



Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

XX = Board relevance

**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, , Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor D Faas, Professor S Garrigan, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor S Murphy, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor J P Spiers, Professor M Clarke, Professor P Cronin, Professor A O’Gara, Ms S Cameron-Coen, Ms A MacPherson, Mr N Cooke, Ms E Crespo.
<i>Apologies</i>	Dean of Research, Professor A Holohan, Professor J Walsh, Professor J Jones, Professor C Gardiner, Professor E O Nuallain, Professor C Comiskey, Dr S Chandra, Mr D Whelehan, Ms L Killeen, Ms E Ruiz Jiménez, Dr A Oldam (Director of Student Services).
<i>In attendance</i>	Academic Secretary, Secretary to the College, Librarian and College Archivist, Ms S De Brunner.
<i>Observers</i>	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 D.20, Senior Academic Promotions Committee Recommendations, the Secretary to the College advised that the Dean of Graduate Studies and Professor A Holohan had made statements of interest. The Secretary to the College noted that Professor A Holohan was not present, and had sent her apologies, and recommended that the Dean of Graduate Studies withdraw from the meeting for the consideration of the item. Council accepted the recommendation.

CL/16-17/057 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26 October 2016 were approved and signed.

CL/16-17/058 Matters Arising

Referring to action **CL/16-17/037(ii).1** the Academic Secretary advised that she and the Students’ Union Education Officer, Mr Dale Whelehan, were in the process of visiting each school to discuss student evaluation methods and noted that a report to Council would be forthcoming during Hilary Term.

CL/16-17/059 Provost’s Report

- (i) The Provost highlighted the announcement, on 18 November 2017, of Trinity’s admission to the League of European Research Universities (LERU), a consortium of

Europe's most renowned research universities. From 1 January 2017, Trinity and one other institution, the University of Copenhagen, will join the consortium, bringing the total number of members to 23. He noted the opportunities to engage with colleagues in the best universities in Europe and to participate in the work of LERU.

- (ii) The Provost advised members that the European Commission had produced information on the operation of the Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Trinity researchers have been awarded over €50 million in funding since the programme began in 2014, placing Trinity, as an educational institution, in 19th place in terms of funding received. He noted the significance of this achievement given that the ranking methodology looked only at the level of funding received and that the funding was not normalised in terms of institutional size.

CL/16-17/060 Trinity Education Project

- (i) **Update and progress to-date on the Fixed Timetable**
The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer spoke to this item via a presentation on the topics of entry routes and subject combinations. He advised that an analysis of application preferences related to the Two Subject Moderatorship (TSM) had been undertaken and, on that basis, subjects had been organised into five pillars around which the fixed timetable would be based. He noted that subjects available in joint honors courses which operate outside TSM had also been included in the groupings. He explained that the subjects in each pillar could only combine with subjects in other pillars and that this was more relevant to subjects in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The fixed timetable will be aligned with courses in the Faculties of Engineering, Mathematics and Science and Health Sciences.

He brought the meeting through a grid of possible combinations arising from the subject groupings and explained that heads of schools had been invited to rank the five most important subject combinations. Should mismatches arise between schools, negotiations will be held to help reach agreements. He indicated that feedback will also be sought from students.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer confirmed that requests to change pillars would be considered but that strong grounds would have to be put forward given the knock-on effects of any change.

During the course of the discussion the following comments were made:

- the opinions of recent graduates should be sought;
- the process for establishing permissible subject combinations is as important as the outcome to ensure that desirable combinations can emerge and be facilitated in the future;
- consideration should be given to the addition of new subjects and programmes into the fixed timetable;
- visiting students taking modules from different faculties should be considered;
- schools may find themselves in a situation where they have no initial partners.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer commented that fixing the timetable should provide more certainty to visiting students who currently rely on local arrangements. The Vice-President for Global Relations noted that this structure should open up opportunities for visiting students.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for the update to Council.

