

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 23 October 2013 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (in the chair), Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor E O'Dell, Professor M Junker-Kenny, Professor D Faas, Professor J Walsh, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor G Watson, Professor G Davey, Professor R Dahyot, Professor I Donohue, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor D Brennan, Professor J Nunn, Professor A-M Healy, Dr S Bloomfield, Dr A O'Gara, Ms D Alexander, Mr J Leahy, Ms H Hughes, Mr I Mooney, Ms S G Smith, Mr N Slater.
<i>Apologies</i>	Provost, Professor S Smith, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Mr D McGlacken-Byrne.
<i>In attendance</i>	Acting Librarian, Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Chief Operating Officer, Ms S De Brunner.
<i>Observers</i>	Ms J Chaisson (GSU), Secretary to the Scholars (Ms A P Worrall).
<i>By invitation</i>	Associate Dean for Online Education for CL/13-14/028.

SECTION A

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda items. None were declared.

CL/13-14/025 Statutory Declaration

Those members attending Council for the first time made the statutory declaration.

CL/13-14/026 Minutes

Subject to replacing 'Provost' with 'Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer' in CL/13-14/002, the minutes of 24 September 2013 were approved and signed. The minutes of the meetings at 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. on 2 October 2013 were approved and signed.

CL/13-14/027 Matters Arising:

(i) CL/13-14/008 (i): In response to a request from a member, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer confirmed that there was no objection in principle to circulating the draft 'Mission-Based Performance Compact' document Council members, however, she noted that the document is still in draft format; the compact document will be finalised following the dialogue process with the Higher Education Authority (HEA). She reiterated that the content did not extend beyond the strategies and targets previously adopted by College through the strategic planning process. It was noted that the draft document had already been circulated to Heads of Schools and that Officers, when dealing with external bodies, do so on behalf of Board and Council. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer confirmed that the draft compact document would be circulated to Council members.

CL/13-14/028 Online Education - Update

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer welcomed the Associate Dean for Online Education to provide an update on Trinity's online education initiative. The Associate Dean for Online Education introduced the item by referring to the four recommendations approved by Council in March 2013 (CL/12-13/126) which concerned the creation of a new annual officer position to provide leadership and to progress the online education initiative; the development of new high quality courses for credit and for fees; the development of high quality open access courses (Massive Open Online Courses - MOOCs) as a public good and for marketing opportunities; and the development of an implementation plan which will consider all the issues required to deliver the initiative. Since taking up his position, these recommendations have been further refined to identify five key objectives for the pilot phase which are to:

- (i) institute a fully operational new Online Education Unit;
- (ii) establish two postgraduate courses, with associated accreditation and fees, for delivery during the period 2014 - 2015;
- (iii) establish online undergraduate education content, with associated accreditation and fees, which will focus initially on the development of two new Broad Curriculum modules;
- (iv) establish online public access education through the development and delivery of two MOOCs; and
- (v) produce a plan to embed and transition the pilot online education activities into the core activities of College.

Speaking to each of the objectives in turn, he informed the meeting that the Online Education Unit has been established along with appropriate governance and a dedicated budget. The project manager is in place, recruitment to other positions is underway, work has commenced in relation to aspects of project management and some enhancements to Blackboard have already been delivered. The next steps are to develop quality processes and procedures, convene the Online Education Advisory Group and consult both internally and with external consultants. He explained that expressions of interest would be sought, in the very near future, from schools in College that wish to develop online postgraduate taught courses. Given that key aims are to increase student numbers, generate fees, and to enhance teaching and learning as well as Trinity's profile, consideration would have to be given to the suitability of possible courses in terms of their quality and marketability. Appropriate approval routes for online courses must be identified and training put in place for teaching staff to deliver online education. At the undergraduate level he highlighted the progress made in collaborating with a consortium of US universities comprising Boston

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University, Brandeis University, University of Notre Dame, University of North Carolina, Northwestern University and Emory University by delivering online modules to students in these institutions for fees and for credit. It was noted that the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies is developing the first module for delivery to students in these partner institutions to commence in January 2014 and, following this, it is expected that Trinity students will be able to enrol on consortium modules within the structure of the Broad Curriculum from January 2015. In relation to the development of two MOOCs, the Associate Dean for Online Education informed Council that College has entered a contract with FutureLearn, a subsidiary of the Open University, which places Trinity in a consortium with a significant number of Russell Group universities. Turning his focus to the last key objective, he emphasised that a plan will be developed to ensure that these activities are mainstreamed after the initial two year pilot phase.

