**The University of Dublin**

**Trinity College**

**A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 10.00 am in the Board Room.**

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

**SECTION A**

The Provost welcomed the College Librarian and Archivist to her first meeting of Council. He requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda items. None was declared.

**CL/13-14/186   Statutory Declaration**
> The Librarian made a statutory declaration.

**CL/13-14/187   Minutes**
> The minutes of 14 May 2014 were approved and signed.

**CL/13-14/188   Matters Arising**:
> (i)     **CL/13-14/168:**  The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that discussions had taken place with staff in University College Dublin (UCD) regarding the appeals process to be outlined in the TCD/UCD Framework for Collaborative Taught Programmes.  She noted that both institutions support the suggestion that the higher-level appeals mechanisms of the administrative hub for the course should be used in cases where an appeal is made beyond the course committee. Legal advice is being sought on the matter and, as a result, the framework document would be brought back to Council for approval at the first meeting of the new academic year.

**CL/13-14/189    Provost's Report**

(i)  **External Matters**

(a)  The Provost noted that the Higher Education Authority's (HEA) first annual report on Higher Education System Performance to the Minister for Education and Skills would publish later that day.

(b)  The Provost reported that the Regional Cluster Steering Council for the Dublin/Leinster Pillar 1, of which he is a member along with the presidents of UCD, National College of Art and Design (NCAD), Marino Institute of Education (MIE) and Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT), had met.  He noted that significant progress had been achieved in relation to initial teacher education.  Providing an update on this progress, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the management structure has been established with membership of the management committee comprising the Heads of Schools of Education (or equivalent) from each of the four participating institutions (TCD, UCD, MIE and NCAD). The management committee, which reports to the Cluster Steering Council, sits at a level below the School Executive (or institutional equivalent) and is currently chaired by the Head of the School of Education at Trinity, Professor Carmel O'Sullivan.  The Committee has met and prioritised activities for 2014/15 which include the development of an innovative Professional Master in Education (which will require the support of the Teaching Council), development of a continuing professional development stream and a research strategy; attention will also be given to the name of the virtual institute.  Some financial aspects must be finalised.  She noted that the launch of the institute is likely to take place in September 2014.  Adding to the update, Dr Anne O'Gara, President of MIE, spoke favourably about the development of an innovative Professional Master in Education which would span teacher training for the upper years of primary school education and the earlier years of second level education.  Given the current focus in each institution, MIE at primary level, UCD and TCD at second level and the NCAD in art education, this course will drive greater levels of collaboration.

(c)  The Provost informed Council of developments related to the establishment of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group, which is part of the Minister for Health's programme to re-organise Ireland's public hospital into six groups.  The Dublin Midlands Hospital Group will comprise St James's Hospital; Tallaght Hospital; Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore; Naas General Hospital; Midlands Regional Hospital Portlaoise; the Coombe Women and Infants Hospital; and Trinity College Dublin as an academic partner.  Dr Frank Dolphin was appointed Chairperson of the Group by the Minister for Health after consultation with the Provost.  The Provost noted that other members of the board have yet to be appointed and that legislation must be enacted if fiduciary responsibilities are to be transferred to a new board.  He noted that Trinity Health Ireland (THI), with hospital partners Tallaght Hospital, St. James's Hospital and The Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, has been running for some years, and therefore, careful consideration must be given to how these will co-exist.  The Dean of Health Sciences, a member of the THI Committee, echoed the comments of the Provost and noted that there would be associated opportunities and risks.

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(ii)    **Financial Matters**
The Provost advised that he would chair a symposium on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Universities: Performance and Sustainability, which is to take place on 29 September 2014 in the Royal College of Physicians Ireland.  It will look at the contribution that universities make to the social and economic development within society and, hopefully, it will have an impact on the public debate about funding of universities in Ireland.  Council members are invited to participate in the event.

(iii)   **START**
The Provost noted that the current phase of START concludes in September 2014.  Under this programme of administrative restructuring the Provost's Directorate has been established within which the Secretary's Office, Global Relations, Communications and Marketing and the Trinity Foundation are positioned, and follows the establishment of the Academic Services Division, the Financial Services Division and the Commercial Services Division.  The focus in recent months has been on an analysis and design of business processes.  Whilst the programme is due to finish in September there will be a number of discrete projects which will continue under the auspices of the Strategic Plan 2014-19. He commented on the transformational nature of two projects, GeneSIS and FIS, and indicated that the realisation of the full benefits of these is dependent on the implementation of the HR Strategy.

In response to a comment about the increased burdens on schools and the number of administrative tasks transferring to academic staff as a result of the implementation of the GeneSIS and FIS projects, the Provost advised that Board had approved both business cases and these must be implemented.  As with any new large scale IT project, old business processes must often be jettisoned and replaced with new processes to realise the full benefits.  He added that concerns such as these should be raised through the Boards of the GeneSIS and FIS projects.

(iv)    **Strategic Plan 2014-19**
The Provost commented on the progress made to-date in developing the Strategic Plan and reminded members of the joint meeting of Board and Council scheduled to take place on 18 June 2014.

(v)     **Trinity Education**
The Provost invited the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to update the meeting on developments related to the National Institute for Intellectual Disability (NIID).  The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer informed members that NIID underwent a quality review in 2013 and some key recommendations are now being implemented.  The most significant change is that NIID will be transferred to the School of Education from the School of Social Work and Social Policy and NIID staff members will be reassigned to the School of Education. She confirmed that the interdisciplinary nature of NIID, and the Certificate in Contemporary Living course it offers, will be unaffected by this transition to the School of Education.  A priority task is to place the Certificate in Contemporary Living on the National Framework of Qualifications.  Since issues related to governance and staffing have been resolved, the College is now in a position to draw down the philanthropic funding earmarked for NIID activities, and the new

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governance structure will help Trinity Foundation seek other philanthropic funding for NIID activities.  The external members of the NIID management committee have welcomed the new governance structures and have pledged their support to on-going efforts to develop awareness of intellectual disabilities and inclusive education.  Both the Provost and Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer extended their thanks to the Academic Secretary, and staff members in the Schools of Education and Social Work and Social Policy for their involvement in the process to date.

(vi)     **Infrastructure**
The Provost spoke briefly on the progress achieved to-date on the Trinity Business and Innovation Hub, E3 and Oisín House projects.  He invited the Dean of Students, as sponsor, to update the meeting on the development of Oisín House into student residences.  The Dean of Students reported that the scoping and feasibility stage had nearly concluded and that it is envisaged that the building would accommodate certain student services in addition to increasing student accommodation capacity.  If successful, delivery of the project should occur in 2017.

**CL/13-14/190   Undergraduate Studies**
(i)      **IUA Task Group on Reform of University Selection and Entry**
A memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 3 June 2014, was circulated along with a summary briefing paper and progress report from the Irish Universities Association (IUA) Task Group on Reform of University Selection and Entry, dated 12 May 2014.

Speaking to the item the Senior Lecturer noted that the group has met on 17 occasions and has made limited progress to date.  The purpose of the document is to show the scope and depth of work completed to-date and to highlight possible future recommendations.  Council is not being asked to approve any recommendations at this stage.  It is likely that the paper will change significantly before it returns to the academic councils of each university since a number of the recommendations are likely to prove controversial.  Included in the briefing paper, among other things, are suggestions related to the calculation of points, the awarding of bonus points, changes to matriculation and minimum entry requirements, specification of a minimum quota and other criteria for denominated entry route courses.  He drew attention to the inclusion of information about Trinity's Admissions Feasibility Study and noted that data would be available from its first year of operation at the first meeting of Council in 2014/15.  He confirmed that final proposals would have to be accepted by each university's academic council, or equivalent, or none could be implemented.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the main impact of any eventual proposal will be on the Two Subject Moderatorship (TSM) course.  College has recognised independently that TSM reform is needed and work has already started in this regard.

A number of concerns over the recommendations were highlighted, including:

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(i)     the establishment of an arbitration mechanism by the IUA Council would erode institutional autonomy to admit students and would prove unworkable;

(ii)    setting a minimum quota of 30 places for any denominated entry pathway would be problematic for some courses in Trinity.

Council noted the progress report and summary briefing paper from the IUA Task Group on Reform of University Selection and Entry and indicated that it would welcome a revised version for consideration in due course, following further discussions and consultation.

(ii)    **Northern Ireland**

(a)    **Northern Ireland Engagement Programme – First Annual Report**
A memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 3 June 2014, was circulated along with the Northern Ireland Engagement Programme, Annual Report 2013/14.  The Senior Lecturer outlined the activities which took place during the academic year including: engaging a number of students from Northern Ireland to act as ambassadors for Trinity; 24 secondary school visits, resulting in presentations to approximately 900 students; attendance at educational and careers fairs; the creation of a DVD on Irish history for distribution to secondary schools; and the hosting of a delegation of secondary school principals from Northern Ireland at Trinity.

He outlined a number of benefits to Northern Irish students who study in the Republic of Ireland but added that the most significant barrier to students applying for CAO listed courses is the way in which A-Level scores are converted into CAO points.  This militates against those students who take three A-Level subjects which is the norm in the Northern Irish education system.  Without a fourth A-Level subject, a significant number of courses in Trinity are inaccessible to these applicants.

Council noted the Northern Ireland Engagement Programme during 2014/15 – 2016/17.

(b)    **Feasibility Study for A-Level Admissions Mechanism – Test Case Northern Ireland**
A memorandum from Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 4 June 2014, was circulated.  The Senior Lecturer advised that following a benchmarking process in 2003, the value of a Leaving Certificate subject was set at two-thirds that of an A-Level subject when calculating scores for admission to third level colleges in the UK and Ireland.  An outcome of this is that it has become impossible for students with three A-Level subjects to progress to a significant proportion of courses in Trinity.  This problem is particularly acute for applicants from Northern Ireland where only one in seven A-Level students takes a fourth subject.  This situation has fed into a perception that Trinity has abandoned Northern Ireland over the last decade.  He noted that Dublin City University has established a number of McAleese Scholarships which allow a limited number of Northern Irish students to enter with three A-Level subjects.

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He noted that a subgroup of the IUA's Admissions Officers' Group is also looking at this issue but current solutions appear to be complicated. Subsequent to a discussion with the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, the proposal being put forward to Council, as part of a feasibility study, is that students with three A-Level subjects will have their weakest subject counted twice for the purpose of allocating points, and, following input from the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC), it is proposed that places allocated on this basis should be limited in proportion to course size, for example:

> One A-Level student per course with a quota of 10 places, or fewer;
> Two A-Level students per course with a quota of 11-29 places;
> Three A-Level students per course with a quota of 30 places, or greater.

Since this proposal concerns a feasibility study, it would be limited to entrants from Northern Ireland in the first instance. The findings of the feasibility study will be shared with the sector and, if successful, could form the basis for admitting all A-Level students from the EU. He confirmed that, if approved by Council, this would apply to the admissions processes for entry in the 2015/16 academic year.

Council approved the proposal to run a feasibility study for the A-Level admissions mechanism as outlined and, as a test case, limit this to Northern Ireland entrants to College in September 2015. On completion of the 2015 admissions round, information will be fed back to Council to allow it to consider whether or not the mechanism should be rolled-out fully.

**CL/13-14/191   New Framework for Postgraduate Programmes**
A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 29 May 2014, was circulated. The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced the item noting that the situation whereby students cannot register to individual modules in SITS is hampering College's response to student demand, especially at the postgraduate level, for shorter part-time courses with a provision for progression to higher awards over a longer period of time. She explained that the framework allows for the breaking up of a taught Master's course curriculum into smaller module groupings which lead to awards appropriate to the credit volume taken.

| Generic Programme Framework | Status | Duration | ECTS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Postgraduate Certificate | PT | 1 year | 30 |
| Top-up Postgraduate Diploma | PT | 1 year | 30 |
| Postgraduate Diploma | PT | 2 years | 60 |
| Top-up Masters | PT | 1 year | 30 |

In this way it allows for a number of linear pathways from certificate level within a suite of existing Master's courses supporting flexible entry options and progression through to Master's level; it has been modelled on the School of Nursing and Midwifery's suite of Masters' courses. The proposed framework also facilitates the application of a workable fee structure. She explained in detail how the framework mechanisms would work by way of example from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and gave details about student eligibility to take a top-up course, and the requirement to rescind a lower award in order to receive the higher award. She

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added that whilst students would receive a named award at Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma levels, the award of M.Sc. (St.) would remain unchanged.

The Registrar confirmed that students receiving a top-up award would formally rescind the lower award.  The lower award would remain on their student record but recorded as 'rescinded'.  The lower award would be rescinded at the point of application for Notice of Candidature for the conferring of the higher award rather than at entry to the particular top-up course.

Council approved the framework for postgraduate programmes as circulated.

CL/13-14/192  **Postgraduate Course Proposals**
    (i)    **Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice**
        A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 30 May 2014, and a course proposal for a Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, were circulated.  The Dean of Graduate Studies explained that the proposal complies with the postgraduate framework considered and approved under the previous item.  As such, the Postgraduate Certificate course is planned to be a structural element in a wider generic programme framework with an overarching title of Specialist Practice.  Students may enter a generic Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice via a chosen specialist strand which is delivered as part of an existing Master's course in that strand.  Within this progression framework, no certificate course would be offered in a strand for which there is no existing Master's course.  Therefore, Postgraduate Certificate courses would be offered in:

        M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. in Dementia
        M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. in Mental Health (also with strands in Psychosocial Interventions, and Child, Adolescent and Family)
        M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. in Palliative Care
        M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. in Gerontological Nursing
        M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. in Specialist Nursing (with strands in Cardiovascular, Emergency Nursing, Intensive Care, Orthopaedic, Peri-operative, Renal, and Cancer Care and Haematology).

        It was noted that all modules presented in the proposal had been approved previously.  Within in each strand, three modules, each carrying 10 ECTS, have been identified as compulsory in order to obtain the award of Postgraduate Certificate.  She confirmed that the admissions criteria are the same as for the existing M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. courses.

        Council approved the proposal to establish a generic Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice programme, to which students may enter via a number of strands underpinned by existing M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip. offerings, leading to the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice ('strand name as listed') upon the successful completion of 30 ECTS.  It was noted that this programme would commence in September 2014.

    (ii)    **Master in Psychology (Conversion)**
        A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 30 May 2014, was circulated, along with a proposal for a postgraduate conversion course in

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Psychology leading to an award of M.Sc. (St.).  The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that students with no background in psychology have the option of taking the Higher Diploma in Psychology, however, this new course has been developed for graduates with a certain level of attainment in the discipline, perhaps having taken it as a minor subject previously or through the accumulation of credits in psychology or cognate areas.  Graduates of this course would be able to register as graduate members of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) and could carry on to pursue a professional career in psychology.

Similar courses are offered in the UK and there is also a similar course offered in the University of Limerick which is oversubscribed.  It is a feature of such courses, one that is replicated in the design of the proposed course, that a limited number of undergraduate modules are shared with the conversion course but with modifications such as additional seminar contact hours and alternative assessment requirements.  This practice has been confirmed as appropriate by the external reviewer of the proposal, Professor Julian Leslie of the University of Ulster.  Other modules are shared with existing postgraduate taught and research programmes in the School, and include a 25 ECT compulsory research dissertation module.  The Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that the curriculum covers the mandatory areas required by the PSI.

Council discussed the appropriateness of sharing undergraduate teaching with a postgraduate course.  The Provost noted that this should not become the norm, however, it was accepted practice in other conversion courses and, further, students would take these modules on a modified basis with additional features appropriate to postgraduate study.

The proposal for a postgraduate conversion course in Psychology leading to the awards of M.Sc./P.Grad.Dip (exit only) was approved.  It was noted that the course is due to commence in September 2015.

(iii)   **Professional Special Purpose Certificate in Academic Practice**
A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 30 May 2014, was circulated along with a proposal for a Professional Special Purpose Certificate in Academic Practice from the Centre for Academic Practice and eLearning (CAPSL).  Speaking to the proposal the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the course is designed to meet the professional development needs of academic staff engaged in teaching in College.  Academics enrolled on the course are required to complete three modules, each carrying 5 ECTS, out of a choice of 12.  It would be open to those delivering teaching within Trinity, and those supporting teaching and learning, including adjunct staff, however, it would not be available to teaching assistants nor to external candidates.  Modules will be delivered on as flexible a basis as possible and will include elements of blended learning.  Participants may either complete assignments on a per module basis or submit a teaching portfolio instead, where learning from each of their modules is demonstrated.  It was noted that the proposal is currently being externally reviewed.

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the Schools of Education, Social Work and Social Policy, and Nursing and Midwifery are contributing to the course.  Holders of the Certificate would be eligible to apply for the Master in Education (Higher Education strand).  The course proposal was commended and

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the Librarian indicated that staff in the Library would be keen to contribute to the course.

Whilst the proposal was welcomed, some concerns were raised about the course not having an academic home.  The Senior Lecturer confirmed that CAPSL's ownership of the course is important especially given plans to develop a Teaching and Learning Academy.  The meeting discussed difficulties related to appeals and the Registrar suggested, in the case of this course, that appeals could travel directly to the Academic Appeals Committee if needed.  In relation to the course committee it was confirmed that the Chair would rotate between the Dean of Graduate Studies, who takes it up in the first instance, and the Senior Lecturer.

Council approved the new course to commence in September 2014, leading to an award of Professional Special Purpose Certificate in Academic Practice, subject to the endorsement of the external reviewer.  It was noted that should significant issues be identified by the reviewer, the course would return to Council at the start of the 2014/15 academic year.

(iv)   **Certificate in Education (21st Century STEM/CS [Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths] Teaching and Learning**
A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 4 June 2014, was circulated alongside a proposal for a course, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (21st Century STEM/CS Teaching and Learning) from the School of Education.  The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that this proposal is a collaborative effort between the Schools of Education and Computer Science and Statistics, along with the Trinity Access Programmes, Bridge 21 and the Centre for Information Technology in Education, and that the course would be part-funded by Google for a three year period.

The course is devised as a targeted intervention to support teaching and learning in computer science, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects in schools.  The initiative will focus particularly on designated DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) schools.  It is a part-time course delivered over one year, targeted at practising teachers, in which students take six modules totalling 30 ECTS.  Council discussed the bias in content towards computer science above STEM subjects, however, it was noted that there are particular deficits in information technology skills and computer science in post-primary education.

The Provost noted the importance of this course nationally and congratulated all those involved in its design.

Council approved the proposal for the course, leading to an award of a Postgraduate Certificate in 21st Century Teaching and Learning, to commence in September 2014.

**CL/13-14/193   Research**
(i)   **Revised College Policy on Good Research Practice**
A revised version of College's Policy on Good Research Practice, dated 3 June 2014, was circulated.  Introducing the item, the Dean of Research noted that

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the current policy dates from 2009 and that the circulated document has been updated to incorporate aspects from other policy developments, in particular:

(a)  the IUA's Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland;
(b)  incorporation of references to the Research Ethics Policy Committee and related processes;
(c)  clarification of a potential ambiguity related to research misconduct; and
(d)  the inclusion of a protocol for data management.

The Dean of Research highlighted the importance of maintaining integrity in research, in itself, and also commented that funding bodies are placing greater emphasis on this area; at least one funding body is developing plans to conduct a research integrity audit.

During the discussion a concern was raised about the seeming absolute guarantee of confidentiality offered to research participants via the policy.  It was commented that the language should be nuanced since confidentiality could not be preserved in all situations.  A comment was also made in relation to College's policy on the types of permissible stem cell research which currently prevents research involving the transfer of human embryonic stem cell lines to humans or non-human primates.  It was noted that this is a limit that College places on itself since it is not required by legislation or by research funding bodies and, as a result, College is losing research funding.  The Dean of Research noted that a change to this policy would require broad discussion and consultation in College.  The Provost requested that this issue be considered through the Research Committee.  Responding to a query regarding data management and the responsibility for archiving research data, the Dean of Research confirmed that Schools are responsible and are required to formulate their own protocols.

Subject to the modification of the wording related to the guarantee of confidentiality offered to research participants, Council approved the revised Policy on Good Research Practice.  It was noted that further work would be carried out in relation to the types of embryonic stem cell research which are permissible in College through the Research Committee.

(ii)  **Policy on Trinity Research Centres**
A policy document on Trinity Research Centres, dated 28 May 2014, from the Trinity Research Centres Working Group, was circulated.  The Dean of Research noted that there were three main changes to the existing policy on research centres:

(a)  explicit reference to the fact that research centres may be housed by research institutes as well as schools in Trinity;
(b)  the transfer of the power held by the Dean of Research, to approve new research centres, to the Research Committee;
(c)  clear references to quality review processes.

Council approved the Policy on Trinity Research Centres.

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(iii)   **Policy on Access to Trinity College Staff and Students for Research Purposes by External Organisations**
A policy document, dated 27 May 2014, from the Research Ethics Policy Committee, was circulated. The Dean of Research highlighted that requests are received periodically from third parties to conduct research involving staff or students as participants (not collaborators). He commented that, where appropriate, College is amenable to assisting such research provided that it meets Trinity's research ethics standards and that it would not place undue burden on members of the College community.

He outlined the approval process. Requests should, in the first instance, be submitted to the Chair of the Research Ethics Policy Committee (REPC) to consider whether or not the proposed research complies with College's standards of ethical research. If deemed compliant, the REPC Chair would forward the request to the appropriate Head of School/Head of Unit/Faculty Dean or to the College Secretary, if a College-wide project is intended. If agreeable, the request would then be sent to the appropriate Research Ethics Committee for consideration. In response to a query, the Dean of Research confirmed that all such requests, where Trinity staff and/or students would be considered participants, rather than as collaborators, should be directed through the process.

Council approved the policy as circulated.

(iv)   **Establishment of Research Ethics Committees in College**
A memorandum from the Associate Dean of Research and the Chair of the REPC, dated 3 June 2014, was circulated. The Dean of Research referred to the new guidelines and procedures for Research Ethics Committees (REC) and advised, following submissions from extant and new RECs, that the memorandum lists each REC approved or provisionally approved by the REPC.

Responding to a question he confirmed that should a principal investigator of a research project also chair an REC, he/she would not be permitted to review his/her own project. He also confirmed that membership of these RECs would be provided on their own webpages to which there would be links on the Trinity Research and Innovation website; membership of the overarching College Research Ethics Committee, a sub-committee of the Research Committee, would be provided in the College Calendar.

Council approved the listed RECs, subject to the fulfilment of appropriate conditions where specified in the memorandum.

CL/13-14/194   **Proposal for a new Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programme: Pharmacy (Integrated)**
A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 4 June 2014, was circulated along with a proposal for a new programme in Pharmacy, comprising undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

The Senior Lecturer advised that the proposal had been developed to meet the recommendations coming out of the Pharmacy Education and Accreditation Reviews project in 2010. The principal recommendation concerned the replacement of the

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current separate four-year undergraduate course, plus a standalone postgraduate year, with an integrated five year programme structure and curriculum.  He clarified that the structure is different from the integrated programmes in Engineering, Engineering with Management and Computer Science, where all students remain on the undergraduate register for the entire five years of their study.  Here students transfer to a separate course on the postgraduate register for their Master's year.  The structure has been designed this way following input from the HEA.

He noted, following several attempts to secure an external reviewer for the programme, Professor David S. Jones from Queens University has agreed to review the proposal.  Council is being asked to consider and approve the proposal, in principle, prior to the outcomes of this review given that assurances were made to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland that the relevant approval processes would be concluded by the end of this academic year.  The Dean of Graduate Studies commented that the separate Master in Pharmacy course proposal, considered and approved by Council in November 2013, which had a similar curriculum, was positively reviewed.

Council approved the programme proposal, in principle, subject to the incorporation of any subsequent amendments required by the external reviewer.  It was noted that the first year of the programme would commence in September 2015.


**CL/13-14/195**  **Review of Structure of Initial Teacher Education**
The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that she had nothing further to add to her update on progress provided under CL/13-14/189(i)(b).  The circulated memorandum, dated 28 May 2014, was noted.


**CL/13-14/196**  **Accreditation of the Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance**
A memorandum, from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 3 June 2014, was circulated along with a proposal for the validation of a course in the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) leading to a Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance, at Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications.  The Senior Lecturer noted that this one-year full-time course carries 60 ECTS and has been running for a number of years at the RIAM.  The proposal had gone through the Associated Colleges Degree Committee prior to being considered by USC and has received positive feedback from Professor Wolfgang Marx in UCD.

Council approved the proposal to accredit the course leading to a Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance, delivered in the RIAM, from the 2014/15 academic year.


**CL/13-14/197**  **Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report 2011-2012 and 2012-2013**
The Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report covering the years 2011/12 and 2012/13, was circulated.  Introducing the report, the Dean of Graduate Studies pointed out that certain data are presented in a different format from previous years due to the data being generated now from SITS.  She drew Council's attention to an error in relation to the number of postgraduate diploma students registered in 2012/13 and confirmed that the figure presented relates to postgraduate visiting students.  She highlighted the following data from the report:

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(i)     the number of postgraduate courses increased from 186 in 2011/12 to 195 in 2012/13;

(ii)    the total number of students on the postgraduate register has declined each year over the last three years;

(iii)   there has been a significant decrease in the number of research students from 2011/12 to 2012/13, both in terms of absolute numbers (2296 to 1920) and as a percentage of the total number of postgraduate students (approximately 49% to 43%);

(iv)    the number of postgraduate courses running with fewer than 10 students is increasing;

(v)     there had been an increase in the number of research degrees examined and an increase in the number of theses requiring minor corrections;

(vi)    the number of students who accepted a place on a taught courses, as a percentage of offers made, decreased in 2013/14 with 84.2% compared to 94.6% in 2012/13, however, there was an increase in real terms with 2,078 acceptances up from 1,845 in the previous year.

The decline in research student numbers was discussed and it was commented that College does not advertise, as well as it should, the number of students funded directly by departments.  Concerns were raised over the ability to offer such funding as non-pay departmental budgets are cut.

The Provost stated that consideration must be given to how this data is used and that that there could be scope for rationalisation in collaboration with Trinity's partners in the Dublin/Leinster Pillar 1 cluster group.  He commented that College is slow to respond to students' needs and that academic administration needs to keep pace with new developments.  He noted that it was an opportune time to conduct a review of postgraduate taught courses from a sustainability point of view.  As part of this both he and the Dean of Graduate Studies would contact their counterparts in UCD to discuss possible rationalisation.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that a big theme under the forthcoming strategic plan would be curriculum renewal and reform and that this would encompass features like a fixed timetable, greater curriculum flexibility, fixed-size modules, and international placements and internships.  Other issues raised during the discussion, which require further consideration, were the completion of thesis by publication, the submission of theses electronically and Trinity's 4 year (UG) + 1 year (PG) model of education versus the norm on mainland Europe of 3 years (UG) + 2 years (PG).

The Provost thanked Dean of Graduate Studies and all staff members involved in producing such a comprehensive report.


CL/13-14/198  **Quality**

(i)     **Implementation Plan for the School of Social Work and Social Policy**
        An implementation plan, dated 12 May 2014, was circulated.  The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer speaking to the implementation plan noted that it had been discussed at the Quality Committee (QC/13-14/033 (ii)).  The School of Social Work and Social Policy has addressed all recommendation made by the reviewers and had already made significant progress.

*Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings*

Council noted and approved the implementation plan for the School of Social Work and Social Policy.

(ii) **Implementation Plan for the BioResources Unit**
An implementation plan, dated 13 May 2014, was circulated and had previously been discussed at the Quality Committee (QC/13-14/031(ii)).  The Dean of Research noted that significant progress had been made since the appointment of the new Director and includes: the renaming of the unit; the development of a five-year strategic plan; and the substantial re-organisation of the Unit which will help in the recovery of operational cost.

Council noted and approved the implementation plan for the BioResources Unit.

**CL/13-14/199  Any Other Urgent Business**
There was no other urgent business under Section A.

See Acta CL/13-14/220 and CL/13-14/221 below related to two tabled memoranda concerning recommendations for the award of academic titles.

**SECTION B**

**CL/13-14/200  Undergraduate Studies Committee**
(i) In response to a Scholarship Examination question from the Provost, the Senior Lecturer advised that there was opposition to the introduction of a common general paper for all Scholarship candidates since this was seen to benefit arts and humanities students over those in the sciences.  He noted that further consultation was required at faculty level and with the current Scholars.  It was suggested that a general paper could be set, specific to each course, with questions related to a candidate's discipline but covering topics not already studied.

Council noted and approved the suggestion and the Provost invited the Senior Lecturer to prepare a proposal for consideration by Board.   The draft minutes of the meeting of 27 May 2014 were also approved.

(ii) Council noted the discussion under USC/13-14/080 and approved the College Policy on the Return of Coursework, dated 3 June 2014, from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Students' Union Education Officer.  Council further approved a recommendation that a 20 working day policy on the return of coursework be applied to postgraduate taught courses.

**CL/13-14/201  Graduate Studies Committee**
The draft minutes of 22 May 2014 were noted and approved.

**CL/13-14/202  Human Resources Committee**
Council noted and approved the draft minutes of 24 April 2014.

*Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings*

CL/13-14/203   **International Committee**
The draft minutes of 4 April 2014 were noted and approved.


CL/13-14/204   **Quality Committee**
The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that correspondence had been received from the Dublin University Central Athletic Club which outlined concerns not highlighted at the Quality Committee meeting in respect to item QC/13-14/031(i), Review Report for Sports and Recreation.  The draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2014 were noted and approved.


CL/13-14/205   **Research Committee**
Council noted an approved the minutes of 15 April 2014 and the draft minutes of 27 May 2014.


**SECTION C**


CL/13-14/206   **Council Membership**
(i)      **Faculty of Health Sciences (2014-2017)**
The Council noted that the following candidates were elected:
(a)      **Junior Constituency:** Professor Patricia Cronin (Nursing and Midwifery); Professor Mary Clarke (Dental Science);
(b)      **Senior Constituency:** Professor James P Spiers (Medicine); Head of School: Professor Catherine Comiskey (Nursing and Midwifery).
(ii)     **Research Constituency (2014-2016)**
The Council noted that Dr Shaun Bloomfield was re-elected.
(iii)    **Co-opted Members 2014-2015 (see Actum CL/13-14/177 (iii) of 14 May 2014)**
to confirm the Provost's nomination of the Vice President for Global Relations and the Dean of Students as co-opted members of Council for the academic year 2014-2015 in accordance with the Chapter on Council, Section 4 (i) (g) of the 2010 Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and of the University of Dublin.
(iv)     **Vice-President of the Graduate Students' Union**
The Council noted that Mr Adam Hanna has been elected Vice-President of the Graduate Students' Union and will serve on Council in 2014-2015.


CL/13-14/207   **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 14 May 2014 and noted by Board on 28 May 2014.

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

**MD**      Yousef Mohamed Amin El-Gohary.


*Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings*

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

PhD     Alan Bell; David Francis Caffrey; Eoin Carley; John Thomas Connolly; Cathal Curran; Vincent Curtin; Christopher Davitt; Ruth Doherty; Cathriona Foley; Geraldine Foley; Kate Forrester; John Frewen; Meadhbh Hand; Ben Hughes; Andrew Charles Severin Johnstone; Priya Kapoor; Finnian Paul Kelly; Megan Kuster; Darren Leneghan; Aran Mc Ardle; Rosie MacLachlan; Amelia Eisenhower Mahon; Miles Newman; Ann Nolan; Cathal O'Donovan; Naoimh O Farrell; Caitriona O'Neill; Ana Diaz Ponce; Meenakshi Ramphul; Kieran Francis Reid; Roisin Rowley-Brooke; Anne Turston; Kayoko Yukimura; Aldo Zammit Borda; Giulia Zuodar.

MSc     Siobhan Turner; James Patrick Walsh.

MLitt    Jackie Harrison.


CL/13-14/208   **Headship of Schools**
The Council noted that the Board had approved the nomination of the following to headship of Schools in the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017 at its meeting of 28 May 2014:
(i)     **School of Biochemistry and Immunology**
        Professor Gavin Davey, Associate Professor in Neuroscience, Biochemistry;
(ii)    **School of Computer Science and Statistics**
        Professor Jeremy Jones, Associate Professor in Computer Science, Computer Systems;
(iii)   **School of Physics**
        Professor Igor V Shvets, Professor of Applied Physics (2007), Physics;
(iv)    **School of Natural Sciences**
        Professor Fraser J G Mitchell, Professor in Quaternary Ecology, Botany;
(v)     **School of Genetics and Microbiology**
        Professor J Charles Dorman, Professor of Microbiology (1975), Microbiology.


CL/13-14/209   **School Directors**
The Council noted and approved the following nominations for 2014-2016 unless otherwise stated below:
(i)     **School of Business**
        (a)     Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate): Professor Mary Lee Rhodes;
        (b)     Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate): Professor Gerard McHugh;
        (c)     Director of Research: Professor Paul Coughlan .
(ii)    **School of Computer Science and Statistics**
        (a)     Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate): Professor Michael Hayes Brady;
        (b)     Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate): Professor Lucy Mary Hederman;
        (c)     Director of Research (extension) Professor Carl Vogel (2014-2015).


*Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings*

(iii)    **School of English**
(a)    Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate): Professor David O'Shaughnessy.
(iv)    **Confederal School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology**
(a)    Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate): Professor Carlo Aldrovandi;
(b)    Director of Research: Professor Andrew Pierce.


**CL/13-14/210    Deanship of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (2014-2019)**
The Council noted that Professor Darryl Jones has been elected to the Deanship of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science with effect from 30 June 2014 to the last day of Trinity Term 2019.


**CL/13-14/211    Calendar**
(i)    **Undergraduate Calendar Changes**
The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, circulated, dated 30 May 2014.
(ii)    **Standardisation of Terminology in the Calendar 2014-2015**
The Council noted and approved a memorandum from the Secretary to the College, circulated, dated 4 June 2014.


**CL/13-14/212    Human Resources Annual Report 2012-2013**
The Council noted the Human Resources Annual Report:
https://www.tcd.ie/hr/news/local_articles/2014/HR_Annual_Report_2012_13.pdf.


**CL/13-14/213    Committees**
The Council noted and approved the following memoranda from the Acting Secretary, Senior Academic Promotions Committee, circulated, dated 4 June 2014:
(i)    Membership of Senior Academic Promotions Committee 2013/1014;
(ii)    Senior Academic Promotions Committee 2013/2014 and Faculty Review Shortlisting Committees.


**CL/13-14/214    Administrative Arrangements in the Summer Session**
The Council noted that items of routine College business relating to Council will be dealt with by the Provost or Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer during the Summer Session, from 30 June 2014 to 22 August 2014 and a report will be made to Council at its meeting on 24 September 2014.


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


Signed  …………………………………………


Date    …………………………………………

*Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings*