XX = **Board relevance**

**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 14 February 2018 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

Present	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor S Garrigan, Professor A Holohan, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor P Wyse Jackson, Professor C Gardiner, Professor S Murphy, Professor E O Nuallain, Professor R A Kenny, Professor A M Brady, Professor M Clarke, Dr S Chandra, Dr A O'Gara, Ms S Cameron-Coen, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Ms A MacPherson, Mr P Shanahan, Mr R Doherty, Mr M Bhargav.
Apologies	Dean of Health Sciences, Registrar, Professor J Walsh, Professor M Corry, Mr C O'Halloran, Ms A Walsh, Professor D Fass,
In attendance	Librarian and College Archivist, Academic Secretary, Secretary to the College, Director Academic Affairs.
Observers	Mr V J Paidimukkala.

SECTION A

The Provost requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. There was no conflict of interest.

The Academic Secretary noted that Professor C Gardiner will be leaving the meeting at 12.30pm.

CL/17-18/110   Minutes
A correction was made to the attendance list of the minutes of the Council meeting of 17 January 2018 to include Professor P Wyse Jackson.

In item CL/17-18/089, the text after 'Technical issues...' was amended to read, "Technical issues to enable straightforward formats, have now largely been resolved, but future developments, for example, for other formats, are highly dependent on the technical resources of the British Library. She noted that a review of the 2003/2013 UK legislation is under way, with libraries and publishers bringing forward their own recommendations including open access to Legal Deposit UK web archive to the UK government's Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport."

In item CL/17-18/089, the reference to Kinsella Hall was amended to read '...24-hour Kinsella Hall.'

In item CL/17-18/091, the text was amended to state that Revised Hong Kong Second Level Examinations and Minimum Admissions Requirements will be brought to the Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting on 23 January 2018 'for noting'.

In item CL/17-18/091, the reference to 'the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery and Medicine' was amended to read '…the School of Medicine'.

The minutes of the meeting of 17 January 2018 were approved and signed.

CL/17-18/111   Matters Arising

(i)   **CL/17-18/084:** The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised Council that discussions were ongoing with regard to the funding model for modules delivered outside the existing schools structure.

(ii)   **CL/17-18/088:** The Academic Secretary informed council that applications to the Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership Programme were now open.

(iii)   **CL/17-18/089:** The Librarian and College Archivist advised Council that she had met with the Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science but they had not identified a technical solution to extending access to materials deposited under the Electronic Legal Deposit (UK) legislation.

CL/17-18/112   Provost's Report

The Provost updated Council on the progress of five on-going projects.

(i)   E3 (Engineering, Energy and Environment) project: The Provost reported that, in the previous two months, the E3 Learning Foundry design brief had been finished and he circulated a hardcopy to Council for inspection. He noted that this has now gone to the eight short-listed architectural firms and these firms will present to a selection committee in Trinity in the second week of March, 2018. The E3 Learning Foundry will be built on the site of the old Biochemistry Building and the Roberts Lab. Related to the E3 project is the development of a new undergraduate programme, which is in progress, and philanthropic fund raising.

(ii)   Law School: The Executive Officers set up a Law School Feasibility Project Group. This Group will assess the feasibility of the growth of the Law School in terms of student numbers and the increase in staff numbers as proposed in the business plan.

(iii)   Trinity Technology Enterprise Campus (TTEC): TTEC master planning has progressed well over the past few months. The project group has received a presentation from the master planners and the Provost reported that there was a lot of potential to develop the site, which needs to be done in harmony with the planning authorities in Dublin City Council. The Provost and the CEO of the IDA are leading a trip to Boston to look at an Innovation District that encompass MIT, Harvard and several other universities. The CEO of Enterprise Ireland, Presidents of UCD and DCU, and others will join the delegation, and the objective is see how such an Innovation District can be catalysed in Dublin by developments on TTEC.

(iv)   GRS III (Global Relations Strategy) will be presented to Board shortly.

(v)   Trinity Education Project (TEP): Referring to the TEP, which is an item on the agenda, the Provost noted that the Project is facing a new challenge as projects were emerging with the Project. While the governance structure that was put in place last year is working well, this may need to be revised in order to keep the focus of the TEP.

The Provost advised Council that Trinity had become aware that it may be eligible for admission to the International Sustainable Campus Network. He noted that this had been achieved

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through, among other things, the good work of the Green Week committee. He and the Registrar will be going to an event in Stockholm in July 2018 to hear if Trinity is to be formally accepted into the Network. He informed Council that he had received a petition of 3,700 signatures from students asking that Trinity be made free of single use plastics, which includes bottled water. He reported that water fountains have been introduced in some campus buildings and more were planned. Other sustainability projects included increasing bicycle parking spaces on campus, and he drew Council's attention to the various rack designs on display around campus that are currently being tested.

The Provost reported to Council on two visits he had undertaken. The Provost was invited to speak at the first ever European Commission run Education Summit, held in Brussels on the 25th January, 2018. He spoke on the subject 'Accessible Higher Education no matter where you come from – Learning from the Trinity Access Programme'. The speech was well attended and well received. He also reported on a visit to a Trinity alumni event in Cork.

The Provost advised Council that, following the decision to change the allocation of entrance exhibitions, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies had written to school principals to inform them of the change. The Senior Lecturer advised Council of the process, and explained the changes to the way the entrance exhibitions would now be allocated. A student is now eligible for an entrance exhibition if they achieve a CAO point score of 500 or above, and hold the highest point score from their secondary school. For other EU and EUA countries, the result must be the highest in their country.

The Students' Union Education Officer thanked the Provost for accepting the petition on single use plastics. The Provost congratulated her on her selection as an Irish delegate to the European Students' Union. Other members of Council welcomed the student's initiative on single use plastics and the College policy on sustainability.

CL/17-18/113   **Trinity Education Project Update**
The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer provided Council with an update on the Trinity Education Project (TEP) via a presentation, dated February 2018. He advised Council that TEP-related activities were taking place in the schools, including assessing awareness of TEP among staff, 'teach meets', all-School meetings, a focus on assessment and mapping courses to the new programme architectures, and ongoing communication with Academic Registry on changes to processes.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted the work of schools in reviewing assessment practices. School progress reports from January 2018 indicate that a focus on fewer, more targeted, assessments is going to reduce the number of examinations for students by 11% in 2018/19 (relative to 2016/17). The actual time spent in examinations in 2018/19 will be 16.8% hours less (relative to 2016/17).

He provided some examples to illustrate the work taking place around assessment. The School of Law had convened a School Forum and carried out assessment mapping to align learning outcomes with the needs of assessment. This was followed up with workshops focussing on diversifying methods of assessment. The School of Mathematics, with a strong disciplinary emphasis on exam-based assessment, has undertaken a review of the volume of examinations relative to the ECTS weighting of modules. This has informed changes in the duration of examinations proportionate to the weighting of 5 ECTS modules, with a reduction from 2 hour examinations to 1.5 hour examinations. In the School of Medicine, the Occupational Therapy discipline has looked at assessment from the student perspective and identified appropriate changes in the volume and methods of assessment. The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that these activities will reduce the overall assessment burden for both students and staff.

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The Provost thanked the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer for the update and invited comments from Council.

Members of Council reported that implementing new modes of assessment presented challenges to some programmes. The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer acknowledged that programmes aligned to the needs of an accrediting body did present challenges but, on the whole, these programmes are making efforts to conform to TEP requirements.

The Dean of Students commented that examination hours are an easy metric to capture but it is important that this does not become the message. The process should not be seen as swapping exams for continuous assessment. TEP focus is on the re-examination of the assessment process to ensure that students are achieving the learning outcomes, as well as on an overall reduction in assessment. It should not be about substituting continuous assessment for examinations. The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised Council that he had selected the School of Mathematics example to illustrate how reconsideration of the module weighting can prompt a reduction in the duration of examinations.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew Council's attention to the resources that are now available on the TEP website, which are useful for colleagues considering different approaches to assessment. These include mapping tools for workload and assessment. There are also short videos: one illustrating how the School of Law approached assessment mapping, and another reflecting on the introduction of fewer, but more meaningful, assessments.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for the update on TEP.

CL/17-18/114   **Report on the Quality Review of the Long Room Hub**
The Report on the Quality Review of the Long Room Hub, dated 8th February 2018, was circulated to Council. The Dean of Research presented Council with an overview of the findings.

The review had taken place on the 12th to 14th June 2017. The review team comprised Professor Wim Blockmans, former rector of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor Claire Warwick, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Durham, and chaired by Professor Rick Rylance, Director and Pro-Dean of the Institute of English Studies, University of London.

The Dean of Research noted the positive conclusions of the report and the recommendations from the review team, reproduced below:
(i)   "The Review team assessed the value of the TLRH, the value it adds to the College and the Humanities at Trinity, and its progress and potential. We strongly recommend that the College maintains its status as a TRI and continues its support.
(ii)   Recognising that the Board provides significant added value in terms not only of mature governance but also operational input, we recommend the TLRH considers increasing the number of external members on the Board from as wide a range as possible keeping in mind the Hub's commitment to outward facing activity and raising philanthropic funding.
(iii)   The Hub and the Board should, as a matter of priority, consider its processes for succession planning for the Directorship and review the retention risks among key administrative staff. In particular, it should consider the case for a second Research Programme Officer and for promotion of the Institute Manager.
(iv)   The Hub should assess the value and operation of its Fellowship scheme to ensure it meets the strategic needs of the TLRH.
(v)   The Hub should examine its support for university research themes and consider ways to enhance already good provision.
(vi)   The Trinity Library and TLRH should explore ways of working more closely together to develop a shared research agenda and actions related to this.

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(vii)   The Hub and Schools should explore the potential of a 'compact of understanding' as a framework for their interactions to ensure maximum benefit to both parties.

(viii)   The College, Faculty and the TLRH should examine realistic ways in which a greater number of quality grant applications at scale can be developed in line with the ambition to eventually secure 30% of Hub income from this source. (It might also wish to review the realism of this target in the immediate term.) This seems to us a shared responsibility, requiring full commitment from all parties, but the TLRH will be a key agent in its development.

(ix)   The Hub has excellent facilities for postgraduates. It may wish to look again at training arrangements for these and their potential to operate as a platform for training across the College."

Referring to progress to-date, The Dean of Research drew Council's attention to the circulated response from the Director of the Long Room Hub. The recommended changes to the composition of the Board were now under way, and a Deputy Director role is in place to facilitate succession planning. The Dean of Research highlighted the recommendation with respect to the need for a second RPO and advised that currently there are no funds to support another RPO for the Long Room Hub, but that she is currently reviewing the RPO provision across the arts, humanities and social sciences with a view to improving the level of support. She advised that the Long Room Hub Board had discussed the need to gather metrics to assess the success of the Fellowship Scheme, and there is general consensus that the scheme is worthwhile and working well. Referring to the recommendation on the support for university research themes, she commented on the recent launch of the project to digitally recreate the Public Records Office as fitting the 'Making Ireland' research theme. The Dean of Research pointed out that the Librarian already sits on the Board of the Long Room Hub and a shared research agenda is under consideration. The recommendation in respect of establishing a 'compact of understanding' between the Hub and the Schools is no longer a consideration as the funding model has been revised. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences confirmed the funding has been regularised and the Faculty now top slices a budget to provide for the Long Room Hub. Referring to the recommendation that the Hub should review the quality and volume of grant applications, the Dean of Research felt that this related to the level of support available to staff. She commended the support provided by the existing RPO in the Long Room Hub, but felt there was a need for increased support and especially for more incentives to free up staff to concentrate on grant applications.
                .
The Provost thanked the Dean of Research for her presentation and invited comments from Council.

The Librarian advised Council that there is already a subgroup looking at a shared research agenda with the intention of making joint activity more visible and more efficient. She cited the example of the Fellows, where analysis has shown that 25% to 40% of their work is predicated upon use of the Library. The Senior Tutor commented that the Long Room Hub provides for staff and students, and noted that the service provided to research students is invaluable and important in their development as an early career researcher.

The Provost invited the Dean of Research to comment on the section of the report entitled 'A Further Note on Research Grants'; he wondered why the reviewers did not see it as part of their remit. The Dean of Research noted that the review had primarily considered the function of the Long Room Hub, including the issue of research funding. The reviewers felt that there was room for more expansion in grant applications, but that schools needed more support if they are to achieve success. The Dean of AHSS commented that the Dean of Research funds a scheme for teaching buy-out for staff to concentrate on ERC grant applications. The Dean of Research added that on the whole there are far more ERC grants in the STEM area, but there is more low hanging fruit in the arts and humanities. The teaching buy-out mechanism is currently undersubscribed, but this may have to do with timing, which is being reconsidered as

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staff need to know in advance that teaching substitution is available. She also highlighted the ERC club, which is a facility to share information and experiences about securing ERC grants. The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer added that the reviewers underlined the importance of the relationship between Schools and the Long Room Hub and this may be central to developing a grant winning culture.

The Dean of Research observed that, over all, the Trinity Long Room Hub is successful and the review rightly reflects this. She agreed that the recommendations do not include all of the relevant points brought up in the report but noted all issues raised in the review are being managed.

The Provost highlighted that Research Institutes have a key role to assist staff secure significant grants, and that this should not be such a challenge in a Faculty with Professors of international standing.   He recommended, and Council agreed, that in addition to the review recommendations, Council request that measures be taken to increase success in future framework programmes, such as the ERC.

Decision/Action
114.1: Council approved the Report on the Quality Review of the Long Room Hub.
114.2: Council approved that, in addition to the review recommendations, the Long Room Hub and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences take measures to increase success in future framework programmes, such as the ERC, and to report on the implementation plan to the Quality Committee in due course.

CL/17-18/115   **Library Annual Report 2016/17**
The Library Annual Report, 2016/17, was circulated with papers for the meeting. The Librarian and College Archivist spoke to this item.

The Librarian noted that the annual report covered activity in 2016/17. The report dovetails with the Trinity College Dublin Strategy 2014-19 around Student Environments, Research Environments, and the Trinity Visitor Experience. She provided an overview of the highlights from the Library Annual Report under the five main pillars of Integrated Space; Integrated Digital; Integration into Teaching, Learning and Research; Prioritised Funding Strategy; Suite of Inter-related Policies and Programmes.

The Berkeley Library's 50th anniversary, the Berkeley50 event, was the highlight of the year. This engaged architects, sociologists, historians, philosophers, performers and librarians around the brutalist architecture, cultural norms, the history of the times and the history of the College and library and library spaces. This was reflected in the re-imagination of Iveagh Hall as the Berkeley Library. With regard to funding, the Librarian noted that the major Early Irish Manuscript project supported by Bank of America, was now at its end. The legacy of Berkeley50 was the understanding of the context of developments in the Old Library and accelerating the visibility and accessibility of collections. The Rough Magic theatre company had also donated its archive, which was going to assist in leveraging further such donations.

The Librarian drew Council's attention to the development of guidelines for Research Data Management as a selected highlight of the Digital pillar.

With reference to the Teaching, Learning and Research pillar, the Librarian noted that the Trinity Library collections were of a very high quality, something that is widely acknowledged by external reviewers. She cited the Fagel Collection, Medieval Manuscripts and Davitt Photographs as examples of where investing in expertise catalysed research releases the potential of the collections. She also noted that this pillar was strengthened by the fact that Trinity Library could now be a partner in Ussher Assistant Professorships, noting that there are currently four Ussher Assistant Professors working with the Library.

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Under the Policies and Programmes pillar, the Librarian drew Council's attention to the visibility and accessibility of collections programme, and presented a breakdown of resources by Faculty for 2016/17, noting similarities of usage across the three Faculties.

In terms of challenges and opportunities, the Librarian contextualised impacts from various factors outside and within Trinity including, among others, demographics, the Cassells report, the Estates Masterplan, and joining the League of European Research Universities.

The Librarian concluded by briefly identifying what might need reconsideration in terms of overall strategic direction. This included adjustments to the strategic priorities around the Research Lifecycle, requirements of TEP, Digital Estate, Physical Estate, and Brexit. She advised Council that the Irish Universities Association Librarians' Group (IUALG) had commissioned a paper on what Brexit means for libraries.

The Provost invited comments from Council. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences commended the report, in particular the work on the Berkeley50 celebrations. The Provost seconded the Dean's comments.

The Students' Union representatives noted students' approval of changes made by the Library, especially the introduction of informal learning environments.

There was a brief discussion of the nature of the 24 hour library spaces in the Hamilton and Kinsella Hall. The Librarian noted that there is a need for more informal learning spaces and the Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science reported that a feasibility study is being considered. It was noted that the Innovation Campus in Boston has assigned learning spaces and it was generally agreed that this requires appropriate facilities. The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science acknowledged that while there are challenges in providing learning space in the Hamilton, there is also an opportunity to reimagine how the space is used and how it can be optimally used to support teaching and learning. The Dean of Students advised Council that moves towards increased provisions of 24 hour library access needs to include a holistic focus in terms of providing amenities to support the wellbeing of users.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer queried the reduction, by one third, of legal deposit material and enquired if this was strategic or down to external factors. The Librarian replied that the reduction reflected the transition to electronic legal deposit. She noted that the amount of legal deposit material was the same, but the proportion of physical material was reducing. In response to the increasing proportion of electronic legal deposit, one member of Council suggested that, in the spirit of lifelong learning, the Library might reflect on the opportunities for older participants, who may be less confident in their use of technology, to access material.

In response to an enquiry from a member of Council about the potential for Trinity Library to attract future funding to provide greater access to the collections, the Librarian responded that retrospective cataloguing was a key activity that needed to be undertaken but this was unlikely to attract philanthropic funding. Instead she noted that it needs to be designed as a strand of broader projects that do attract funding. Another area that was under review was digital content creation; less than 1% of out-of-copyright material held by Trinity Library has been digitised and this needs attention.

In response to a question about access to the Library for repeat students, the Librarian advised Council that the matter is being considered by a staff member in the Library.

Decision/Action
115.1: Council approved the Library Annual Report 2016/17.

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115.2: Update on access to the Library for repeat students to be addressed under matters arising at the next Council meeting.

CL/17-18/116   **Draft Fitness to Study Policy**

The Dean of Students spoke to the circulated Draft Fitness to Study Policy document, dated 6th February 2018, as circulated to Council.

The Dean explained that the policy sets out how the university responds when a student's ability to be in college is under question. Specifically, he drew Council's attention to a key element of the policy, namely that it is not restricted to academic ability but instead speaks to the student's capacity to function within a college environment.

The Dean of Students noted that this was a more legalistic policy than usually comes before Council and had been drawn up with the assistance of Professor Eoin O'Dell (School of Law) and an external law firm with relevant expertise. While the policy was implied in the Statutes, it had not previously been articulated as a formal policy.

The Dean of Students explained that there is an existing consultation group to advise College Officers on matters related to fitness to study. He noted that circulation of information within College was intentionally conservative, to the benefit of students, but that it provided no explicit right of the student to access information or to make an appeal.

He outlined the main elements of the proposed policy. The policy provides for three levels with an assigned decision maker for each level defined in the policy. At the first sign of an issue arising, the emphasis would be on achieving a local resolution before invoking the policy. If a student appeals a decision made at local level, the issues goes to the next level, where it is adjudicated by the relevant Academic Officer, either the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies or the Dean of Graduate Studies. If the outcome at this stage of the process is appealed it then goes to a Fitness to Study Panel. At all three levels, decision makers have access to the Fitness To Study Advisory Group. The Dean of Students further noted that the policy also affords the student the right to information, representation and appeal.

He drew Council's attention to the operation of the policy and noted that the Fitness to Study policy is designed to work with the Fitness to Practice policy and does not negate it. Students in a programme where the Fitness to Practice policy applies are required to comply with both policies.

The Dean of Students advised Council on the required changes to schedules to implement the policy. This includes Sections 7.2, 7.10, 7.11, 8, 8.1.3, 8.4.3 and 8.4.10.

The Provost commended the Dean of Students on the policy. The Dean of Students acknowledged the input of the advisory panel to the policy.

Decision/Action
116.1: Council approved the Fitness to Study Policy.

CL/17-18/117   **Any Other Urgent Business**

None.

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SECTION B

CL/17-18/118   **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew Council's attention to USC/18-19/004(e) in the minutes of the meeting of 23 January, 2018. Two types of derogations are being sought by the School of Nursing and Midwifery for the Children's and General Nursing programme, one relates to credit load and the other to compensation. The programme requires students to complete 70 ECTS in years one to three and 70 ECTS in the final year and a half, for a total of 280 ECTS. Compensation is also not permitted on clinical practice placement modules in line with Nursing and Midwifery Board Ireland requirements. She requested approval for these derogations from Council.

Decision/Action:
118.1 Council approved the minutes of 23 January 2018.
118.2 Council approved the derogations sought for the Children's and General Nursing programme.

CL/17-18/119   **Graduate Studies Committee**

The Dean of Graduate Studies drew Council's attention to a number of items in the minutes of 25 January, 2018. He advised Council that he was not requesting Council approval for the item listed in Section B (Re.7) MSc in Development Practice as, for reasons that arose after the meeting, further work needs to be done on the proposal.

The Dean of Graduate Studies referred to GS/17-17/148, noting that approval had been given for the proposed MSc in Addiction Recovery to go out to external review. In the case of the proposed MSc in Mechanical Engineering (GS/17-17/149) approval had been given for external review, subject to some minor revisions. The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science added that the proposed MSc in Mechanical Engineering is replacing an existing programme.

The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that under GS/17-18/151, the President of the Graduate Students' Union had raised concern about the number of students from outside the EU experiencing significant financial hardship and that this was to be raised with the Global Relations Office. The Provost asked for comments on the use of existing hardship funds. The Senior Tutor responded, that currently there is a provision of €43,000 in a social fund that is distributed once a year, along with a much smaller contingency fund. The Vice President for Global Relations suggested there might be an opportunity to review the contribution to the hardship fund for non-EU students as part of the GRS III strategy. The Dean of Graduate Studies commented that some students from outside the EU may not have a clear sense of the cost of living and availability of part-time work before they come to Dublin.

Decision/Action:
119.1 Council approved the minutes of 25 January 2018, excluding the Section B, (Re.7) item on the MSc in Development Practice.
119.2 Senior Tutor and Vice President for Global Relations to consider an appropriate increase in the hardship fund for non-EU students.

CL/17-18/120   **International Committee**

The Vice President for Global Relations drew Council's attention to IC/17-18/016, and confirmed that the registration for non-EU registrations had reached 98.4% of the target, and not 94% as stated in the minute. The Provost commended the work of the Global Relations Office and colleagues in achieving this target.

Decision/Action:
120.1 Council approved the minutes of 11 December 2017.

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CL/17-18/121   Quality Committee
The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer drew attention to a number of items in the draft Quality Committee minutes of the meeting of 18 January 2018, including the Trinity Long Room Hub Review Report that had been brought to Council, the Implementation Plan for the School of Histories and Humanities (QC/17-17/31), the Progress Report on the Masters in Theology (QC/17-17/32) and the need for a contact point within Academic Registry for the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. He drew Council's attention to the Progress Report for the School of English (QC/17-17/33).

Decision/Action:
121.1 Council approved the minutes of 18 January 2018 along the School of Histories and Humanities Implementation Plan, the Masters in Theology Progress Report, and the School of English Progress Report.

CL/17-18/122   Research Committee
The Dean of Research advised Council that the meeting on 12 December 2017, was the first where she had attended as Dean of Research. The Dean thanked Professor Martina Hennessy for her work on the Research Committee prior to the Dean taking up her post.

Decision/Action:
122.1 Council approved the minutes of 12 December 2017.
122.2 The Provost asked the Dean of Research to convey Council's thanks to Professor Hennessy for her contribution to the work of the Research Committee and in her role as Associate Dean of Research.

CL/17-18/123   Student Life Committee
The Dean of Students drew Council's attention to a number of items in the minutes of the meeting of 8 November 2017. He noted that the President of the Graduate Students' Union had presented a paper on the impact of fee increases on students (SLC/17-17/90), identifying challenges in terms of budgeting for the four years of a programme and requesting that a predictive level of possible increases over four years be offered as a guide to students.
He also drew attention to the dates for the ISSE survey for 2018 (SLC/17-18/93), which will take place between 5 and 25 March. He noted that this will now include postgraduate research students. The Graduate Students' Union offered some suggestions as to ways to increase participation of postgraduate research students in the survey, and supported the call for providing greater certainty to students with respect to fees.

Decision/Action:
123.1 Council approved the minutes of 8 November 2017.

SECTION C

CL/17-18/124   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 17 January 2018 and noted by Board on 31 January 2018.

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

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PhD   Mark Canney; Kit Yee Chan; Christopher Fennell; Kieran Hubert Gallagher; Aoife McGinley; Joanne McVeigh; Hanah Nadine Mesallati; Hannah Moran; Tara Moran; Glenn Moynihan; Eóin O'Brien; Paolo Guido Pirovano; Anuj Pokle; Deepak Kumar Saxena.

CL/17-18/125   Head of School
The Council noted that the Board, on 31 January 2018, had approved the nomination of Professor Michael Gill as Head of the School of Medicine for 3 years (2017-2020) from 14 December 2017 (first term).

CL/17-18/126   Establishment of the Professor of Constitutional Governance (2018)
The Council noted and approved the memorandum, as circulated, from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, dated 8 February 2018.

SECTION D

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

Signed   ....

Date   ....

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