Following the screening of a short video piece of excerpts from 'Ireland in Rebellion 1798-1916', the online module being developed by the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, queries were raised in relation to assessment methods, the administration of assessment processes, and the possible effects on undergraduate curricular structures across College. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies acknowledged the contribution of colleagues to the production of the modules. He explained that a detailed proposal would be brought in due course to the Undergraduate Studies Committee and Council for approval in relation to the development and delivery of the online module and he briefly outlined the expected assessment types. The Associated Dean of Online Education observed that the administrative processes and integration of online modules would have to be worked through in detail. Responding to a question about blended learning he commented that in the longer term he would expect this to form part of College's teaching and learning strategy and to be supported by Academic Practice and eLearning (CAPSL).

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer thanked the Associate Dean for Online Education for reporting to Council and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies for the preparation of the video piece.

CL/13-14/029 Quality

The VP/CAO introduced this item and advised Council that as of this academic year, the Quality Committee receives quality assurance reports for consideration prior to Council discussion.

(i) Progress Report for the School of Biochemistry and Immunology

Professor Davey, Head of the School of Biochemistry and Immunology, spoke to the progress report, dated 1st October 2013, as circulated. He noted that the majority of the reviewers' recommendations have been met apart from those which are contingent on the availability of adequate space. He explained that this is a major issue for the School which is giving rise to health and safety concerns, is preventing expansion of existing and new areas of research and could ultimately jeopardise the School meeting its contractual obligations with research funding agencies.

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science supported this view and advised that he has undertaken to submit a full proposal to the Space Allocation Committee for the School. He noted that at present there is an audit of space being carried out and that this should lead to the development of an adequate policy on the allocation

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of space, in the long term. As to the immediate problem he expressed the view that it appears to be intractable at present. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Science commented that even if space were used as efficiently as possible in College, there would still be a shortage.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the Bursar is working on strategy for the allocation of space which will take into account the expansion of activities in College. She commented on the seriousness of the issue and asked the Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science to keep Council informed of progress.

(ii) **Reviewers' Report for the School of Engineering**

A memorandum, from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, dated 16 October 2013, was circulated along with the quality review report for the School of Engineering, and with responses from the former and current Heads of School and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science.

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science noted that it was a very positive review and that a number of the recommendations had already been met since the review visit in March 2013. The activities have included changes to the internal organisation in the School demonstrated by the establishment of four new School committees (Resources/Staffing, Undergraduate Curriculum, Postgraduate Curriculum and Research); development of academic plans for the new building to be delivered under the E3 (The Engineering, Energy and Environment Institute) Strategy; the identification of linkages between E3 and College's new Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy; and delivery of the fifth year of the integrated engineering courses. The Dean of Research, commenting on the E3 Strategy, stressed the importance of building critical mass under this initiative and advised that business plans for the partnering Schools of Engineering and Natural Science should be delivered by the end of this calendar year. The Senior Lecturer noted that it was a tribute to the School that students spoke so enthusiastically of their engineering studies.

The Senior Tutor requested clarification concerning the five-year integrated courses in relation to student fees, students' eligibility for grants, the status - undergraduate or postgraduate - of students in the fifth year and whether or not they require tutors.

Council noted the recommendations of the reviewers, the responses and updates from the Heads of School and the Faculty Dean, and the response from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer in relation to the College specific recommendations.

CL/13-14/030 Any Other Urgent Business

(i) It was noted by a member that the agenda for this meeting and the previous meeting of Council were very light. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer assured members this was due to a matter of timing and the fact that a number of initiatives, which would be future Board and Council items, were simultaneously drawing on the same College Officers.

(ii) The Senior Tutor voiced concerns over the difficulty faced by students, who had been through the Academic Appeals procedure, with registration for the current year which is affecting their access to services like Blackboard. She commented that this was not a criticism of individuals but that consideration should be given to

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resources and the transfer of knowledge from the GeneSIS project team to the various areas. She also commented on the length of time to process more complicated student cases. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer commented that there had been a review of the process related to student cases and that she hoped this would open the way for more streamlined processes. The Academic Secretary acknowledged that issues relating to the transfer of knowledge, increase in workloads, and capacity were causing strain on the system.

SECTION B

CL/13-14/031 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies summarised the main items from the recent meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee which included a work plan for the current academic year and the recruitment of students from Northern Ireland. He noted a correction to minute USC/13-14/007 (i) in that Trinity College would award credit for the module 'Ireland in Rebellion 1798-1916' which would be recognised by the student's home university. Council noted and approved the draft minutes of 1 October 2013.

CL/13-14/032 Graduate Studies Committee

The Dean of Graduate Studies brought Council through the main items of discussion at the Graduate Studies Committee which included the development of level descriptor for performance doctorates, a proposal for a course leading to a Masters in Pharmacy, assessment and progression of postgraduate courses in SITS and awareness raising amongst supervisors in relation to the structured Ph.D. Council noted and approved the draft minutes of 26 September 2013.

CL/13-14/033 International Committee

In response to a query in relation to the Working Group for Residential Accommodation, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the Dean of Students should provide an update at the next meeting of Council. The draft minutes of 16 May 2013 were noted and approved.

