**XX = Board relevance**

**Trinity College Dublin**
**The University of Dublin**

**A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 26 October 2016 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.**

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| *Present* | Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Research, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor D Faas, Professor S Garrigan, Professor J Walsh, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor C Gardiner, Professor S Murphy, Professor E O Nuallain, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor J P Spiers, Professor M Clarke, Professor P Cronin, Dr S Chandra, Professor A O'Gara, Mr D Whelehan, Ms A MacPherson, Mr N Cooke, Ms E Crespo, Ms E Ruiz Jiménez. |
| *Apologies* | Professor A Holohan, Professor J Jones, Professor C Comiskey, Ms S Cameron-Coen, Ms L Killeen, Librarian and College Archivist. |
| *In attendance* | Academic Secretary, Secretary to the College, Dr A Oldam (Director of Student Services), Ms S De Brunner. |
| *Observers* | Secretary to the Scholars (Mr S Johnston), Mr M Kenyon. |

**SECTION A**

The Provost requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda items. In relation to agenda item A.7, New Validated Master in Education Studies degree course in Inquiry-based Learning from Marino Institute of Education, the Secretary to the College advised that the Senior Tutor had made a statement of potential conflict of interest as his spouse was Course Coordinator for that course. As agreed with the Senior Tutor, it was recommended to the meeting that the Senior Tutor would not be present for the consideration of that agenda item and that recommendation was accepted.

In relation to agenda item A.7, New Validated Master in Education Studies degree course in Inquiry-based Learning from Marino Institute of Education, the Secretary to the College advised that Professor A O'Gara had made a statement of potential conflict of interest in her role as President of Marino Institute of Education. As agreed with Professor O'Gara, it was recommended to the meeting that Professor O'Gara would be present for the consideration of that agenda item and that recommendation was accepted.

In relation to agenda item C.16 (i) School Directorships, the Secretary to the College advised that Professor J Walsh had made a statement of potential conflict of interest in that he was being proposed for approval as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) in the School of Education. As agreed with Professor Walsh, it was recommended to the meeting that Professor Walsh would not be present for the consideration of that agenda item and that recommendation was accepted.

**CL/16-17/030     Statutory Declaration**
A new member and new observer each made the required statutory declaration.

**CL/16-17/031    Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 28 September 2016 were approved and signed.


**CL/16-17/032    Matters Arising**

(i)     **CL/16-17/010:** the Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer advised Council that the draft contractual agreement with the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City (UEH), concerning arrangements for UEH students to articulate into the third year of the Bachelor in Business Studies degree course had been presented to the Undergraduate Studies Committee. It was approved subject to UEH's agreement and the inclusion of mechanisms to ensure sufficient English language competence in students. She confirmed that the item will return to Council for noting in due course.

(ii)    **CL/16-17/006:** The Academic Secretary confirmed that she had spoken to the Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation in relation to the quality of the space in the Arts Block and reported that the Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation has commissioned a feasibility study with a view to improving spaces in that building.

(iii)   **CL/16-17/009:** The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that the question as to whether or not postgraduate course regulations should be harmonised further was discussed by the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). Members felt that this would not be appropriate given the flexibility required for postgraduate taught courses.

(iv)    **CL/16-17/008:** The Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer, referring to the falling level of applicants from Northern Ireland noted that, in the current academic year, UCD made more offers than previously but had reported a drop in the rate of acceptances from 40% to 30%.


**CL/16-17/033    Provost's Report**

(i)     The Provost spoke of the visit of Professor William C Campbell, Nobel Prize winner and alumnus of Trinity College, which took place at the end of September 2016. During that visit, he attended a special reception, hosted by the Provost, at which the new Lectureship in Parasite Biology was announced. The Provost noted that Professor Campbell gave a moving address and spoke warmly of his time at Trinity.

(ii)    The Provost provided at update on his recent travels. He attended the European University Association's Funding Forum which was hosted by the University of Porto. The discussions covered funding models in higher education and the Provost addressed the forum in relation to the Irish financial crash and the funding situation in Ireland.

        The Provost attended an alumni and donors' event in London and noted that discussions were underway in relation to securing funding for an internship programme.

        The Provost also reported on his trip to China earlier in October, with visits to Beijing, Peking and Shanghai, noting that Trinity is developing relationships with well-respected universities there. In Beijing he visited the Beijing Foreign Studies University and spoke at the Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University, on the topic of innovation and entrepreneurship. He visited Tongji University in Shanghai, which has a renowned College of Civil Engineering and noted that a resulting collaboration would be of particular benefit to E3: The Engineering, Energy and Environment Institute project. He also visited Peking University. The Provost invited the Vice-President for Global Relations to provide further information to Council. She spoke of alumni events in

Beijing and Shanghai and confirmed that partnerships with high quality Chinese universities are integral to the achievement of targets specified in the Global Relations Strategy. She reported that the work of the Global Relations Office is starting to show benefits and spoke of possible dual awards, most likely at the Master's level, in areas of business, European studies and languages. The Provost praised the work of the Global Relations Office under the leadership of the Vice-President for Global Relations. He reminded members that the Global Relations Strategy II is being developed and will contain ambitious but achievable targets across schools in relation to non-EU students.

(iii)     The Provost referred to his mid-term address, delivered during October, in which he spoke about the many new strategies being developed and implemented to improve Trinity's reputation and revenues. He noted that the current institutional strategic plan is due to be replaced in two years' time.

**CL/16-17/034     Trinity Education Project Status Report**

A presentation providing a status report on the Trinity Education Project (TEP), dated 26 October 2016, was circulated. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer provided an update on TEP activities. He commented that work to-date had provided the structural design for Trinity's undergraduate educational offerings and that work will now concentrate on filling in that structure in terms of curriculum, regulations and systems. He outlined the next steps:

- to establish programme architecture in the context of the agreed structure for single honors, joint honors and professional degrees;
- to review existing programmes in terms of progression through levels, transfer across pathways, exit awards;
- to agree new discipline appropriate assessment practices.

He advised the meeting that a number of Trinity Education Teaching Fellows had been recruited. Their roles include supporting programme committees in curriculum review in terms of:

- taking a programme-based approach to delivering the graduate attributes;
- taking a programme-based approach to introducing assessment;
- introducing breadth into the curriculum;
- facilitating the introduction of approved modules into the curriculum;
- facilitating the development of Trinity electives.

He notified Council of the names of the post-holders and explained that they have been allocated to schools, or clusters of courses, which are external to their home discipline and in accordance with their stated interests. There may be some re-alignment or expansion of these allocations.

In addition to the aforementioned local activities, he outlined a number of more centralised top-down projects arising from the TEP. The biggest of these, arguably, in terms of size and complexity is the design and implementation of a fixed timetable. For this to work, it is likely that subjects will be categorised and parameters set as to which categories can and cannot be combined. Current subject combinations are based largely on historical practices; work is underway to analyse which combinations make the most pedagogical sense in addition to being attractive to applicants. In this way, it can be seen that entry routes and the fixed timetable are mutually interactive. Another piece of more centralised work is the development of parameters concerning students' progression through their courses in terms of pathways and regulations.

Responding to comments from members concerning the implementation of a fixed timetable, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained that the provision of infinite choices is not

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possible and that the current timetable hinders student mobility.  He advised that the design of the fixed timetable is not only concerned with time but also with the best use of space, and in this regard a spatial audit is being carried out.  He also noted that its successful implementation would benefit visiting students as it would provide clarity in relation to the modules available to them.  The Dean of Graduate Studies voiced a concern in relation to fixing the undergraduate timetable and the implications it could have for taught postgraduate courses.  The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer confirmed that they would discuss the issues in more detail.

The Provost noted the size and complexity of TEP and thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and all who had worked on it thus far.

**Action**
**34.1:**    The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to discuss the implications for taught postgraduate course resulting from a fixed undergraduate timetable with the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**CL/16-17/035**    **Proposed Structure for Dual Awards with Columbia University, New York**
This item was moved up the agenda.

A memorandum from the Registrar and Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer, dated 18 October 2016, was circulated.  Introducing the item, the Registrar noted that the memorandum outlined the proposed structure for a dual award programme with Columbia University, New York, which, if approved, would guide the more detailed development of the programme.  She also noted that this would be the first dual award programme to be put forward under the Dual and Joint Awards policy, approved by Council in May 2015.

The Registrar explained that that the programme will comprise the combining of two separate but complementary curricula, delivered sequentially.  In light of concerns about the double counting of credit, the dual curricula programme will contain additional content to allow for the conferral of two Bachelor degrees.  Columbia University has a similar arrangement in place with Science Po.  The areas of interest to Columbia University are courses in European Studies, English and Jewish and Islamic Civilisations in Trinity.  Discussions are well advanced in relation to the European Studies course and this will be put forward as a pilot.  Students will be admitted to the first two years in Trinity, followed by two years in Columbia University in particular streams of their General Studies programme.  In addition students will be required to take an additional 60 ECTS worth of modules, or equivalent.

The Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer noted that approval is being sought for the structure at this juncture and that the design for the pilot programme would have to be worked out in more detail with a final proposal brought back to Council for approval.  Responding to a question from the Provost, she explained that following the first two years in Trinity, students would be required to undertake a three-month, 30 ECTS, stay in the country of the main language being studied.  In addition, students would be required to take a 10 ECTS internship in between the third and fourth year at Columbia University and to complete a 20 ECTS capstone project in their final year, which would be additional to the standard content of that course year.

The Vice-President for Global Relations confirmed that staff members in the Academic Registry had been consulted in relation to a number of operational aspects.  In relation to concerns raised about the level of fees in Columbia University, she explained that students will be registered in both institutions throughout the entire four years and that financial aid from Columbia University would be open to students completing years three and four there.  She noted that sources of funding are being explored to help establish one or two scholarships for Irish students.  The Provost noted that this issue and other details will have to be worked out and presented to Council in the proposal document.

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Council approved the structure of the dual award programme based on 300 ECTS, with Columbia University, subject to the approval of a full dual programme proposal and a supporting administrative framework. Council also approved the design of a pilot dual programme in European Studies with separate intakes in 2017/18 and 2018/19 and noted that full details will be brought to a future meeting of Council for approval.

**Action**
**35.1:** The Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer to present a full proposal for a dual award programme in the area of European Studies, with a supporting administrative framework, to Council in due course. In addition, full details of the pilot programme will be brought to Council for approval.

*The Dean of Research joined the meeting and the Senior Tutor withdrew for the following item.*

**CL/16-17/036 New Validated Master in Education Studies course in Inquiry-based Learning from Marino Institute of Education**
This item was moved up the agenda.

A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 26 October 2016, was circulated with a proposal for the validation of a postgraduate course from the Marino Institute of Education (MIE).

The Dean of Graduate Studies explained that the proposal concerned a course in Inquiry-based Learning leading to a Master in Education Studies, with an exit award of P.Grad.Dip. The part-time course, delivered over two years, is aligned to Level 9 of the National Framework of Qualification and includes a dissertation and research skills module. It is geared towards those in teaching roles but an exemption to this requirement could be granted in exceptional circumstances.

The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that the proposal was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in May 2016. Both the Head of the School of Education in Trinity and an external reviewer, Professor Lynn D Newton, Divisional Director (ITE) of the School of Education, Durham University, have reviewed the proposal. Whilst positive, some recommendations for improvements were made. MIE has fully engaged with these and has made the necessary amendments.

Council, noting that the proposed course would be quite distinct from those offered in Trinity, approved the proposal for the validation of the course in Inquiry-based Learning, leading to the award of Master in Education Studies, with an exit award of P.Grad.Dip., to be delivered by, and in, MIE. It was noted that the course is due to start in September 2017.

*The Senior Tutor returned to the meeting.*

**CL/16-17/037 Quality Assurance and Enhancement**
This item was moved down the agenda to allow the Dean of Research to speak to the Review Report of the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN).

**(i)      Review Report of Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience**
A memorandum, from the Quality Office, on behalf of the Dean of Research, dated 25 September 2016, was circulated with a report to Council on the quality review of the TCIN. A presentation on the key findings of the review, dated 26 October 2016, was also circulated. The Dean of Research spoke to the report and noted that the quality review of TCIN was the first to be conducted in relation to a Trinity Research Institute (TRI). He explained that this was not a review of the research being carried out by

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principal investigators (PIs) but rather a review of the environment, TCIN's strategy and how it operates.

The Dean of Research advised that the review was conducted over three days in April 2016 and that the reviewers provided recommendations under five broad categories:

- Governance
- Strategy
- Growth of high-performing PIs
- Institutional metrics
- Facilities

He noted that the reviewers have suggested that the current Board be reconstituted as an International Scientific Advisory Board to fulfil goals under Trinity's Strategic Plan 2014-19, and to provide a strong scientific vision and direction.  It was recommended that the proposed Scientific Board co-opt a senior member with a background in philanthropic fundraising.  The Dean of Research acknowledged that there should be a Scientific Advisory Board in addition to the current TCIN Board, however, at present these two committees will operate under a merged structure, with work underway to secure an external chairperson.  The reviewers highlighted an issue with communications in TCIN and advised that senior committees in TCIN should adopt communication strategies to engage broadly with PIs, postdoctoral researchers and the student body to promote buy-in for its activities.  The Dean of Research commented on the desirability of promoting the participation of PIs in defining the research mission of TCIN which, as a consequence, would promote greater buy-in and a greater likelihood of delivering on research outputs.  He noted that this matter will be addressed by the new TCIN Director.

In terms of strategy, he noted that funding was in place to secure a Research Programme Officer (RPO) who will help PIs to capitalise on funding opportunities and, therefore, help to ensure the sustainability of the Institute.  The reviewers also pointed to opportunities for new postgraduate courses and suggested that consideration be given to establishing a Graduate School of Neuroscience, based within TCIN.  He confirmed that the Director will work to identify teaching and learning opportunities and/or revitalise existing educational activities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The Dean of Research noted that there are high calibre staff members recruited into the Institute but that not all are performing as strongly as expected.  The reviewers emphasised the need to create a sense of community and the establishment of formal appraisal and mentoring mechanisms.  He noted that improved communication and participation of PIs in shaping the direction of TCIN will help, in part, with building a greater sense of community.  Activities such as 'away days' have been instituted.  In addition, further strong PI candidates will be recruited into TCIN, with supports offered to enhance opportunities for all PIs, particularly through an RPO-led research development programme.  These measures should be mutually reinforcing.

The reviewers commented on the lack of financial and performance management data.  The Dean of Research commented that this was, in part, due to inexperience within TCIN in collating documentation for a quality review and, in part, due to a lack of software.  Consideration is being given to a College-wide software solution.

In relation to TCIN facilities, the reviewers highlighted the fact that MRI scanners in the Institute do not cover their costs in terms of usage levels and, consequently, an annual central College subvention is provided.  The Dean of Research commented that the recruitment of PIs who use MRI in their research should help with this situation and

that plans are being put in place to buffer internal usage levels by providing MRI services to external and commercial partners.  He also noted that there would be overhead flows coming to TCIN in the future through greater engagement with the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI).

The Dean of Research confirmed that future measures would include:
- increasing the role of the Institute in the GBHI;
- hiring of new staff, including the Mitchell Chair of Neuroscience;
- exploring further commercial use of MRI facilities;
- targeting large scale national and international funding opportunities.

The Dean of Research also noted that he would review the Institute at the end of 2017.

Responding to a member's comment he advised that the Institute is still at a fledgling stage and did not have the means to support both its Board and an International Scientific Advisory Board, therefore, the merged structure is the best solution at present.  He confirmed that the separation of these two committees remains a goal, albeit in the longer term.  In the meanwhile, international Board members will be facilitated through online mechanisms such as video conferencing for key meetings.

Council noted and approved the report to Council on the quality review of the TCIN and the external reviewers' recommendations.

**Actions**
**37(i).1:** The Dean of Research to work with the Director of TCIN and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science to draw up the implementation plan.
**37(i).2:** The Dean of Research to review TCIN at the end of 2017.

*The Dean of Research retired from the meeting.*

**(ii)     Academic Quality Assurance: Faculties Report**
A report from the Quality Office on behalf of the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, dated September 2016, was circulated.  A presentation on key data, strengths and concerns, dated 19 September 2016, was also circulated.  Speaking to the report, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that it captures information on quality assurance activities across the faculties in the 2014/15 academic year and provides some examples of good practice in College.  He highlighted a number of statistics from the report, including:

- student evaluation of undergraduate modules occurred in 92% of modules;
- a large proportion of postgraduate taught courses were also evaluated at 77%;
- the return rate for external examiners' reports was 75% at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels;
- of those new entrants into first year in 2013/1, 94% continued into second year.

He commented that the report identifies a number of positive findings, such as, the high rates of module and course evaluations, the wide variety of evaluation methods and student feedback mechanisms used, procedures to provide feedback to external examiners are in place in all faculties, the very strong retention rate from first year into second year and examples of good practice and innovation in teaching across College.

He also highlighted the concerns raised in relation to the potential over-evaluation of modules and the low response rates, the non-feasibility of in-class evaluations for large classes, the lower than expected return rate of reports from external examiners,

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the need to streamline review processes for schools which must also undergo professional accreditation reviews, the time taken to embed new systems, the poor quality of teaching spaces in a number of buildings, the overcrowding of some laboratories and the absence of good quality social spaces for students.  He stressed that the matter of the return rate of external examiners' reports will be considered further to see how the rate can be significantly improved and that consideration will be given to ways in which student evaluation processes can be streamlined.

Responding to a comment concerning the indicated proportion of modules evaluated being potentially higher than the actual number, the Academic Secretary confirmed that the information is sent from the schools to the faculty offices and then on to the Quality Office for inclusion in the summary report.  She noted that evaluation methods may differ from module to module but if the information is incorrect this will have to be addressed.  In relation to the return of external examiners' reports, she noted that previously external examiners were not paid their fee before the submission of their report.  This requirement was removed as part of a process streamlining exercise, however, the rate of return has not particularly changed since its removal.  She confirmed that the Quality Office has carried out some analysis on this issue and is working with schools in an attempt to improve the response rate.  Responding to a question about the timeframe for the report, 2014/15, the Academic Secretary acknowledged the delay and explained that this was due to staffing changes in one faculty.

The Provost questioned the value of the external examiner system and asked Council if Trinity should continue with it.  A number of members spoke in its favour noting that external examiners do not simply consider marks but also provide useful external opinions on curricula and procedures.

The Senior Lecturer commenting on the potential over-evaluation of modules, stated that the shift to a programme focus would help in this regard.  A student member commented that the compulsory evaluation of undergraduate modules is important and that the next areas of focus should be on ensuring the meaningfulness of the process and on closing the feedback loop.

Council noted the report on academic quality assurance activities in the faculties for 2014/15.

**Actions**
**37(ii).1:** The Academic Secretary to investigate the collation and reliability of module evaluation data and to report back to a future meeting of Council.
**37(ii).2:** The Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies and Academic Secretary to consider methods to increase the return rate of external examiners' reports.

**(iii)        Irish Survey of Student Engagement Report**
A report from the Quality Office on behalf of the Dean of Students, dated 25 September 2016, was circulated.  A presentation on the data from the fourth Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) was also circulated.  The Dean of Students spoke to the report and noted that ISSE is administered by the Higher Education Authority (HEA).  The number of questions was reduced to 65 in 2016, from 120 in previous years.  The majority of the 65 questions were organised into 9 indices with the remaining 22 provided as standalone questions.  The student response rate in 2016 was broadly similar to that in other years at 23%, however, within this result the postgraduate response rate was lower and the undergraduate rate had risen.  The nine indices covered in the survey were:

(a)  Higher order learning
(b)  Reflective and integrative learning
(c)  Quantitative reasoning (new)
(d)  Learning strategies (new)
(e)  Collaborative learning
(f)  Student faculty interaction
(g)  Effective teaching practices
(h)  Quality of interactions
(i)  Supportive environment

When compared with the other universities in Ireland, Trinity scored below the sectoral average on six indices ((d) to (i) listed above), above the average on two indices ((b) and (c) above) and met the sectoral average for (a) above.  He examined three of these indices in more detail by referring to the responses to a number of their underlying questions.  He highlighted that the provision of feedback to students on their coursework continues to be an issue, 66% of Trinity respondents thought that their course was taught in an organised way and only 38 % of respondents reported that they had had positive interactions with administrative staff and offices.  In relation to student interactions with academic staff, 48.2% of respondents stated that they never discussed their academic performance with staff and 48.1% said that they never discussed course topics or ideas with staff outside of the class.  Drawing from this data, the Dean of Students commented that the low level of student-academic staff interaction possibly challenges the concept that Trinity is committed to research-led teaching and that the issue of feedback to students is likely to become more pronounced following the implementation of TEP, with the increase in formative assessment methods.  The Dean of Students also highlighted the highest and lowest scoring indices broken down by faculty in Trinity and noted these could result from different pedagogical approaches and that comparing faculties with counterparts in other Irish universities would be informative in this regard.  He emphasised that there is evidence of good practices in each of the faculties and that cross-faculty discussions on areas like teaching methodologies should be encouraged.

He confirmed that school-based reports are being produced by specific demand; these are somewhat more difficult to produce as the school areas in Trinity do not always fully align with the disciplines specified by the HEA

Responding to a comment about potential response bias, given that participants are self-selecting, the Dean of Students acknowledged that this should be borne in mind, however, respondents in other universities are also self-selecting meaning that the results are useful for institutional comparison purposes.

Council noted the report on the 2016 ISSE.

**Action**
**37(iii).1:** The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Dean of Students to consider and discuss the ISSE data and its implications in further detail.

*Professor J Walsh retired from the meeting.*

**(vi)  Postgraduate Research Survey Report, April 2016**
A report from the Quality Office on behalf of the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated April 2016, was circulated.  Also circulated was a presentation from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated October 2016.  The Dean of Graduate Studies, speaking to the report stated that this was the first survey of its kind in Trinity.  It comprised 21 questions covering the areas of experience of the research programme, professional and skills development, funding and overall satisfaction.  There were 445 (26%) responses

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received, mainly from those undertaking doctoral research.  Highlighting the key findings; he noted that 80% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their research programme, there was high satisfaction reported with supervisor support and with access to work spaces and resources.  There was, however, reported low take-up of teaching skills classes amongst those undertaking teaching assistant and demonstrator roles and there was low satisfaction with modules available as part of structured Ph.D. programmes.  Turning to the area of funding, he highlighted that the highest proportion of self-funding research students are those undertaking research in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and they also report the lowest stipend amounts, where these are available.  He confirmed that a sub-group of GSC is being convened to look at the ways in which philanthropic funding can be raised to support prizes and awards for research students; this group will include the Associated Vice-President for Global Relations/Dean of Development among its members.

Drawing conclusions from the data, he noted that there is a high level of general satisfaction reported by respondents.  There needs to be a greater focus on communication with postgraduate research students, especially in relation to the availability of teaching skills courses and modules for structured Ph.D. programmes, in addition to some recalibration of these structured Ph.D. programmes.  Finally, he stated his intention to seek ways to increase the number of studentships for research students, particularly in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

**CL/16-17/038      Any Other Urgent Business**
There was no other business.

*Ms E Ruiz Jiménez retired from the meeting.*


**SECTION B**


**CL/16-17/039      Undergraduate Studies Committee**
The draft minutes of the meeting of 11 October 2016 were noted and approved.


**CL/16-17/040      Graduate Studies Committee**
The Dean of Graduate Studies drew Council's attention to the discussion on the non-EU application process (GS/16-17/59) and asked for this to be raised again as an item at the next Council meeting to allow for some clarification as to what was meant by 'first qualified applicant', and to take account of the fact that a number of courses require interviews with applicants.  The Provost noted that Council had already made a decision on this procedure, which is only activated in the event of a school not responding within a two-week period to applicants (CL/15-16/235).  A number of suggestions were made by members to allow for faster response times to applicants, within the two-week timeline, such as authorising the course director to make a decision without having to refer the application to a course admissions committee, and effecting cultural and process changes in schools.  It was noted that many other universities were able to admit students much faster than Trinity and as a result, Trinity is losing potential non-EU students.

Council reiterated its support for the procedure as approved at its meeting of 29 June 2016.

The draft minutes of the meeting of 22 September 2016 were noted and approved.

*Professor S Garrigan retired from the meeting*


<span style="color:red">Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings</span>

**CL/16-17/041    International Committee**
The draft minutes of the meeting of 11 June 2016 were noted and approved.


**CL/16-17/042    Quality Committee**
The draft minutes of the meeting of 6 October 2016 were noted and approved along with:
(i)       Implementation plan for the Master in Theology (M.Th.).
(ii)      Progress report for Trinity Research and Innovation (TR&I).
(iii)     Revised Quality Committee terms of reference.


**CL/16-17/043    Research Committee**
The draft minutes of the meeting of 24 May were noted and approved.


**CL/16-17/044    Student Life Committee**
The draft minutes of the meeting of 26 May were noted and approved


## SECTION C


**CL/16-17/045    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 28 September 2016 and noted by Board on 12 October 2016.

(i)     **Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone**
    **MD**     Roisin Connolly; Ella Gaffney Harris; Caroline Marie Larkin; Matthew Phillips.

    **DEd**    Ann Marie O'Reilly

(ii)    **Higher Degrees by Research Alone**
    **PhD**    Vincent Israel Opoku Agyapong; Farhad Uddin Ahmed; Ayokunmi Ajetunmobi; Roman Atachiants; Keith Laurence Begley; Rachel Bermingham; Sarah Bryan O'Sullivan; Denise Burns; Stephen Callaghan; Paul Candon; Ciara Clancy; Allison Jennifer Connolly; Tanya Iona Coulter; Sonya Cronin; Michael Jeremiah Crosse; Jennifer Daly; Eoghan Delany; Steven George Fagan; Bernadette Flood; Jessica Foley; Timothy Foran; Jennifer Fortune; Meabh Gallagher; Ronan Thomas Grimes; Gillian Mary Gunning; Jingguang Han; Moritz Haneklaus; Florence Hecq; Kyle Heron; Judith Hill; Martin Holmes; Conor Patrick Keegan; Aoife Kehoe; Dervla Kelly; Jacek Kibilda; Caitriona Kirby; Zosia Kuczynska; Paul Lambert; Mariann Landsberger; Margaret Lawler; James Lawlor; Timothy Ronan Leahy; Shasha Li; Donna Margaret Lyons; Lauren MacDonagh; Paul McDonough; Jennifer McFarland; Niamh McGarry; Emmet McNickle; Jane Louise Mahony; Martin Georgiev Marinov; Davide Massa; João Carlos Mesquita Coelho; Farrukh Mirza; Tonya Moloney; Michael Morris; Naila Mugheirbi; Ben Murnane; Graham Patrick Murphy; Jana Musilova; Simon Nantamu; Syeda Masooma Naqvi; Georgina Nugent-Folan; Neill Christopher O'Dwyer; Dara O'Halloran; Caroline Ann O'Sullivan; Katie O'Sullivan; Sinéad O'Sullivan; Fergus Poynton; Ian Richardson; Stephen Roddy; Lorna Roe; Simone Scollard; Panayiota Senekkis-Florent; Pius Siakwah; Pelin Tozman; Aravind Vasudevan; John Paul Walsh; Paul Wynne.

    **MAI**    Victor Stuart Coe


<span style="color:red">Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings</span>

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| **MLitt** | Emer Mary Lawlor; Karl Anthony Micheal Shirran |

**MSc**     Ann Byrne; Laura Dunne; Cédric Misslin; Niall Mortimer; Alexandra Tuzova; Ting-Ya Yang.

(iii)     ***Post obitum intempestivum***
**PhD**     Lorraine Andrews.


**CL/16-17/046     School Directorships**
The Council noted and approved the following appointments:

**(i)     School of Education**
Professor John Walsh as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) from 2016/17.
**(ii)     School of Engineering**
Professor Bruce Misstear as Director of the Graduate School of Professional Engineering Studies for 2016/17 and 2017/18.


**CL/16-17/047     Heads of Discipline**
The Council noted and approved the following appointments:

**(i)     Physiology**
Professor Kumlesh Dev with effect from 3 October 2016 for a 3-year term.
**(ii)     Electronic and Electrical Engineering**
Professor Anil Kokaram for a 3-year term with immediate effect.


**CL/16-17/048     Committee Membership – Personal Chairs Sub-Committee**
The Council noted and approved a memorandum from Acting Secretary, Senior Academic Promotions Committee, circulated, dated 6 October 2016.


**CL/16-17/049     Annual Report of Counselling, S2S and SLS 2**
The Council noted the Annual Report of Counselling, S2S and SLS 2 that had been circulated.


**CL/16-17/050     Headship of School of Histories and Humanities**
The Council noted the appointment of Professor David Ditchburn as Head of School of Histories and Humanities for 1 year (2016-2017), approved by Board on 21 September 2016.


**SECTION D**


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


Signed     .................................................


Date     .................................................

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings