



Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin

A meeting of the University Council was held on Wednesday 7 March 2018 at 11.15 am in the Board Room.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Dean of Research, Dean of Students, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor J Walsh, Professor S Garrigan, Professor E O Nuallain, Professor P Wyse Jackson, Professor S Murphy, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor A M Brady, Professor M Clarke, Professor M Corry, Dr S Chandra, Professor A O’Gara, Ms A MacPherson, Mr C O’Halloran, Ms A Walsh, Dean of Research, Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Professor R A Kenny, Ms S Cameron-Coen, Mr P Shanahan, Mr M Bhargav.
<i>Apologies</i>	Mr R Doherty, Professor C Gardiner, Professor A Holohan, Secretary to the Scholars (Mr P Lavelle), Chief Operating Officer.
<i>In attendance</i>	Academic Secretary, Secretary to the College, Librarian and College Archivist, Dr J Ó Néill Professor Stephen Matterson and Professor Martine Smith attended for item CL/17-18/137.
<i>Observers</i>	Mr V J Paidimukkala.

SECTION A

The Provost requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The College Secretary noted that although Professor M Clarke made a statement of interest for the course proposal in A07.4 as she was not involved in delivery of the course she would remain for discussion of the item.

CL/17-18/133 Minutes

In item CL/17-18/112, the text after ‘He informed Council...’ was amended to read ‘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.’

In item CL/17-18/114, the text after ‘The Dean of AHSS commented...’ was amended to read ‘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.’

In item CL/17-18/115, the text after ‘With regard to funding...’ was amended to read ‘With regard to funding, the Librarian noted that the major Early Irish Manuscript project supported by Bank of America, was now at its end.’

In item CL/17-18/115, the text after ‘She also noted that this pillar...’ was amended to read ‘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.’

In item CL/17-18/115, the text after ‘She advised Council...’ was amended to read ‘She advised Council that the Irish Universities Association Librarians’ Group (IUALG) had commissioned a paper on what Brexit means for libraries.’

In item CL/17-18/115, the text after ‘Another area that was under review was...’ to read ‘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 item CL/17-18/116, the text after ‘Students are required...’ was amended to read ‘Students in a programme where the Fitness to Practice policy applies are required to comply with both policies.’

The minutes of the meeting of 14 February 2018 were approved and signed.

CL/17-18/134 Matters Arising

CL/17-18/115: The Librarian and College Archivist provided Council with an update on access to the Library for repeat students. She advised Council that on receipt of a letter from the student’s tutor the Library provides walk-in access to e-resources, walk-in access to on-site collections and access to Automated Stack Requests for consultation purposes. If the student’s tutor requests long-term access, the Library provides the student with a plastic ID Library card for this purpose. The procedure will be reviewed as part of the Trinity Education Project.

CL/17-18/135 Provost’s Report

The Provost updated Council on activities since the last meeting of Council.

- (i) The Provost advised that he had attended a meeting of the Global Brain Health Institute Governing Board in New York in February. The Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) is a joint project of Trinity and the University California, San Francisco (UCSF) on brain health. The Provost noted that while GBHI was funded up to 2029, he and the Chancellor, UCSF, were invited to join the meeting to discuss future funding and potential mainstreaming of the GBHI activities in the long term. He commended the work of the GBHI, which is developing therapies on brain health and ways to combat diseases such as dementia.

The Provost invited the Vice-President Global Relations to provide an update on developments with Columbia University. The Vice-President Global Relations informed Council that the Dual BA Program between Trinity College and Columbia was launched in November 2017 and attended by academics from both institutions. She noted the success of the Program with approximately 85 students already selected for interview in Dublin and Columbia. The Dual BA Program will be launched also in China by the Tánaiste as part of the St Patrick’s Day events. The Provost and the Executive Vice President of Columbia University signed a strategic partnership between the two universities at the launch of their new Dual BA Program. The signing and launch was well attended by New York-based Trinity alumni. Acknowledging the high cost to attend Columbia, the Provost advised Council that there is an opportunity to secure funding from alumni to provide support for Irish students participating in the Dual BA Program.

- (ii) On 22 February 2018, the Provost travelled to London for a meeting of the Provost’s Council, which discussed the funding of future capital projects. The meeting considered, among other things, how to secure public and private funds for the development of the Cancer Institute. In March the Provost visited Hong Kong where he met with potential donors and attended a function for Hong Kong-based Trinity alumni.
- (iii) The Provost advised Council that he had signed an agreement with the Yunus Emre Institute to fund a new assistant professorship in Turkish Cultural History.

- (iv) E3 (Engineering, Energy and Environment Institute): The Provost informed Council that clarification hearings had been held, under procurement rules, with the architects shortlisted for the E3 Learning Foundry capital development project. The selected architects will develop plans for the for the E3 site.
- (v) The Provost drew Council's attention to the examples of Trinity's planned capital expenditure projects listed in the newly launched National Development Plan, 2018-2027. Trinity projects mentioned in the National Development Plan include the new Business School, E3 Learning Foundry, student accommodation and Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus (TTEC). He cautioned Council that this was not to be taken as a guarantee of exchequer funding for these projects. The Provost noted that Trinity had other projects, such as the Cancer Institute, Law School building, and other refurbishment projects which would also align with the strategic goals of the National Development Plan.
- (vi) The Provost invited the Dean of Research to comment on the recently published QS World University Subject Rankings by Subject for 2018. The Dean of Research informed Council that four subjects were ranked in the top 50 in the world in 2018: Nursing, the top ranked subject, Classics and Ancient History, English Language and Literature, and Politics and International Studies. She also noted that Trinity is the highest ranking Irish university in each of the five broad subject areas as follows: Arts and Humanities, 57, followed by UCD, 132; Engineering and Technology, 89, followed by UCD, 103; Life Sciences and Medicine, 87, followed by UCD, 146; Natural Sciences, 113, followed by UCD, 159; Social Sciences and Management, 113, followed by UCD, 159.

The Dean of Research drew Council's attention to Trinity's ranking in the broad subject areas relative to the other twenty three universities in the League of European Research Universities (LERU). Among the LERU universities, Trinity is ranked ninth in Arts and Humanities, seventh in Engineering and Technology, nineteenth in Life Sciences and Medicine, twentieth in Natural Sciences, and twelfth in Social Sciences and Management. She noted that while Trinity had performed well, the LERU comparisons contextualised the broad subject area rankings amongst Trinity's peer universities.

The Provost commended Trinity's rankings in the broad subject areas relative to other Irish universities but noted that the comparison with other LERU universities indicated that there is no room for complacency. He suggested that the Dean's research strategy should give consideration to how the ranking could be improved in Life Sciences and Health, and Natural Sciences. The Dean of Research responded that the rankings reflects continued under-funding in these broad subject areas across the Irish university sector, and stressed the need to emphasis this in discussions with government funding agencies.

The Dean of Research informed members that she would be circulating a follow-up article on the subject rankings to allow for further discussion.

The Provost invited comments from Council on the issues raised under Provost's report.

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science speaking to the rankings advised Council that marketing analysis showed that subject rankings are an important factor in student choice. The Provost recommended that subject rankings, where appropriate, should be included in course promotional materials.

Speaking to the Dual BA Program, a member requested that College consider carefully the risk of being accused of inequity if the funding mechanism is not transparent and made available during the recruitment drive for the program. She welcomed the possibility of Alumni sponsorship and financial aid, but felt that unless these were very generous, the program would be out of reach of the vast majority of Irish families and students.

Action

CL/17-18/135.1 The Dean of Research to circulate further analysis to schools on subject rankings.

CL/17-18/136 Trinity Education Project Update

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer provided Council with a brief update on the Trinity Education Project (TEP).

He advised Council that a call had gone out for proposals for Trinity Electives to address key societal challenges with a closing date of 20 April 2018. A follow-on workshop for Research Theme Leads to support the development of Trinity Electives is to take place on 21 March 2018.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer informed Council that the process for identifying Approved Modules had begun and is to be completed by the end of March. He noted that Faculty-level teach-meets took place on the 6 March in the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, and scheduled for 14 March in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and for the 23 March in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

He drew Council's attention to the Revised Calendar Regulations for the Objectives of the Moderatorship and General Regulations, including new progression regulations that had been approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee at its meeting of 20 February 2018. These would be brought to a future meeting of Council for consideration. The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer also advised Council that a communication would be sent to Schools by Trinity Teaching and Learning on programme approval processes for the TEP Phase 2 programmes. He noted that the submissions for TEP Phase 2 programmes would provide the basis for the 2019/20 prospectus.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that work on timetabling was continuing and drew Council's attention to the item on Joint Honors Entry (CL/17-18/137) and its proposal to group subjects into pillars for timetabling purposes. He noted that the Undergraduate Studies Committee is to consider items on Nomenclature of Awards, Gold Medals and Internships in the near future.

CL/17-18/137 Review of Joint Honors Entry Route

Professor Stephen Matterson and Professor Martine Smith joined the meeting.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer spoke to the circulated item on the Review of Joint Honors Entry Routes by way of a presentation. The Taskgroup on Joint Honors Entry Routes, which produced the recommendations, comprised Professor Stephen Matterson, Director of the Two-Subject Moderatorship Course, and Professor Martine Smith, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Studies along with the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer and co-opted members, Orla Sheehan, Manager of Academic Services Division and Jennifer Pepper, Head of Operations, Academic Registry.

The Taskgroup had been set up to consider the proposals for the Two-Subject Moderatorship and two-subject combination programmes recommended by the Expert Group previously established by Council and approved by Council at its meeting of 25 October 2017 (CL/17-18/029). The Expert Group recommend a significant reduction in the number of entry routes and counselled against a single point of entry. The Group also recommended that the new two-subject combinations should be determined using the principles of academic integrity; strategic priorities; student demand; available resources; learning outcomes aligned with TEP principles.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer presented Council with an overview of the current two-subject combinations, noting the dormant combinations, those with an average of less than one registered student per year over five years, and the downward trend in first preference applications between 2013 and 2017 in a number of Schools. He highlighted the pattern of registrations on combinations of subject pairings that supported the creation of four 'Pillars' of subjects and provided the basis for stable timetabling. Subjects in the same 'Pillar' would be delivered in the same slots in the weekly timetable. The subjects within each Pillar are:

Pillar 1: Classical Civilisation, Drama, French, Mathematics and History.

Pillar 2: Ancient History and Archaeology, Economics, English, Italian and Music.

Pillar 3: Film Studies, History of Art and Architecture, Jewish and Islamic Civilisations, Sociology, German and Russian.

Pillar 4: Classical Languages, Geography, Religion, Modern Irish, Philosophy and Spanish.

The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised Council that Psychology had decided that they are unable to continue with a Joint Honors programme. He also noted that Early Irish will be withdrawing its Joint Honors offering but will continue to be an important part of Single Honors and taught postgraduate programmes, and he reiterated the university's continuing commitment to this subject. Following extensive analysis, the decision was made to exclude existing combinations that had had no eligible applicants, or an average of <1 eligible applicants over the past five years. The Taskgroup considered intake by subject in 2000 as a reference point, and from 2012 to 2017, and analysed total preferences and first preferences applications by combination for 2015, 2016 and 2017; it also considered minimum points by combination for 2017 as well as the impact of points differential between two subjects in 2017. A draft list of revised combinations was compiled, categorising all combinations as one of: (a) populated combinations; (b) empty/lightly populated combinations; (c) new combinations possible in the new pillar structure; (d) combinations not possible in the new pillar system. This list was then discussed with Schools with a view to confirming subjects' positioning within the pillars; confirming the 'populated combinations' involving the School's subjects; receiving suggestions for newly possible Phase II combinations; discussing subject-level quotas.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer informed Council that the School of Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies (LLCS) proposed that Modern Languages be considered as a single entry route, with a quota of 265, for all permissible combinations, which the Taskgroup adopted as an innovative approach to filling combinations and the full quota across the individual languages. He drew Council's attention to the proposed entry routes, the proposed combinations with individual languages, and new proposed combinations. He also indicated that Religion was being treated as a single subject here, and that a future meeting of Council would consider a proposal for a programme integrating Religion and Theology and Catholic Theological Studies.

The Provost thanked the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Taskgroup for their report and invited Professor Matterson and Professor Smith to comment. Professor Matterson noted that the language proposal required discussion with CAO to ensure that it could be implemented. He indicated his support for the proposed changes to the Two-Subject Moderatorship and felt that the changes presented new opportunities, including sharing of modules across combinations, commenting that TSM generally has the ethos of keeping subjects in a given combination apart. Professor Smith noted that she had contributed from the perspective of a non-TSM school, and emphasised that the recommendations had been prompted by data and analysis. She felt it had been a useful pedagogic exercise.

The Provost invited comments on the report and recommendations.

The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science enquired about the capacity to accommodate new subjects in the future into the proposed Joint Honors Entry Route. The

Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that there was a logic to the combinations in the proposed structure and the structure allows for the inclusion of new subjects, for example, Education or Linguistics, but this is a next step in the process. The Librarian and College Archivist noted that the Royal Irish Academy's Brexit task force had made recommendations around languages and the proposed approach is in line with this. Members also noted that some current language combinations are no longer possible under the proposed structure. The Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences noted that speaking for himself, he supported the proposal and proposed change in nomenclature to Joint Honors. He recognised that the reduction in combinations was based on sound evidence but noted that there are dissenting voices in the School of Languages, Literature and Cultures as some staff feel that the current proposals curtail options available. The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer responded that while some language combinations no longer exist, there are still more available combinations in the proposed model than there are active combinations currently. He also noted that the proposal to pool the CAO quota for modern languages came from the School of LLCS, and that retaining combinations with no eligible applicants year after year per year served no purpose. In a response to a different query, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that the proposals have not gone to the Undergraduate Studies Committee as the review of TSM and the subsequent report arising from the Taskgroup was commissioned by Council.

The Students' Union representative welcomed the proposal and commended the considerable work done on the review, in particular she welcomed the approach that took into consideration student demand. She hoped that students will be able to understand the options available to them especially with respect to language choices. The Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer agreed that it was important that the information on the choices available be clearly communicated to prospective students.

The Provost thanked the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Taskgroup on Joint Entry for their work and put the Taskgroup recommendations to Council for approval as follows:

- (i) That Psychology withdraw from joint honors entry routes.
- (i) That withdrawal Early Irish withdraw from joint honors entry routes.
- (ii) That Modern Languages should be a single entry route, with a quota of 265.
- (iii) The 62 subject combinations outlined as entry routes to joint honors programmes with effect from 2019/20, and the combinations within Modern Languages as outlined (attached to these minutes)
- (iv) That the title of Two-Subject Moderatorship should be dropped and an external communication plan developed around Joint Honors Programmes, which includes the existing direct entry programmes.
- (v) That a new governance for joint honors programmes be developed which supports implementation of the new programme architecture.
- (vi) That the university regularly reviews trends in enrolments and student demand for joint honors programmes and takes steps, where appropriate, to respond.

Decisions/Actions

CL/17-18/137.1 Council approved the seven recommendations listed above from the Taskgroup on Joint Honors Entry.

CL/17-18/137.2 The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to draw up procedures for inclusion of new subjects into the Joint Honors entry route for consideration at a future Council meeting.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer expressed his gratitude to the Taskforce members, including the exceptional support provided by Ms Orla Sheehan and Ms Jennifer Pepper.

Professor Stephen Matterson and Professor Martine Smith left the meeting.

CL/17-18/138 Proposal for an Articulation Agreement between TCD and USTB

A memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 26 February 2018, together with a memorandum from Professor Charles Patterson and Professor Hongzhou Zhang, School of Physics, dated 26 February 2018, was circulated with a copy of a proposed Articulation Agreement between Trinity and the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB).

Speaking to the item, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised Council that USTB is part of the 211 project that seeks to develop one hundred first-rate universities in China in the twenty-first century and there are long standing research links between Trinity and USTB.

She provided Council with an overview of the preparatory work undertaken by the School of Physics and Global Relations Office. This included visiting USTB and a curriculum mapping and alignment exercise. The School of Physics is satisfied that students completing the first two years in USTB will have covered the necessary content at the right level to enable them to succeed on the programme. She noted that the entry requirements for USTB students under the articulation agreement are an average score of 80% over the first two years at USTB, and students must present an IELTS score of at least 6.5, with no individual band less than 6.0. She also noted the high average entry scores for students on USTB's physical science programme in 2014, 2015 and 2016. She informed Council that under the proposed '2+2' articulation eligible USTB students would spend two years in USTB and then complete the final two years of the Physics programme at Trinity to achieve a BA (Mod) in Physics from Trinity. Up to ten students will be admitted annually to the Junior Sophister (JS) year and, if approved, those registering in 2018/19 will enter the JS year of TR071, and in 2019/20 the JS year in the new Science Programme. She noted that students will receive supplementary tuition in English technical language and once here they can also avail themselves of the services of Trinity's Centre for English Language Teaching.

The Dean of the Engineering, Mathematics and Science endorsed the proposed Articulation Agreement noting that it aligns with the Faculty and School strategy and would assist the School of Physics in increasing its non-EU student numbers. The Vice President for Global Relations also endorsed the proposed Articulation Agreement.

There was some discussion on the financial provisions within the Articulation Agreement and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science confirmed that the financial details as presented were correct. In response to a query, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies confirmed that on completion of the programme the students will receive the Trinity degree only. The Provost enquired whether the students were eligible for scholarship, and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted that students must apply in Senior Fresh for scholarship and students recruited under the Articulation Agreement would not arrive until their Junior Sophister year. The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science welcomed the articulation agreement and supported the Provost's view that students on 2+2 articulation programmes should be eligible for scholarship.

Decision

CL/17-18/138.1 Council approved the Articulation Agreement between Trinity and USTB

CL/17-18/139 Postgraduate Course Proposals

(i) Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Exercise.

A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 28 February 2018, was circulated with a proposal from the School of Medicine for a new online course leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Exercise with a Postgraduate Certificate exit award (NFQ Level 9).

The Dean of Graduate Studies spoke to the proposal, noting that it had been considered by the Graduate Studies Committee in May 2017. It subsequently went out for external review to Professor Mark D. Peterson of the University of Michigan-Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Neuroscience Graduate Program, USA. There was considerable delay in receiving the review report but Professor Mark D. Peterson was very positive about the course and his recommendations have already been incorporated into the proposal while other recommended enhancements will be made at a future date.

The course is aimed to enable clinicians to prescribe exercise as a disease preventative. The proposed Diploma incorporates the existing postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Exercise and builds on existing modules in several MSc courses delivered by the School. There is strong market demand for a diploma level course in clinical exercise as evidenced by the demand for the certificate in clinical exercise as well as a high level of interest by graduates of the certificate for opportunities to progress to another level. The diploma will be attractive to non-EU applicants and the School intends to target markets in Singapore and Australia. The annual student intake is a maximum of 65 and a minimum of 20.

Decision

CL/17-18/139.i.1 Council approved the course proposal leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Exercise to commence in September 2018.

(ii) Postgraduate Certificate in Biological Psychiatry.

A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 22 February 2018, was circulated with a proposal from the School of Medicine for a new course leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Biological Psychiatry (NFQ Level 9).

The Dean of Graduate Studies spoke to the item, noting that the proposal had been considered by the Graduate Studies Committee in December 2017 and received a positive review from Professor Allys Guerandel, Associate Clinical Professor, School of Medicine, University College Dublin. Professor Allys Guerandel was highly positive about the course and her suggested enhancements have already been incorporated into the proposal.

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised Council that the proposed one-year Postgraduate Certificate course will replace the two-year part-time MSc in Biological Psychiatry, which is being phased out and will close down in September 2018. The Postgraduate Certificate is aimed primarily at medical graduates with a background or interest in psychiatry, psychology, or biological sciences, who wish to develop their academic skills and broaden their research interests. As the demand for the programme was mainly professional, the proposed Postgraduate Certificate was designed to meet that demand.

In response to a question, the Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that the MSc in Biological Psychiatry will be stood down because there have been no entrants to the course since 2013/14 partly because the training grants previously awarded to trainees have been discontinued and partly because practicing professionals are too busy to commit to a two year MSc course. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that it is likely the HSE will provide funds for the certificate course. The Dean confirmed that it is unlikely that there will be a non-EU intake and noted that the overall quota is 16.

Decisions

CL/17-18/139.ii.1 Council approved the course proposal leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Biological Psychiatry to commence in September 2018.

CL/17-18/139.ii.2 Council approved the discontinuation of the MSc in Biological Psychiatry effective from September 2018.

(iii) MSc in Electronic Information Engineering

A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 20 February 2018, was circulated with a proposal from the School of Engineering for a new course leading to a MSc in Electronic Information Engineering with an exit award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Electronic Information Engineering (NFQ Level 9).

The Dean of Graduate Studies gave Council a brief overview of the proposal, noting that it had been considered by the Graduate Studies Committee in December 2017 and was reviewed by the external assessor, Professor Anil Anthony Bharath, Reader in Image Analysis, Director of Postgraduate Studies, Department of Bioengineering, Imperial College London. Professor Anil Anthony Bharath was positive about the course and his suggested enhancements have been incorporated into the course proposal while others proposed enhancements will be implemented at a future time.

The proposed course allows graduates to specialise in fundamental theory and applications relating to the generation, distribution, analysis and use of information in engineering and science, and underlies the principles of the E3 initiative. There is a strong demand from EU and non-EU students for a more targeted award in Information Engineering at MSc level. The course is offered on a one-year full-time or two-year part-time basis.

The Dean of Graduate Studies explained the background to the proposal and that it had been designed as a specialist concentration that was only previously available as part of the MSc in Engineering by Module. He advised Council that the School of Computer Science had been consulted on the name of the proposed programme and pointed out that the E3 Schools are considering sharing taught postgraduate modules in the future. He also noted that the programme included a 40 ECTS dissertation module, which enables students to spend longer in the lab making it more likely for joint research publications. Whereas students may exist with a diploma having successfully completing 60 ECTS, students who fail to meet the required standard during the dissertation module would be encouraged to

complete a further ten taught ECTS and exist with the Postgraduate Diploma in Information Engineering.

Decision

CL/17-18/139.iii.1 Council approved the new course proposal leading to a MSc in Electronic Information Engineering with an exit award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Electronic Information Engineering (NFQ Level 9) to commence in September 2018.

(iv) Dental Public Health – Doctorate in Dental Surgery (D.Ch.Dent.)

A memorandum from the Dean of Graduate Studies, dated 27 February 2018, was circulated with a proposal from the School of Dental Science for a new Dental Public Health strand leading to the award of Doctorate in Dental Surgery (D.Ch.Dent.), NFQ level 10.

The Dean of Graduate Studies spoke to the proposal, noting that it had been considered by the Graduate Studies Committee in December 2017. It had been sent for external review to Dr Ilona Johnson, Senior Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Dental Public Health, School of Dentistry, Cardiff University. He advised Council that the external reviewer was very positive about the new strand and that the proposal incorporated her recommended enhancements.

The Dean of Graduate Studies explained the background to the proposed strand. He noted that it is the 6th strand of the professional taught Doctorate in Dental Surgery and the overall structure is similar across all strands. This strand is closely aligned to the others and interdisciplinary learning is strongly encouraged. The curriculum responds to a need for developing Dental Public Health specialists in Ireland and satisfies the requirements of the Dental Council of Ireland for an educational and training programme leading to accreditation in this specialism. Dental Public Health specialists are brought in from the UK, and this proposal will attempt to address this skill deficit in The Republic of Ireland. The course involves taught modules, a dissertation and practical experience. Students will be provided with opportunities to gain practical experience with the National Health Services in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and England.

Professor M Clarke informed Council that the strand is required to provide specialist training within the profession in Ireland.

Decision

CL/17-18/139.iv.1 Council approved the new strand in Dental Public Health leading to the award of Doctorate in Dental Surgery (D.Ch.Dent.), NFQ level 10, to commence in September 2018.

The Registrar retired from the meeting.

CL/17-18/140 Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report 2016-17

The Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report, 2016-17, was circulated with papers for the meeting. Speaking to the report, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the format of the report is different from previous years in that it is a narrative relating in part to data derived from the Academic Registry Report, 2016-17. It was agreed that the Academic Registry would provide a composite report on all relevant statistical data relating to the

undergraduate and postgraduate student activity and that the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Undergraduate Studies would draw on these data for commentary in their respective annual report to Council. A first Academic Registry Report covering the academic year 2016-17 was presented to Council in January 2018.

The Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report is organised into three main sections; Section A presents an analysis of the data provided in the Academic Registry Report for postgraduate students in 2016-17; Section B notes other developments in postgraduate education in Trinity in 2016-17; Section C addresses some future challenges. The Dean of Graduate Studies went through each section commenting on issues of particular interest, showing where relevant the interdependency of themes across the three sections.

Referring to the strategy to grow postgraduate numbers, he stressed the importance of ensuring quality while simultaneously allowing for growth. He noted a need to redefine constantly what is meant by quality in the postgraduate education space and felt that it was necessary to identify and address impediments to quality in provision. The Dean informed Council that while taught postgraduate application numbers had increased across all three faculties, the percentage of candidates who were made an offer and then proceeded to register in Trinity has fallen. The reasons for this were unclear, but it's possible that applicants apply to multiple universities and chose one of these over Trinity. He felt that there might be some value in getting feedback on why such applicants had declined their offers.

The Dean of Graduate Studies noted that the Global Relations team have reported a significant improvement in turning around applications following Council's approval in 2016 of a policy on issuing admission decisions within two weeks of receipt of an application (CL/15-16/235). However, there are concerns about the speed in which these are then turned around by the Academic Registry, and the Dean suggested that the resourcing of Academic Registry to manage the increasing workload needs urgent attention.

Some programmes have seen significant growth in non-EU numbers, with some having to close applications early due to a high volume of applications. There is some risk that the statistics in relation to taught postgraduate numbers are slightly skewed by the remarkable growth in registrations to the Business School, and the marked increase in applications to the new MSc in Computer Science. These successes are a cause for other Schools to reconsider their offerings and marketing strategies in the future. He also drew Council's attention to the number of taught postgraduate programmes with less than ten registered students, noting that while the scholastic value of these may be high, it is nonetheless useful to review these offerings and how they are marketed.

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised Council that the research postgraduate data for 2016-17 showed a fall in registrations in all three faculties. He noted that it could be argued that a drop in registered PhD candidates in the sciences might reflect reduced funding in that area, but this is unlikely the reason for the decline in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science where traditionally there is not a strong funding culture. He speculated whether the figures during the economic recession were inflated as students, who were unemployed, pursued the PhD route as a stepping stone to employment, while, in the post-recession era, graduates holding a master-level qualification are securing employment. Referring, to the 'post Zuckerberg' workplace, where practical results are valued more highly than cerebral input, the Dean wondered whether PhD can retain its value in the workplace of the future.

Looking to the future, Trinity might need to reconsider its approach to marketing postgraduate programmes as it could be argued that Trinity has adopted a sales model whereby academics develop programmes that suit their expertise and sell these as a deepening of the undergraduate academic journey to graduates, a mini-PhD. The suggestion is that the market no longer sees an undergraduate degree as sufficient in itself to secure

employment, and instead it is looking to master level qualifications to provide the practical skills needed in the workplace.

Schools developing master level programmes need to think beyond their discipline when both developing and marketing these programmes and take advantage of cross disciplinary opportunities and alternative markets that are not traditional within the discipline; for example, the Law School might consider how to provide offerings that address the professional requirements in different fields, such as for example 'construction law' for engineers.

The Dean of Graduate Studies also proposed that College may also need to reimagine the PhD and meet future and emerging social and economic needs while retaining a focus on the quality of the education offering and experience.

Having discussed the issues with all the Directors of Teaching and Learning Postgraduate, the Dean of Graduate Studies felt that success lies in the availability of adequate resources to Schools to ensure a quality student experience and to incentivise innovative approaches to interdisciplinary offerings and marketing, as well recognition of the efforts of staff who develop and direct master level programmes. The Dean of Graduate Studies stressed the importance of acknowledging the efforts of staff in responding to the financial downturn, noting that the contribution of course directors received less recognition than research achievements in the current academic promotion model.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies for his report and invited comments from Council.

Members of Council commended the report and in the discussion that followed and in response to specific queries, the Dean of Graduate Studies reported that he and the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer were working to develop strategies to increase incentivisation. The Vice-Provost Chief Academic Officer explained how the Baseline Budgeting Model could be a vehicle for incentivising Schools to develop more strategic opportunities in the postgraduate space. The Dean of Graduate Studies recognised that some Schools feel that working from a traditional baseline could penalise Schools who have a strong record of attracting non-EU students and providing innovative market-responsive postgraduate offerings. It was accepted that the absence of resources to kick-start projects was a huge impediment and the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that he was exploring ways to address this.

Members of Council made some suggestions on how to address the issues raised, including greater part-time PhD and professional doctorate provision; reviewing targets for PhD numbers to avoid a focus on quantity over quality; reviewing the baseline budgeting model to ensure Schools that have a track record of attracting non-EU students are not disadvantaged; addressing the chronic delays experienced in the Academic Registry in the processing of postgraduate applications, thesis examinations and student cases; ensuring that postgraduate education is not overshadowed by TEP.

The Dean of Graduate Studies pointed out that Academic Registry monitored its postgraduate processes against key performance indicators and suggested that this approach may not be compatible with the education mission of the university. He also felt that high levels of staff attrition in the Academic Registry complicated matters as the time lag in upskilling new staff can be significant.

The Dean of Graduate Studies in response to a query, undertook to check whether data were available on changes in the numbers of academic staff eligible to take on postgraduate research students.

The Dean of Health Sciences queried whether the process around the Provost's PhD Scholarship awards guaranteed that the best students received the awards because the awards target assistant and associate professors and not students. The Dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science stressed the importance of catering to prospective students' wants, of promoting subject rankings in marketing materials, and positioning programmes in areas where Schools have expertise. It was noted that some postgraduate programmes have small quotas because of clinical or other restraints and this would need to be understood in any review conducted in this space. A member stressed the need for agility in College's administrative processes so as Schools can respond to demands for professional development courses. Greater support for blended learning offerings was also required if Schools are to respond to market demands. It was noted that the increase in taught postgraduate master programmes put increased pressure on staff as there are not enough staff in some Schools to supervise postgraduate dissertations. The Librarian and College Archivist noted the comments in the report on Trinity Library's Open Access policy in relation to postgraduate theses and suggested that College will also need to address the issue of open scholarship in due course.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies for his report and Council members for their input to the suggestion.

Actions

CL/17-18/140.1 Council noted the Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report 2016-17.

CL/17-18/140.2 The Dean of Graduate Studies to review changes in the numbers of academic staff eligible to take on postgraduate research students.

CL/17-18/140.3 The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to raise the delays in administrating postgraduate applications, thesis submissions and student cases with the Chief Operating Officer.

CL/17-18/141 Preliminary CAO Application Statistics 2018

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred until the next meeting.

CL/17-18/142 Description of Undergraduate Students

A memorandum from the Vice Provost/Chief Academic Officer, dated 7 March 2018, was circulated to members requesting that Council activate the Statutory Provision [sub-section 1. (4)] to permit the option for the academic standing of undergraduate students to be described as students of the relevant year, noting that the Chapter on "Students" in the Statutes reads as follows:

"1. (3) The academic standing of undergraduate students shall normally be described as follows:

- (a) in the first year, as "Junior Freshmen",
- (b) in the second year, as "Senior Freshmen",
- (c) in the third year, as "Junior Sophisters",
- (d) in the fourth year, as "Senior Sophisters", and
- (e) in further years, as students of the relevant year.

(4) Notwithstanding sub-section (3), Council and Board may provide that the academic standing of undergraduate students may also be described as students of the relevant year."

Decision

CL/17-18/142.1 Council approved that the academic standing of undergraduate students may also be described as students of the relevant year.

SECTION B

CL/17-18/143 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew the attention of Council to the minutes of the 23 January 2018 Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting that had been corrected, and advised Council that the correct version of the draft minutes of 20 February 2018 meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee were those circulated on 5 March 2018.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted the item on the Revised Calendar Regulations – Objectives of the Moderatorship and General Regulations (USC/17-18/52.c) which were approved by the USC and are now before Council for approval through the minutes.

She also highlighted the proposed derogations from the School of Nursing and Midwifery to permit off books with assessment for the phasing out period of the existing curricula for students registered in their Senior Fresh year in 2018-19 (USC/17-18/52.e).

The minutes of the 23 January 2018 and the draft minutes 20 February meetings were noted and approved.

Decisions

CL/17-18/143.1 Council approved the Revised Calendar Regulations – Objectives of the Moderatorship and General Regulations (USC/17-18/52.c).

CL/17-18/143.2 Council approved the proposed additional Derogations to Progression and Awards Regulations from the School of Nursing and Midwifery (USC/17-18/52.e).

CL/17-18/144 Graduate Studies Committee

The Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted the item on the proposed new strand on the MEd, the Psychology of Education (GS/17-18/158), which was before Council for approval through the draft minutes of the 22 February 2018 Graduate Studies Committee meeting.

The Graduate Students' Union representative drew Council's attention to the discussion on item GS/17-18/160 on the Dean of Graduate Studies' Annual Report 2016-17 in the draft minutes and concerns around candidate selection being based on an ability to pay fees rather than on academic achievement. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that this issue was under review.

The draft minutes of the 22 February meetings were noted and approved.

Decision

CL/17-18/144.1 Council approved the new M.Ed. strand: Psychology of Education (GS/17-18/158).

CL/17-18/145 Research Committee

The draft minutes of the 23 January meeting were deferred to the next meeting of Council as the Dean of Research had left the meeting for another engagement.

Decision

CL/17-18/145.1: The draft minutes of the 23 January meeting deferred to next meeting of Council

CL/17-18/146 Student Life Committee

The Dean of Students drew Council attention to the item on the Irish Survey on Student Engagement 2018 in the minutes of the 10 January meeting, noting that there will be a pilot of postgraduate research in the 2018 survey.

The draft minutes of the 10 January meeting were noted and approved.

CL/17-18/147 Library an Information Policy Committee

The draft minutes of the 4 December 2017 were noted and approved.

SECTION C**CL/17-18/148 Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 14 February 2018 and noted by Board on 28 February 2018.

(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

PhD Ciaran Liam Bannan; Paul Simon Cassidy; Riley John Gatensby; Leanne Hays; Savyasachi Aramballi Jayanth; Liam Michael Kneafsey; Adrien Michael Mathias Martel; David McAteer; Michael Prunty; Gokaran Nath Shukla; Nicoleta Sinevici; Joana Marta Candelaria Vasconcelos; Gaozhong Wang; Hannah Wolfe

D.CH.Dent. Lina Khasawneh

MSc Barry William Thornton; Muhammad Kamil Hassan; Prakash Kumar

CL/17-18/149 Nomination of External Examiners

The Council noted and approved the Memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, circulated, dated 16 February 2018.

CL/17-18/150 Change of PhD Examiners

The Council noted and approved the Memorandum from the Pro-Dean of Graduate Studies circulated, dated 26 February 2018.

CL/17-18/151 Histories and Humanities – Special Subject

The Council noted and approved the Memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, circulated, dated 27 February 2018.

CL/17-18/152 Head of School

The Council noted that the Board, on 28 February 2018, had approved the nomination of Professor Mark Bell as Head of the School of Law for 3 years (2 July 2018-1 July 2021).

CL/17-18/153 School Directors

- (i) The Council noted and approved the nomination of Matthew Saunders, B.Sc.(East Anglia), M.Sc., Ph.D., as Course Director for the B.A. (Moderatorship) in Environmental Sciences, School of Natural Sciences (2018-2021)
- (ii) The Council noted and approved the nomination of Michael Leonard Williams, B.Sc.(Nott. Poly.), D.Phil. (Nott .Poly), as Course Director for the B.A. (Moderatorship) in Plant Sciences, School of Natural Sciences (2018-2021)

- (iii) The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Caitriona Lally. B.Eng. (Limerick), M.Eng. (Limerick), Ph.D., P.G.Dip. Stats., as Director of Research, School of Engineering (1 March 2018-4 July 2019)
- (iv) The Council noted and approved the nomination of Jonathan Dukes, B.A., Ph.D., as Director of Undergraduate Teaching & Learning, School of Computer Science & Statistics (2018-2020).

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date