publications. The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 in the UK gives the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport the power to extend the legal deposit entitlement to non-print publications. UK law is more advanced in this respect than Irish law which does not yet cover digital deposit. However, the UK authorities have accepted that the Statutes have the necessary force of law. Hence, the proposal that a new section is added to the Chapter of the College Statutes (2010) which will ensure that the Library can have the benefit of the extension of the legal deposit entitlement to non-print publications. The ability to access UK non-print published material is important for scholars as the migration from print to electronic format accelerates. It is anticipated that within three years 40% of the books received by the Library will only be available in electronic format. On the Librarian's recommendation Council approved the proposed change to the Statutes and recommended their approval to Board.

CL/12-13/030 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

SECTION B**CL/12-13/031 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies brought Council through the draft minutes of the meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee of 2 October. Council has already discussed the Proposed Feasibility Study on Admissions and the Report of the Working Group on Scholarship. He apologised that the revised terms of reference and membership of the Undergraduate Studies Committee had not been included in these papers. They will come to the next meeting of Council. Council noted and approved the draft Minutes of the Undergraduate Studies Committee of 2 October 2012.

CL/12-13/032 Graduate Studies Committee

At its recent meeting the Graduate Studies Committee approved research supervision guidelines which have been disseminated to all academic staff and are available online. The Dean of Graduate Studies reminded Council that the HEA has indicated that core funding will only be allocated to students on structured PhD programmes and that Schools should ensure regular monitoring of progress and attendance at modules of all research students. Council noted and approved the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee on 4 October 2012 and conveyed its congratulations to Martin Fellenz and Eleanor Denny on being awarded external prizes for teaching.

CL/12-13/033 Quality Committee

The first meeting of the Quality Committee took place on 4 October 2012. The work plan for the Committee in 2012/2013 will concentrate on implementing the recommendations of the IRIU Review. Council noted and approved the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Quality Committee of 4 October 2012.

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CL/12/-13/034 Academic Appeals Committee

Minutes of the Academic Appeals Committee held on 7, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 September 2012 were circulated. The Senior Tutor reported that the number of cases heard was similar to that in Michaelmas Term 2011. At the meeting of 7 September an appellant had been represented by a legal team. The Calendar entry covering representation was redrafted to make clear that this level of representation is inappropriate for the Academic Appeals Committee when students should be represented by their tutor, the Senior Tutor, or by the Students' Union. Following this session the form for submitting appeals is being reviewed to ensure sufficient details of academic performance are submitted. Council noted and approved the Minutes of the Academic Appeals Committee as circulated.

SECTION C**CL/12-13/035 Membership of the University Council****(i) Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science - Head of School Representative**

The Council noted that Professor Gavin Davey (Biochemistry and Immunology) has been elected, to serve to the end of the academic year 2012-2013;

(ii) Graduate Students' Union 2012-2013

The Council noted that Ms J Spillane (Engineering, Mathematics and Science) has been nominated as a member of Council and Ms M Dee (Health Sciences) has been nominated as the Graduate Students' Union Observer on Council for the academic year 2012-2013.

CL/12-13/036 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 and noted by Board:

(i) 27 June 2012 - Higher Degree by Research Alone

DEd Brendan McMahon.

(ii) 26 September 2012**(a) Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone**

MD Vincent Opoku Israel Agyapong; Angela Carballado; Joanne Kitchen; Peter Eoin Lonergan.

(b) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

PhD John Patrick Ahern; Christina Aristidou; Sara Crider Arndt; Faye Carroll; Rory Casey; Andrea Cerone; Ehsan Chah; Naila Burney Chughtai; Declan Cockburn; Pauline Mary Cogan; Jill Connaughton; Colin James Coyle; Brian Cullen; Daren Gerald Drysdale; Orla Finucane; Aoife Flood; Bo Fu; Alan Michael Gaffney; Anna Kristina Galt; Joseph Govan; Luke Michael Healy; Yun Jang; Victoria Janssens; Tamara Jurca; Kelly Kane; Aideen Mary Keane; Justin Kinsella; Shishir Kumar; Eimear

Marian Lambe; Justin Leinaweaver; Danuta Lisiecka; Mauro Mantega; Gwendolyn Carolina Helena Masin; Lynda Marie McEvoy; Gayle McGlynn; Russell McLaughlin; Rohit Mishra; Susan Olivia Mitchell; Deirdre Aoife Moriarty; Catherina Mary Murphy; Samantha Murphy; Thomas Nagel; Sorcha Ní Dhubhghaill; Clare O'Farrell; Eoin O'Flynn; James Colman O'Sullivan; Katriona Marianne O'Sullivan; Anna Pertsova; Juan Severino Pino Ibanez; Joseph Roche; Brendan Roth; Jonathan Leonard Ruttle; Justyna Janina Salamońska; Jennifer Jean Christine Scholtz; Joshua Searle; Katie Sheehan; Donal Skelly; Ben Steichen; Carol Stone; James Sweeney; Theodore Talbot; Ellen Thorsch; Kathryn Marie Tobin; Sebastian Vencken.

MSc Lucy Alpine; Krzysztof Dymkowski; Helen Flynn; David Lawrence Hardy; Ronan Hodson; Dervla Kelly; Chloe Kinsella; Emma Louise Ladewig; Heather Rochford; Laetitia Esther West.

MLitt Henry Arthur Cunningham; Alan David Foy; Stephen James Hand; Bernard Kennedy; Maria Oleynik; Stephen Patten; Patricia Stafford.

DEd Thomas Dwyer; Michael O'Connor; Julie Uí Choistealbha.

CL/12-13/037 Loyola Professorship of Catholic Theology

The Provost noted the establishment of the Loyola Professorship of Catholic Theology. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer offered a correction to the memorandum (3 October 2012) circulated. The CITI is not a constituent element of the aspirant confederal School but rather is a partner with the Department of Religions and Theology and the ISE in the delivery of an M.Th. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the Loyola Professor of Catholic Theology will be a scholar with expertise in theology in the Catholic tradition. As for all other appointments in College there is no denominational requirement.

CL/12-13/038 Titles for Personal Chairs (see Actum CL/12-13/ of 26 September 2012)

The Council noted and approved memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, circulated, dated 16 October 2012.

CL/12-13/039 Committees

- (i) **Academic Appeals Committee for Graduate Students (Research)**
The Council noted and approved the nomination of Ms J O'Meara as the representative of the Graduate Students' Union on the above committee;
- (ii) **Equality Committee - Council Nominee**
The Council noted and approved the Registrar's nomination of Professor John Walsh as the Council nominee on the Equality Committee.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date