(ii) Proposed structure for undergraduate Science

The Provost welcomed the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education (Associate Dean), Professor Kevin Mitchell, to the meeting to speak to the item. A proposal related to the structure of undergraduate Science, dated 22nd November 2016, from the Undergraduate Science Education Working Group, was circulated.

The Associate Dean spoke to the proposal to restructure the current undergraduate Science (TR071) course into four distinct entry routes and, at the same time, to incorporate the existing denominated entry courses into the revised structure as separate moderatorship streams. He referred to the quality review of the course, conducted in 2015, which was positive in terms of its programmatic nature and the fourth year projects in which students are brought to the edge of their chosen discipline, but highlighted concerns in relation to the over-teaching of students and poor co-ordination in some areas. The reviewers also noted the difficulty in predicting interest for individual moderatorship options, often leading to a mismatch between student demand and available places. He also noted that Science (TR071) is a broad entry rather than a general science course with students selecting subject pre-requisites in their first year for their preferred moderatorship options in the Sophister years. The introduction of streaming at the point of entry should help to address the issue of students not gaining a place on one of their preferred options and, since streaming of a sort exists already, make the structure more transparent.

He listed the four proposed streams at the point of entry:

- (i) Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- (ii) Chemical Sciences (Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry and Nanoscience)
- (iii) Geography and Geoscience
- (iv) Physical Sciences (Physics, Physics with Astrophysics and Nanoscience)

Streaming as outlined will allow for the delivery of a core curriculum specific to each stream whilst providing a certain level of flexibility to students in relation to moderatorship preferences. It also provides clearer pathways from first year through to the sophister years. He explained the new structure in terms of core, approved and elective modules and provided an indicative breakdown of each stream in the freshman years, highlighting the introduction of new modules on mathematics, statistics and computation relevant to the Biological and Biomedical Sciences and Geography and Geoscience streams.

Commenting on some of the challenges, he stated that strong attention must be directed to marketing and recruitment to ensure that applicants remain aware of the full range of moderatorship options available, especially where denominated entry courses are being rolled into the structure, such as, Human Genetics and Nanoscience which are currently very popular choices. Further consideration must also be given to how students can transfer to another stream should they become more interested in another scientific area.

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science praised the proposal noting that it addresses a large range of issues and provides the catalyst for significant curriculum review. He stressed the importance of marketing the new structure which will need careful planning.

The proposal was praised and supported by a number of members. In addition, the Associate Dean responded to a number of queries and confirmed that Teaching Council requirements had been considered and built into the structural design of the streams; resource implications are to be worked out fully; the potential accreditation of Biomedical Sciences will be investigated; the folding in of the direct entry courses does not mean the associated moderatorships are being discontinued and this must be

communicated and marketed well; the loss of smaller classes is a potential concern but the delivery of the new curriculum should be more coherent and efficient, thereby freeing resources for small group teaching.

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science commended the work of the Undergraduate Science Education Working Group and that of the Associate Dean, his predecessor in the role and the former Science Course Director.

Council approved the proposed Science programme structure.

The Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education withdrew from the meeting.

CL/16-17/061 XX 2010 Consolidated Statutes – Proposed Change to Introduction Chapter

A memorandum from the Registrar, dated 22 November 2016, was circulated. The Registrar noted that a revised academic year structure was approved by Council at the end of the previous academic year (CL/15-16/234) and that in order to accommodate this, certain changes were required to be made to the Introduction Chapter of the Consolidated Statutes of Trinity College Dublin and of the University of Dublin 2010 (the Statutes). She outlined the main purposes of the changes:

- (i) Alter the length of the terms. In particular, Hilary Term would go from 12 weeks to 14 weeks and Trinity Term would change from 12 weeks to 6 weeks.
- (ii) Allow for examinations otherwise than in Trinity Term. This would permit the holding of Scholarship and Supplemental examinations outside the three-term structure.
- (iii) Provide that Council and Board would regularly publish the academic year structure, increasing flexibility.
- (iv) Meet concerns relating to the working week that were expressed by Fellows in relation to the definition of 'day' and confirms that, for the purpose of the Introduction, 'day' refers to any day in the academic year excluding Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

A student member declared the support of the Students' Union in relation to the proposed changes.

The Registrar outlined the approval steps required to introduce the circulated changes noting that if Council consents the proposed changes will be sent to Board for approval. If approved, Board would seek the assent of the Fellows via a ballot to be held in January 2017.

Council noted and approved the proposed changes to the Statutes, as circulated.

Action

61.1: The Registrar to seek the approval of Board for the proposed changes to the Statutes.

CL/16-17/062 Inter-institutional Collaboration between Trinity College Dublin, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and University College Cork

- (i) **Proposal for a Joint Award**
A memorandum from the Registrar, dated 24 November 2016, concerning the creation of a new joint postgraduate diploma award with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and University College Cork (UCC) was circulated. The Registrar spoke to her memorandum, noting that she would concentrate on the arrangements for the award whilst the Dean of Graduate Studies would bring Council through the course proposal.

She explained that the online course will be delivered jointly by the three institutions and the parchment attesting to the qualification will bear the crest of each partner institution. The framework agreement appended to the proposal provides that students shall be registered to one institution only and that each institution will be responsible for organising the graduation ceremony and parchments for their own students only. Consequently, students will become alumni of only one institution. She confirmed that these arrangements are in line with the Trinity's Dual and Joint Awards Policy.

(ii) Postgraduate Diploma in Population Health and Health Services Research leading to a joint award, and an inter-institutional collaborative framework agreement

A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 30 November 2016, was circulated along with a proposal for a new online course in Population Health and Health Services Research (PHSSR) leading to a P.Grad.Dip. award. The Dean of Graduate Studies spoke to the proposal which, he noted, represents a new way of collaborating on a joint award course.

He outlined the origins of the programme arising from the Health Research Board funded SPHeRE programme which initially concentrated on structured PhD programmes and the utilisation of six 10 ECTS modules established for this purpose, though re-purposed for online delivery to the postgraduate diploma cohort. The course can be delivered part-time over two years or full-time over one and is aligned to level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). He noted that there is strong market demand for the course which could, in the future, be upgraded to a Master's level course.

The applicable academic administration and procedures are that of a student's host institution. Each institution will have a local level Course Director, each of whom will take on the role of the Lead Course Director for the collaborative programme on a rotating three-year basis. Trinity's Dr Sarah Barry will take on this role in the first instance. Each institution will take a proportion of the fee income to cover their costs, after which any surplus will be divided across the three institutions.

Given the involvement of three institutions, he emphasised the rigour with which the course proposal has been treated, having undergone the standard internal review processes of each institution, in addition to having been considered by an inter-institutional review panel comprising both external and internal members:

- Professor Michael Donnelly, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, Queens University Belfast
- Professor Mark Gabbay, Professor of General Practice and Head of Department of Health Services Research, University of Liverpool
- Dr Gianpiero Cavalleri, Associate Professor in Human Genetics and Deputy Head of the School of Postgraduate Studies, RCSI
- Professor Paul McSweeney, Professor of Food Chemistry and Chair of Academic Development and Standards Committee, UCC
- Paul O'Donovan, Academic Secretary in UCC
- Dr Steven Smith, Associate Professor in the School of Medicine, Trinity

In response to a query in relation to the decision to collaborate on a joint course in this area, the Dean of Graduate Studies noted that Trinity has the expertise to deliver this course as a single entity but that there is value in collaboration and in initiating this under the auspices of the SPHeRE programme, for which there is some residual seed-funding. The Dean of Health Science voiced her support in relation to the new course and highlighted the very positive experiences of students currently undertaking structured PhD in this area.

The Dean of Graduate Studies expressed his thanks to Dr Sarah Barry, the Academic Secretary and Ms Ewa Sadowska for their work in bringing the proposal to fruition. The Provost also voiced his thanks to those involved in the development of the proposal.

Council approved the proposal for a new course leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Population Health and Health Services Research jointly awarded by Trinity College, RCSI and UCC

CL/16-17/063 M.Sc. in Entrepreneurship

A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 30 November 2016, was circulated with a proposal for a new postgraduate taught Master's course in Entrepreneurship, with an exit award of P.Grad.Dip., from the Trinity Business School.

Speaking to the proposal, the Dean of Graduate Studies noted that the Business School had carried out market analysis which indicated that there is significant market demand in the area of entrepreneurship. He confirmed that the course is aligned to NFQ level 9 and carries 90 ECTS, of which 60 ECTS relate to taught modules and 30 ECTS to the dissertation and research methods module. Students will undertake bespoke entrepreneurship modules in addition to pre-existing taught modules shared with other courses.

The proposal was reviewed by Professor Alfred E. Osborne, Jr., Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Global Economics, Management and Entrepreneurship, Anderson School of Management, University of California, Los Angeles who commented most favourably on the course.

Responding to a question about other courses being developed in the Trinity Business School, the Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that a postgraduate course proposal on the topic of human resources would be submitted for Council approval in due course. The Provost noted that Board had previously approved the growth plan for the Business School of which a significant element is increasing the number of taught M.Sc. programmes offered, rather than concentrating on the M.B.A., since recruitment to the latter type of course is proving more difficult globally.

Council approved the proposal to offer a new course in Entrepreneurship leading to the award of M.Sc., with an exit award of P.Grad.Dip., and noted that the course is due to commence in September 2017.

CL/16-17/064 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other business.

SECTION B

CL/16-17/065 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting of 15 November 2016 were noted and approved.

CL/16-17/066 Graduate Studies Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting of 20 October 2016 were noted and approved.

CL/16-17/067 Academic Appeals Committee
The minutes of the meetings of 23, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 September and of 3 and 5 October 2016 were noted and approved.

CL/16-17/068 Student Life Committee
The minutes of the meeting of 11 October 2016 were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/16-17/069 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 26 October 2016 and noted by Board on 9 November 2016.

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

PhD

Constantina Alexandrou; David Brown; Éilish Burke; Catherine Byrne; Diarmuid Collins; Kieran Crosbie-Staunton; Ailbhe Cullen; Aidan Delaney; Martin James Duignan; Amir Sajad Esmaeily; Peter Flanagan; Bronagh Flynn; Colin Fowler; Gillian Gunning; Luke Higgins; Eleanor Holmes; Sarah Hunter; Emily Johnson; Vincent Chipiliro Jumbe; Pdraig Kearney; Derek Kelleher; Stephen Kelly; Erik Kolshus; Markus Lamest; Grace Lavelle; Shengzhou Luo; Tracey Marie-Celeste Lydon; Darren McCausland; Niamh McDermott; Alwynne Hannah McGeever; Bláithín Sile Maire Ní Bhuachalla; Hugh O’Neill; Lisa Maria Reilly; Anne Therese Rutledge; Patrick Thomas Ryan; Geoffrey Ronald John Wharton; Ewa Wilczkiewicz; Francesca Wuytack; Dainan Zhang.

MSc

Deirdre Lynch; Mark Purcell; Aran Sena.

CL/16-17/070 Head of Discipline of Sociology
The Council noted and approved the appointment of Professor Richard Layte as Head of Discipline of Sociology for a 3-year term from 25 October 2016 to end of Trinity Term 2019.

CL/16-17/071 Student Case - Request for Approval for SF Student to Repeat Year
The Council noted and approved the memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies dated 22 November 2016 and approved that Student (No. xxxxxxxx) be permitted to go off books in 2016/17 and repeat the year in full as a third attempt in the academic year 2017/18.

SECTION D

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

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings