

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 12 February 2014 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Provost(in the chair), Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, 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 J Walsh, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor R Dahyot, Professor G Watson, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor A-M Healy, Professor J Nunn, Professor D Brennan, Professor S Smith, Dr S Bloomfield, Ms D Alexander, Dean of Students, Mr J Leahy, Mr I Mooney, Ms S G Smith.
<i>Apologies</i>	Professor D Faas, Professor G Davey, Professor I Donohue, Dr A O'Gara, Vice-President for Global Relations, Ms H Hughes, Mr D McGlacken-Byrne, Mr N Slater, Acting Librarian, Ms J Chaisson (GSU).
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Interim Chief Operating Officer, Ms S De Brunner.
<i>Observers</i>	Secretary to the Scholars (Ms A P Worrall).

SECTION A

The Provost requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda items. None was declared.

CL/13-14/093 Statutory Declaration

The Dean of Students made the statutory declaration.

CL/13-14/094 Minutes

Subject to the 'Centre for Literacy and Translation' being corrected to the 'Centre for Literary Translation' in Appendix 1 (to Actum CL/13-14/090), the minutes were approved and signed.

CL/13-14/095 Matters Arising:

- (i) CL/13-14/075: It was noted that the matter concerning the withdrawal of students who had not completed registration by 20th December 2013 had been resolved. It was commented that a number of these students could not afford

to pay the student contribution and were not deemed eligible for the state grant. Students and families in this situation often cannot avail of bank loans and it is likely that the issue will become more acute as the student charge increases. The Provost commented that in order for College to make representations to the Department of Education and Skills on this matter further details would be required. He invited the Senior Tutor to liaise with the Academic Secretary to compile data on the issue.

- (ii) CL/13-14/069: Professor O'Dell read a statement related to the Trinity Identity Initiative. Whilst disputing the view that it would not be appropriate to table a memorandum from the Standing Committee of the Fellows at Council, for reasons which he outlined, he expressed his appreciation to the Provost at the invitation to speak on this issue under Matters Arising and at the Provost's willingness to meet with the Standing Committee. He also expressed the hope that the memorandum in question would be circulated to the next meeting of the College Board. The Provost commented that it was unfortunate that the memorandum from the Standing Committee had been provided to a student newspaper prior to receiving it himself, to which Professor O'Dell responded that the student journalists were entitled to their sources and the memorandum was publically available.

Professor O'Dell reading further, outlined five main points from the Fellows' memorandum: (i) the initiative to achieve consistency, clarity and coherence is welcome but it would be better served by adopting a small number of coherent principles rather than just one; (ii) where 'Trinity College Dublin', 'TCD' and 'Trinity' already generate strong recognition these should continue to be used, especially if any change could have an impact of capturing bibliometric data; (iii) it is understood that reference to the university status is of great importance for global marketing purposes and that in this sphere, particularly in areas under the remit of the Vice-President for Global Relations, the name of 'Trinity College, the University of Dublin' could be used; (iv) the need for consistency in, and the modernisation of, the institution's visual identity was understood and; (v) the need to develop the identity of the University of Dublin was accepted.

The Provost noted that he was pleased that the Fellows agree with a number of the Identity Initiative objectives and thanked Professor O'Dell for conveying the view of the Fellows to Council.

CL/13-14/096 Provost's Report

The Provost reported briefly on a recent meeting with the Higher Education Authority (HEA) concerning College's Strategy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and an imminent Dublin/Leinster Regional Cluster (Pillar I) strategy meeting. He advised that he would provide a more extensive Provost's report at the next meeting of Council.

CL/13-14/097 Trinity College Dublin Strategic Plan 2014-2019: Update

A memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, dated 4 February 2014, was circulated.

Updating the meeting on progress to-date, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that the Strategic Planning Steering Group has been established. Its responsibilities include ensuring that the work streams reach their objectives within the agreed timeframe, that there is appropriate integration of the streams to ensure a coherent Plan, and that it will initiate consideration of the enabling strategy for the Strategic Plan. She noted that there are six groups working in parallel currently:

- (i) Vision, Mission and Values - chaired by the Provost, this group will help to re-write the vision, mission and value statements at a high level;
- (ii) Future Profiles of the University - a major piece of analytical working is being carried out by a number of administrative staff members across College and an international economic consultancy company, Indecon. This exercise will include an analysis of changing demographics, educational policy developments, projected skills requirements and economic forecasts and will be completed by 25 March 2014;

and four pillar working groups which will look at the strategic objectives under:

- (iii) Education - co-chaired by the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Graduate Studies;
- (iv) Research and Innovation - chaired by the Dean of Research;
- (v) Public Engagement - chaired by the Registrar;
- (vi) Student Life - chaired by the Dean of Students.

Each of the groups (iii) - (vi) comprises broad membership from academic staff, students and external stakeholders, and are tasked with producing reference documents to outline the direction College should take in each of these thematic areas. These reference documents are due to be completed by 21 March 2014, following which there will be widespread consultation through various College committees, an examination of where the themes intersect and overlap, and the prioritisation of strategic objectives.

In response to questions the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer commented that data related to demographics, economic variables etc would be made available as soon as possible, however, the pillar groups should be able to submit their reference documents and high level themes without this; this stage of the process is about the 'big ideas'. It was commented by a member that care should be taken around the exercise of identifying future skills requirements since these cannot be predicted, instead, College should strive to provide as broad an education as possible and to foster the development of intercultural competencies. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, in agreement, advised that the language and assumptions behind the rhetoric of future skills needs must be interrogated and explored. It was noted that this particular issue had been discussed by the Education pillar group, which recognised that there should be consultation with industry, however, Trinity must also set its own parameters for broad transformative education. Students must not be prepared only for their first type of employment, they must be equipped to adapt to future employment opportunities and to participate in lifelong learning.

In response to a query regarding membership and representation on the various groups, the Provost advised that such questions should be addressed to the Chair of each. He thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officers and the Officers for their work to-date on the strategic planning process.

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CL/13-14/098 Review of College Research Themes

A memorandum from the Dean of Research and the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, dated 31 January 2014, was circulated.

Introducing the item, the Dean of Research explained that as part of the strategic planning process, College must identify the areas of research that will be prioritised for the purposes of academic planning during the period 2014-19. Following a College-wide consultation process 21 potential research themes have emerged. It is proposed that these themes should be evaluated by an external panel of internationally renowned scholars using the criteria against which proposals for new Trinity Research Institutes are judged. The review should categorise each of the 21 areas for current and potential performance using the following scale:

- A. International reference point for research in the field - clearly a world leader.
- B. Internationally competitive in a majority of areas of its research - a significant player internationally in the field.
- C. Internationally competitive in only a minority of its research - major part of research of national importance.
- D. None or very little research of international significance - some research of national importance.
- E. Almost no research of national importance.

He noted that a small internal working group of senior researchers would be established, which he would chair, to oversee the external evaluation process. He suggested that the external panel might also consider if there is an overarching research question, perhaps a matter of global societal concern, that might drive a significant volume of research activity during 2014-19 and which could make a significant contribution globally.

During the discussion it was commented that an exercise like this might simply re-affirm areas of existing research strengths and that care must be taken to avoid impeding emerging research areas in which Trinity could excel. It was also commented that the establishment of an overarching research question might not be the best strategy since institutions tend to gain reputations in specific areas. It was suggested that consideration be given to promoting PhD programmes in the prioritised areas of research.

Council approved the proposal related to the review and prioritisation of College's research themes and it was noted that consideration should be given to establishing PhD studentships in the prioritised areas.

CL/13-14/099 Undergraduate Course Proposals

Memoranda, dated 4 February 2014, were circulated along with proposals for new courses in Acting and Theatre from the School of Drama, Film and Music, in association with the Lir, and in Orthodontic Therapy from the School of Dental Science. Before talking to each proposal separately the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted the use of a coversheet with key information about the courses and explained that the undergraduate course proposal template is being further developed and refined. He explained that the awards are pitched at the

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National Framework of Qualifications levels seven and eight, respectively, due to the entry requirements and learning outcomes, and also noted that neither course has competition within Ireland which should strengthen their marketing position.

(i) Diploma in Acting and Theatre

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted that the Lir receives a large number of applications to the Bachelor in Acting course each year from applicants who might have the requisite talent but who are not ready for the rigours of the degree course. The diploma course has been designed primarily to prepare students for entry to the Bachelor in Acting, however, it can also be taken as a course in its own right and does not guarantee automatic progression. Similar courses are offered at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). He noted that the proposal was reviewed by Ms Joanna Read, Principal of LAMDA, who provided a very positive report.

It was noted that the issue of fees had been raised during the discussion of the proposal at the Undergraduate Studies Committee; given the one-year duration of the course, students would not qualify for free fees or the grant. Following that discussion, the course proposal was amended to provide that staff in the Lir and in the Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) would work together to fundraise for bursaries for students from TAP schools gaining a place on this course. In response to a query, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies confirmed that these bursaries would not be limited only to students associated with TAP.

Council approved the proposal for a one-year full time course leading to a Diploma in Acting and Theatre (Level 7) to commence in September 2014.

(ii) Professional Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies spoke to the proposal for an undergraduate course in Orthodontic Therapy. He commented that this course has already been endorsed by the Dental Council of Ireland and is open to dental hygienists and dental nurses registered with the Dental Council. Students completing this course will be able to carry out certain orthodontic procedures under the direction of a registered orthodontist. He noted that this has been reviewed by Professor Robert Ireland of Warwick University who submitted a very detailed report that was positive on the whole; any concerns he highlighted have been addressed and changes have been incorporated into the proposal document.

In response to a query about the small quota, the Head of the School of Dental Science confirmed that this was due to current capacity for training in the School but she noted that the quota may be reviewed in subsequent years depending on demand for the course. It was confirmed that students would be allocated a College tutor but, given the nature and delivery of the course, the tutor would come from within the School of Dental Science.

In response to a question related to the admissions criteria, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies confirmed that students must be registered dental nurses or hygienists in Ireland, meaning that the majority will have a diploma (level 7) in one of these disciplines.

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Council approved the proposal for a one-year course leading to a Professional Diploma in Orthodontic Therapy (level 8) to commence in August/September 2014.

CL/13-14/100 Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) 2014

Speaking to his memorandum, dated 4 February 2014, the Dean of Students updated Council on the national roll-out of the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) during the period February to March 2014, with the questionnaire open to Trinity students from 17 February to 7 March. He noted that the survey in 2014 will only measure engagement with student services and does not capture the broader student experience. There is increasing pressure from the HEA to publish individual institutional data especially where the response rate reaches 25%. This is being challenged through the Irish Universities Association for the following reasons:

- (i) the data set is statistically small;
- (ii) the context for the publication of such information cannot be controlled and could lead to the initiation of 'league' tables based on a narrow area; and
- (iii) to resist the increasing trend of basing educational policy on surveys and opinion polls, especially given the narrow focus of this survey.

It was queried if the survey could be improved to expand its scope and capture more meaningful information. The Dean of Students responded that there will be an opportunity to include institutional specific questions in the future.

It was commented that a response rate of 25% would not be representative of the student body and, therefore, would not be statistically sound. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the HEA considers this to be a successful response rate and is likely to publish results at this level. The Dean of Graduate Studies commented that some institutions will never achieve a response rate of 25% and, therefore, it should be argued strongly that institutions which do reach this target should not be singled out for publication. It was noted that if results are published it should be on a national basis.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Students for the update on the ISSE.

CL/13-14/101 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

SECTION B

CL/13-14/102 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer highlighted the discussion of the course proposals in Acting and Theatre and Orthodontic Therapy and the amendment to the harmonised regulation on capping. The draft minutes of 21 January 2014 were noted and approved.

CL/13-14/103 Graduate Studies Committee

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted the consideration of two course proposals which are currently out for external review, the formation of a working group on plagiarism and the formation of a working group to examine the grounds for appeal for research theses. Council noted and approved the draft minutes of 23 January 2014.

CL/13-14/104 Research Committee

The Dean of Research drew the attention of Council to the discussion on the review of research themes and the Research Ethics Committee update. The draft minutes of 21 January 2014 were noted and approved.

CL/13-14/105 Academic Appeals Committee for Graduate Students (Taught)

Council noted and approved the minutes of 7 January 2014.

SECTION C

CL/13-14/106 Council Membership - Co-opted Member (see Actum CL/13-14/082 of 15 January 2014) The Council confirmed the nomination by the Provost of Professor K U O'Kelly (Dean of Students from 1 February 2014) as a co-opted member of Council pursuant to the terms of 4 (1) (g) of the Chapter on Council in the 2010 Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and of the University of Dublin.

CL/13-14/107 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 15 January 2014 and noted by Board on 29 January 2014:

(i) Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone

MD Bassel Al-Alao; Neuman John Correia.

(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

PhD Sandip Bhattacharya; Stephen Kevin Britton; Cosetta Michela Cadau; Adrian Coogan; Helen Doherty; Eva Flahavan; Emtithal Hashem; Simon Heilbronner; Caroline Ailish Mc Evoy; Stephany Micallef; Graham John Moir; Maria Nestor; Ewa Oleszycka; Evelyn O'Shea; Marcin Penk; Carolina Plescia; Alan Frederick William Power; Francis Rynne; Corina Sheerin; Maja Anna Stanislawski; Louise Sullivan; Stevin Tobin; Ying Yun Wang; Ewa Wilcz Villega; Ciara Wynne.

MLitt Maryam Hosseinkhah Foumani; Zoe Georgina Hughes; Matthew David Schwoebel.

- MSc** Fiona Maleady Crowe; Som Pong Pichan; Barry Redmond; Niamh Smyth.
- MAI** Raymond Reilly.

CL/13-14/108 School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics - Change of Name

The Council noted a memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, circulated, dated 27 January 2014, and approve the change of the name of the School to:

The Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology

CL/13-14/109 Head of School

The Council noted that the Board had approved the nomination of Professor P Browne as Head of School of Medicine for three years from 20 January 2014.

CL/13-14/110 Consolidated List of Teaching Assistants and Assistant Examiners including Demonstrators for 2013/14

The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, circulated, dated 3 February 2014.

SECTION D

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts this information is restricted

Signed

Date