CL/13-14/034 Quality Committee

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies commented that the main items had been discussed earlier by Council under Section A of the agenda. He noted that the revised composition and procedures related to the Quality Committee were working well. Council noted and approved the draft minutes of 10 October 2013.

CL/13-14/035 Research Committee

The Dean of Research commented that the recent meeting of the Research Committee had welcomed the new Director of Trinity Research and Innovation, Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, formerly the Executive Director of CRANN. It also discussed the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy, the IUA Research Integrity Policy Statement, draft criteria in relation to research ethics, principles in relation to intellectual property and the HEA's Higher Education System Performance Framework 2014-16. It was

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noted that, where relevant, members of the committee should be accorded the designation of Professor rather than distinguishing between different categories of professors.

CL/13-14/036 Academic Appeals Committee

The Registrar provided a summary of the number of cases approved, partially approved and rejected. The Senior Tutor commented on the issue of timing which is especially tight following the supplemental examination period. She noted that the Academic Appeals Committee meets during the first week of teaching term which leads to additional stress on students and staff across College and commented that one way to address this is to start the supplemental examinations session earlier. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that this is a recurrent problem and it should be discussed at the appropriate forum; she asked the Registrar to draft a document for consideration. The Academic Appeals Committee minutes of the meetings from 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th September 2013 were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/13-14/037 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 2 October 2013, and noted by Board on 9 October 2013, as circulated.

(i) Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone

MD Feras Abu Saadeh; Emer Rutledge; Rizwan-Masood Sheikh.

(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

PhD Aine Abautret-Daly; Aref Arzan Zarin; Haitham Bashara; Brendan Behan; Daniel Bergin; Giovanni Bernardi; Frederic Biancotto; John Brady; Susan Claire Byrne; Phillipa Jane Cashin; Joanna Connolly; Andrew Corcoran; Lucie Corcoran; Kapildeb Dolui; David Daniel Downey; Suzanne Leigh Doyle; Arun Ambrose D'Souza; Billy Egan; Paul Ervine; Isabella Evangelisti; Eimear Fagan; Liam Fallon; Brendan Ffrench; Omosola Fifo; Breiffni Fitzgerald; Paula Flynn; John Gallagher; Carina Girvan; Michael Stephen Goldrick; Robert Grant; Christin Groba; April Hargreaves; Jonathan Hatch; Paul Anthony Higgins; Paul Anthony Hooi; Louise Mary Hopper; John Kane; Amelia Claire Kelly; Aoife Kelly; Celia Grace Kenny; David Kenny; Kevin Kerrigan; Hanni Kiiski; Dominika Krol; Dylan Lehrke; Tarek Lutz; Victoria Macarthur; Khac Tiep Mai; Niall Gerard Maloney; Fintan McGee; Kevin McGee; Sarah-Louise McManus; Aaron Joseph Meagher; Mark Monahan; Rabea Morrison; Maurice Martin Murphy; Lauren Myles; Fernando Narciandi; Cormac O'Brien; Robert O'Byrne; Declan O'Hanlon; Amy O'Mahoney; Shane O'Sullivan; Edyta Paszko; Alvaro Isidro Paul Diaz; Neil James Peirce; Emily Pickering; Cormac Quigley; Maria Quinlan; Eoin Pearse Quinn; Jennifer Michelle Ronan; Margaret

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Ryan; Paraic Ryan; Gary Daniel Stack; Magdalena Staniek; Ciaran Sutton; Colleen Thomas; Huseyin Tokuc; Emmet Patrick Tracy; Shu Wang; Franka Catharina Winter; Katarzyna Zeman-Wisniewska.

MLitt Lai Dai; Donal ffrench-O’Carroll; Mary Geraldine Killion Hogan.

MSc Luca Cappelletta; Simon Dolphin; Darren Mc Donnell; Louise Moore; Deepak Sarath; Tewson Seeoun; Nikki Shearer; Robin Joshua Tobin.

MCh John Keane.

DEd Martina Crehan; Michele Joann Dunleavy-Lavin; Kathy Lilian Helena Finnegan; Barry O’Leary.

CL/13-14/038 Acting Head of School - Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

The Council noted that the Board had approved the nomination of Professor A-M Healy as Acting Head of School, pending an election.

CL/13-14/039 Calendar - M.A.

The Council noted a memorandum from the Registrar to Board, circulated, dated 2 October 2013, which had been approved by the Board on 9 October 2013.

CL/13-14/040 Change of Title of Chair of Economics (1999)

The Council noted a memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, circulated, dated 14 October 2013 and approved the change of title to ‘Professorship of Applied Economics (2013)’.

CL/13-14/041 Examinations outside the Formal Annual and Supplemental Examination Sessions - 2013-14

The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Examinations and Timetables Officer, circulated, dated 16 October 2013

SECTION D

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts this information is restricted

Signed

Date

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