



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 10 February 2021 at 11.15am remotely and hosted from the Provost's Library.

<i>Present</i>	Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Vice-President for Global Relations, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor D. Murchan, Professor S. Alyn Stacey, Professor D. Shepherd, Professor M. Lyons, Professor A. O'Connor, Professor M. Monaghan, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor B. O'Connell, Professor C. Donnellan, Dr. O. Gobbo, Professor A. Long, Ms. D. Kelleher, Ms M. O'Connor, Mr D. O'Reilly, Ms. J. Whelan, Ms. A. Bhattacharjee, Ms. J. Wall.
<i>Apologies</i>	Professor AM. Malone, Professor C. Kelly, Professor M. Ruffini, Mr. J. Noctor.
<i>In attendance</i>	Secretary to the College, Academic Secretary, Librarian and College Archivist, Director of Student Services, Assistant Academic Secretary, Ms. A. Crawford.
<i>Observers</i>	Ms. Camilla Persello, Ms. Nilki Aluthge Dona.

SECTION A

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting. He requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda. The Secretary noted that Professor B. O'Connell had declared a conflict of interest for item A.9 Pathway for Promotion for Dublin Dental University Hospital Staff, and it was agreed that Professor O'Connell make a contribution at the commencement of the discussion and then absent himself for the remainder of the discussion.

CL/20-21/107 Minutes

The Secretary to Scholars proposed two amendments to the minutes as follows:
Item CL/20-21/081 2021 Scholarship Examinations, page 8, last paragraph:

Third sentence: replace existing sentence with the wording: 'She also noted that the only relevant data on grade inflation should come from examinations invigilated in the same way as the 2021 Scholarship examinations, and inquired if grade inflation had occurred for the 2020 annual proctored real-time online examinations'.

Sixth sentence: replace existing sentence with the wording: 'She argued that denying a Scholarship to a candidate who meets the academic standard would be a lost opportunity for the College and the students who may achieve the academic standard but lose out because of the relative achievement of other candidates.'

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 20 January 2021 with the amended wording were approved and signed.

CL/20-21/108 Matters Arising

(i) CL/20-21/081 2021 Scholarship Examinations

In response to a question raised by Professor Alyn Stacey, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that information on Scholarship quotas had been communicated to Schools via the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC), as this had been communicated to the DUTLs at USC. The Provost recommended that the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer communicate the information to the Heads of Schools.

Action:

CL/20-21/108.1: The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer to communicate Scholarship quotas to Heads of Schools.

(ii) CL/20-21/082 Proposed Governance Structure for Pillar 3 Human Capital Initiative

The Librarian and College Archivist clarified that following further discussion with the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, that the Library representation on the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) governance structure does not include the HCI Steering Committee.

CL/20-21/109 Provost's Report

As an extensive report was provided at the last Council meeting the Provost stated that a report would not be provided at this Council meeting.

Professor Frank Miedema, Vice-Rector for Research, Utrecht University, Ms. Meritxell Chaves, CHARM-EU, Alliance Manager, Professor Catherine Comiskey, Masters Programme Director, and Professor Pádraig Carmody, CHARM-EU Project Director joined the meeting.

CL/20-21/110 CHARM-EU: Update on Pilot Programme – Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability

XX

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reminded Council that it had approved the 90 ECTS Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability with an 18-month track and an intensive 12-month track at its meeting on 20 January 2021. He highlighted that the Dutch Agency (NVAO) outlined binding legal impediments in The Netherlands to offering the 12-month option and that it was not in a position to approve the proposal at the CHARM-EU Alliance meeting with the National Quality Agencies and Ministries on 29 January 2021. All other Agencies and Ministries had approved the proposal that would allow students the choice of completing the Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability in 18 months or in an intensive 12-month option. He advised that a solution not to implement the 12-month option of the Masters for the purposes of the pilot programme beginning in September 2021 was proposed by the Rectors of the five Alliance universities at its meeting on 9 February 2021. The 18-month option will be activated for the pilot without any prejudice for future programmes, with the 12-month option retained by the Alliance for future programmes, or future iterations.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer informed Council that the proposed solution will provide additional time for the five partners to work through the administrative and systems requirements to further develop the programme, alleviate some of the pressures on staff and students presented by Covid-19, and will benefit the development of the pilot and shape future CHARM-EU offerings.

The request to Council, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained, is to approve an amendment to the Addendum Agreement that will enable the Alliance, for the purposes of the pilot, to run only the 18-month option of the Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability with the 12-month option not being activated in 2021. He added that the current Addendum validity is only for the pilot, and that it is suggested that the possibility of extending it be removed, as new editions of the same Master will not be possible for Utrecht if the 12-month track is implemented. He noted the commitment of the Alliance members to the validity and feasibility of the 12-month option and that the original proposal had already prompted legislative changes both in Spain and in Hungary. The Alliance will work towards similar changes to be approved and implemented in The Netherlands.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and invited Professor Miedema to comment. Professor Miedema stated that he regretted the inconvenience caused, noting the provision in Trinity to deliver a 12-month Master's programme. He expressed his appreciation to Trinity for its flexibility in responding to and accommodating the change in order that the project continue. He noted that the institutions are free to deliver the Masters programme according to their own requirements following completion of the pilot, and thanked Council for facilitating his attendance during discussion of the item.

Responding to a query relating to the impact of the change on the programme architecture Professor Comiskey highlighted that as it had been planned originally to deliver two tracks, a 12-month track and an 18-month track, the programme architecture was already in place and would not be impacted by the change. It was observed by the Senior Tutor that the 18-month option will be more expensive and may be less attractive for students, and he asked that this be taken into consideration. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies expressed their support for the proposal.

Ms. Chaves advised that the European Commission is pleased with the progress of the Alliance and the partners' collaboration to-date.

The Provost remarked that the 12-month option may be an option for the future, and he thanked Professor Miedema and Ms Chaves for attending Council for this item, and thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and all involved in responding to and addressing the issue so that the project can continue.

Decisions:

CL/20-21/110.1: Council approved the amendment to the Addendum Agreement that will enable the Alliance, for the purpose of the pilot, to deliver only the 18-month option of the Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability with the 12-month option not being activated in 2021.

CL/20-21/110.2: Council approved the inclusion of the sentence 'For purposes of the pilot and the delivery of the Masters in 2021, only the 18-months' track will be implemented', under 2.3 'Duration of the Master's Programme', and removal of the sentence "The Addendum can be extended if agreed by the institution per periods of academic years" from the Addendum's validity Article 16.

Professor Frank Miedema, Vice-Rector for Research, Utrecht University, Ms. Meritxell Chaves, CHARM-EU, Alliance Manager, Professor Catherine Comiskey, Masters Programme Director, and Professor Pádraig Carmody, CHARM-EU Project Director left the meeting.

Professor Shepherd left the meeting.

Ms. Roisin Smith, Quality Officer joined the meeting.

CL/20-21/111 Annual Quality Report (AQR) 2019/20 to Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

XX

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer provided the context for the Annual Quality Report stating that Trinity is required under the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) *Cyclical Quality Assurance Policy* to submit an Annual Quality Report (AQR) to QQI. He explained that the AQR has additional significance this academic year as it forms part of the documentation for the Institutional Review and will be submitted to the review team for consideration along with the Institutional Self-Assessment Report (ISER) and the *Case Studies in Quality* document. QQI publishes an annual summary of all AQRs, entitled *Quality in Irish Higher Education* in which it highlights good practice across Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The structure of the AQR consists of two parts, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised, Part 1 detailing the policies and procedures that Trinity has in place to assure the quality of its teaching, learning, research and support services, and Part 2, focusing on enhancement, impact, monitoring and reflection. Part 2 also provides data on Trinity's international partnerships, collaborative provision, and relationships with other Awarding Bodies and with Quality Agencies. He informed Council that QQI invites institutions to submit Case Studies with the AQR on any theme pertinent to quality assurance/enhancement in the reporting period. QQI has invited submissions on the theme 'response to emergency situations/Covid-19 pandemic', this academic year. Trinity proposes to submit two case studies on the 'management of the impact of Covid-19 at TCD and 'interprofessional learning in the Faculty of Health Sciences'.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted that the draft AQR was considered by the Institutional Self-Evaluation Team (ISET) on 13 January 2021 and 3 February 2021, and by the Quality Committee on 14 January 2021, and that feedback from committee members and from senior management teams in the Library, Academic Affairs, and in the Academic Registry has informed the final draft. The AQR if approved by Council will be considered by Board on 24 February 2021 prior to submission to QQI on 26 February 2021.

An overview of the timeline for the Institutional Review was provided by the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer as follows:

26 May 2021	Institutional Profile submitted to QQI
13 August 2021	Institutional Self-Evaluation Report due to QQI
28 September 2021	1-day planning visit to Trinity – Review Team Chair
18-22 October 2021	Main Review Visit (on-site/virtual)
17 December 2021	Draft Review Report due for factual verification
21 January 2022	Faculty verification corrections due to QQI
February/March 2022	Final Review Report due to Trinity

The Review Team, he advised, consists of the following experts:

- i. The Chair – Professor Elmer Sterken, Rector Magnificus Emeritus, Groningen University, the Netherlands.
- ii. External Reviewer – Dr. Gráinne Quinn, Executive Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer, Perrigo.
- iii. Irish QA Reviewer – Professor Kerstin Mey, Formerly VP Academic Affairs and Student Engagement and Professor of Visual Culture, University of Limerick (UL), and currently Interim President UL.
- iv. International QA Reviewer – Dr. Achim Hopbach, Independent Education Consultant, former Managing Director of AQ Austria and the German Accreditation Council, former President of ENQA.
- v. Coordinating Reviewer – Dr. Catherine Peck, Independent Education Consultant.
- vi. Student Reviewer – Aidan Murnane, PhD. Student, University of Edinburgh.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and invited questions and comments.

Responding to a question from the Provost the Quality Officer advised that the review team will be sent the Trinity documentation for the review by QQI prior to the training day in September 2021. She added that the AQR was extended this year to effectively communicate the range of strategic activities undertaken by Trinity and includes 35 Case Studies.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Quality Officer for the work undertaken in relation to the AQR and the ISER.

Decision:

CL/20-21/111.1: Council approved the Annual Quality Report 2019/20.

The Quality Officer left the meeting.

CL/20-21/112

XX

COVID Adjustments to Academic Productivity Metrics

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred Council to the specific criteria in place in each of the Faculties to measure research productivity and to define academic members of staff as research active for BBM calculation purposes. The criteria are Faculty specific and require either a) a certain number of outputs over a four-year period, or b) in FAHSS and FSTEM only a sole-author or co-authored monograph, which deems it is author research active for a six-year period.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer noted that the ability of many staff to conduct research as planned has been adversely affected by factors such as, additional workload associated with the pivot to online learning, the availability of research facilities and a shortened summer research period, and caring responsibilities. He proposed that an additional year be added to the Faculty criteria, and that for research outputs listed under a) staff will be given five years until the year 2025, for research outputs listed, and under b) staff will be given seven years until the year 2027. The ongoing Covid situation will be monitored and consideration will be given to extending the derogation for a further year should the need arise. He proposed that the adjustment be taken into account when calculating the research related element of the BBM allocation, as currently 20% of the BBM funding allocation to Schools is based on the percentage of research productive staff in the School.

Speaking to the item, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained that the adjustment was first raised at EOG on 7 July 2020 (EO/19-20/405) and that it is now proposed to formalise and implement it in time for the imminent annual call to academic staff to update their RRS profile in advance of the BBM calculations. He advised that the proposal has been welcomed by the two Associate Deans of Research, the three Faculty Deans, and has been discussed at Faculty level in all three Faculties. Furthermore, the proposal has been approved by EOG at the meeting on 2 February 2021.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and invited questions and comments.

In response to a question on a similar approach being applied to promotions/five-year tenure track, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer stated that this is under consideration at present and has been discussed by the Heads of School Committee. It is envisaged that there will be a section on the promotions form for staff to describe the impact of Covid on all aspects of their work so that this can be considered by the promotions' committee, and this will include Junior Academic

Promotions. A member asked that consideration be given to extending the measure beyond four years due to the impact that Covid has had on empirical research.

A question was raised on how the proposal might impact on the research comparators across institutions in the event that other institutions did not take a similar approach. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer clarified that the measures were internal to Trinity and that while there may be a reduction in the number of Trinity publications it is likely that other institutions would also be affected. He emphasised the importance of staff well-being and the impact that Covid has had on staff.

Decision:

CL/20-21/112.1: Council approved the Covid adjustments to Faculty's Research Productivity Metrics.

CL/20-21/113

XX

Proposal for 2020-21 Assessment

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies outlined proposed plans for the conduct and timing of the upcoming Semester 2 assessments and of an additional session for assessment of deferred Semester 1 assessments.

Speaking to the conduct of Semester 2 assessment, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies acknowledged the strong desire from staff and students for certainty as to whether any Semester 2 exams will take place in-person or if all assessments will be held online. He advised that USC had unanimously supported the proposal that all Semester 2 assessments be held online, as for Semester 1.

Regarding the timing and organisation of Semester 2 assessments, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that the current academic year Calendar designates two weeks for Semester 2 assessments, from Monday the 10 May to Saturday 22 May 2021. He explained that it is proposed that real-time and take-home examinations be scheduled within those weeks and that a third week (starting Monday 24 May) be used for submission of final assignments (i.e. essays or other work that replaces a final examination). The use of this additional week is an important means to reduce stress on students under the challenging conditions presented by the crisis.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred to the emergency measures for assessments that were reinstated for the Semester 1 examinations, namely, the automatic right to defer and the right for sophister students to apply for re-sits in exams that count towards the final degree award only. He highlighted that as of 3 February 2021 the Academic Registry (AR) had processed 871 student automatic deferral cases, was still processing requests for deferrals as the final submission of course work date is 5 February 2021, and that it is estimated that 1,400 separate sittings will be required. He advised that the situation would continue to be monitored and a decision will be taken if the public health conditions warrant it to reinstate emergency measures for the Semester 2 assessments.

Speaking to the scheduling of deferred Semester 1 assessments, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that two options for when the deferred Semester 1 assessments would be held were considered as follows,

- i. Option 1 – in an additional fourth week thus adding a further week to the assessment period i.e. 31 May – 5 June 2021. This may delay return of marks for all students and push out the start of the summer research session by a week.
- ii. Option 2 – during the third week of the assessment session, overlapping with the period for submission of Semester 2 final assignments (24 May to

29 May 2021). This will allow completion of marking and return of results a week earlier. He noted that the number of deferred assessments requiring accommodation is such that this option is viable, and that most students only have one or two deferred modules.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that USC provided reassurance that all marking and processing of marks could be done under option 2 but did not favour one option over another. He added that Heads of School and the Continuity of Learning and Student Activities Working Group endorsed option 2.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and invited questions and comments.

Responding to a comment raised on the impact of the measures on research time and the need to delay the commencement of the 2021/22 academic year so as to facilitate time for research, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred to a discussion on this at the Heads of School Committee noting that the preference was to commence the academic year as per normal due to the impact of a delayed start on the Semester 1 assessments. He expressed his preference for option 2 as this will have the least impact on research time. Three members expressed their concern with delaying the commencement of the academic year noting the additional pressure that this would place on staff due to postgraduate students requiring supervision over the summer and staff commitment to research contracts.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies explained in response to a suggestion that the deferred Semester 1 assessments take place during the supplemental session, that as the deferred Semester 1 assessments are regarded as a first attempt there is a need to provide students with a second attempt. He highlighted that due to the timing of the second assessment attempt in 2019/20 some students did not commence the 2020/21 academic year on time and thus lost out on some weeks of teaching.

The SU Education Officer and the SU (STEM) member expressed preference for option 1 stating that this is a better option for students due to the pressures associated with Semester 1 deferred assessments following Semester 2 examinations. Referring to a later commencement of the new academic year the SU Education Officer advised that this was not good for students due to Semester 1 assessments being held after the Christmas break providing students with no down time. She noted that the timing of option 2 may coincide with students' selection of programme pathways and open modules, and that this may lead to greater student stress. The Secretary to Scholars added her endorsement for option 1 noting that it would be prudent to add-on a fourth week.

Responding to the concerns expressed by students relating to option 2 the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies referred to the number of deferred modules, mainly between 1-2 modules, and the impact of an additional week on the commencement of the new academic year. He clarified that the online assessment proposed does not relate to clinical assessments.

The SU Education Officer acknowledged the work of the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies in relation to the proposals. She noted that students on placements may require extensions and asked that this be progressed following Council.

Decisions:

CL/20-21/113.1: Council approved the conduct and timing of Semester 2 assessments and an additional session for assessment of deferred Semester 1 assessments.

CL/20-21/113.2: Council approved that the Semester 2 assessments be held online, the addition of a third week for Semester 2 final assignments (24-29 May 2021), and the scheduling of deferred Semester 1 assessments during the third week (24-29 May 2021) with two contingency days, 31 May and 1 June 2021.

Action:

CL/20-21/113.3: The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies to follow-up with the SU Education Officer on students undertaking placements and the consideration of extensions for such students.

The Registrar left the meeting.

CL/20-21/114 Postgraduate Course Proposal: PG Diploma in Applied Social Data Science

The Dean of Graduate Studies presented the proposal for the course in Applied Social Data Science to Council, which has received funding under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 1. The one-year full-time face-to-face programme consisting of eight modules will be delivered by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. The course will lead to the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Data Science (60 ECTS) at level 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications. The Dean of Graduate Studies advised that the programme will introduce students to the application of state-of-the-art analytic approaches from the fields of statistics and machine learning to the study of social scientific questions. The course will accommodate a minimum of 8 EU and a maximum of 20 EU students.

The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that the proposal received a very positive external review from Dr. Kenneth Benoit, Professor of Computational Social Science, Department of Methodology, London School of Economics and Political Science in the UK. She drew attention to Professor Benoit's recent relationship with Trinity, that she had just become aware of, and inquired if another external reviewer would be required. The Dean of AHSS stated that Professor Benoit is a leading academic in his field and that his role from 2011 related to supervising a small number of PhD students until 2018. She highlighted her support for the proposal and for Professor Benoit's review of the course proposal. The Provost concurred that Professor Benoit would undertake a frank and independent assessment stating that he would have no concerns about the quality and objectivity of the external review. The Dean of Graduate Studies stated that as the course is bespoke and unique it would be difficult to source an expert who had no relationship with Trinity.

In response to a query from the Provost, the Dean of Graduate Studies advised that candidates at a graduate 2.1 level with some quantitative methods training from their undergraduate degree are invited to apply.

Decision:

CL/20-21/114.1: Council approved the proposal for a one-year full-time course in Applied Social Data Science (60 ECTS) leading to a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Social Data Science offered by the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, with a first intake in September 2021.

CL/20-21/115

XX

Pathway for Promotion for Dublin Dental University Hospital Staff

Professor O'Connell explained that academic staff in the Dublin Dental University Hospital (DDUH) have their contracts issued by the DDUH and not by the College, resulting in academic staff not being eligible to apply for promotion through the Senior Academic Promotions Committee (SAPC). This has impacted on the DDUH's ability to attract staff. He highlighted that there are two broad categories of academic staff within the DDUH, clinical and non-clinical. He emphasised his support for the proposal, as it will facilitate DDUH staff to apply for promotions with no funding implication for College, as the salaries are paid by the DDUH.

Professor O Connell left the meeting.

The Dean of Health Sciences explained the pathway in which staff in the DDUH might compete for academic promotion. Non-clinical staff will apply through SAPC using the standard application form with its weightings, and SAPC will determine the eligibility for promotion and rank the candidates as usual. The DDUH candidate list will be returned to the Board of DDUH who would then offer promotions to those applicants on the list in accordance with their agreed financial envelope for a given year. The Dean of Health Sciences advised that clinical staff fall into two broad categories, namely those with an honorary position who are involved with teaching and research, and those directly employed by DDUH who have split contractual obligations between clinical service and academic work. Staff who are not directly employed by DDUH and who play an important role in teaching and research will be directed to the extant Clinical Academic Promotions Process (CAPC) established for medical consultants affiliated with the School of Medicine. She noted that there are no financial implications for this category and that the promotion is needed to recognise the level of contribution to academic and scholarly endeavour made by the applicant. A list of those deemed eligible for promotion by the CAPC committee will be forwarded to the Board of DDUH to formalise these promotions. Referring to Clinical Joint Appointments, the Dean of Health Sciences reported that DDUH Clinical staff with split contracts requiring clinical service, teaching, research and scholarship will be directed to a modified SAPC process. The process resembles conventional SAPC, with the exception of a rebalancing of the weightings to recognise the impact of contribution to transforming clinical service, practice development and influence on national or international policy. Applicants will complete the modified SAPC form which will be evaluated by the SAPC. She explained that the SAPC will decide on eligibility based on the modified criteria and return a list of ranked eligible candidates to the Board of DDUH who will award promotions subject to their agreed financial envelope for a given year.

The Dean of Health Sciences highlighted that the range of DDUH-employed staff grades to which the process will apply as follows:

- *Professor Of* (Personal Chair) corresponds to the Professor salary scale.
- *Professor in* corresponds to the Associate Professor salary scale and Associate Professor corresponds to the Senior Lecturer salary scale.
- Academic Consultant grades are those set out in the HSE Consolidated Pay Scales and only apply to holders of an Academic Consultant contract.

Speaking to governance, the Dean of Health Sciences highlighted that the DDUH Executive Team approve initiation of the timeline for the academic promotions process. She added that the Provost proposed membership of the Faculty Review Committees and the SAPC to Council for approval and to the DDUH Board (for noting). The Dean of Dental Affairs, she advised, seeks approval of the DDUH Board for the indicative quota for promotions at each grade. The indicative quota is formulated in the context of the available financial resources and with due concern for implementing the DDUH and university's gender equality policies, as well as the number of candidates who would normally be eligible for promotion to each of the grades. She noted that the final decision as to the number of promotions recommended at each grade will be made by the SAPC; and that the DDUH Board will decide the number of promotions at each grade from the candidates recommended by SAPC taking into consideration the strategic needs of the DDUH and available resources.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Health Sciences.

Decision:

CL/20-21/115.1: Council approved the proposed pathway for promotion for DDUH staff.

Professor O Connell joined the meeting.

CL/20-21/116 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no any other urgent business.

SECTION B

CL/20-21/117 Global Relations Committee

The minutes of 25 January 2021 were noted and approved.

CL/20-21/118 Graduate Studies Committee

The Dean of Graduate Studies advised Council that the first online postgraduate open day would take place on 6 March 2021.

The minutes of 28 January 2021 were noted and approved.

Decision:

CL/20-21/118.1: Council approved the proposal for revised admissions criteria to Masters programmes in Trinity for graduates from Chinese Universities.

CL/20-21/119 Quality Committee

Decision:

CL/20-21/119.1: The minutes of 14 January 2021 and appendix 'Implementation Plan for Quality Review of the School of Medicine' were noted and approved.

CL/20-21/120 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The Senior Lecturer referred Council to item 44 of the USC minutes 'proposed subcommittee of USC and GSC for stand-alone modules for credit and micro-credentials proposed under HCI Pillar 3', advising that the subcommittee will review, advise on, and recommend stand-alone modules for credit and micro-credentials planned under HCI Pillar 3 to either USC or GSC, as appropriate. Responding to a query on the scope of the subcommittee, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies confirmed that the subcommittee will only consider stand-alone modules for credit/micro-credentials proposed under HCI Pillar 3. He added that the scope may be widened in the future.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew Council's attention to a proposal endorsed by USC (USC/20-21/047) to cancel education for one day during Green Week 2021 (22-26 February 2021) and given over to a series of talks by staff in Trinity who research climate change and the biodiversity crisis. Members welcomed the initiative and agreed that there is a need to mark climate change, however, several views were expressed on the best way to do this. Some members felt that staff and students had already experienced significant disruption due to Covid-19 and that the timing of the proposed initiative was problematic with more lead in time required, as timetables would need to be adjusted and some students would need lab work rescheduled. The Vice-President for Global Relations asked that consideration be given to international students who are engaging online in a different time zone in the event that lectures were cancelled. It was suggested that instead of cancelling education on a specific day each lecturer be asked to include an element of climate change and sustainability relating to their discipline in their lecture instead. Some members felt that this would not go far enough with the SU Education Officer emphasising that the point of the

initiative was to bring the Trinity community together on one day and to be disruptive. The Dean of Students noted that the seminars planned for the day were excellent and she urged Council's support for the initiative. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies confirmed that Trinity academics would be delivering the seminars and highlighted that the point of the proposal was to be disruptive to draw attention to the urgency of climate change. The Provost noted the importance of the discussion and agreed with the suggestion that Earth Day (22 April) be considered for the event.

Decision:

CL/20-21/120.1: Council approved the proposal for a subcommittee of USC and GSC for stand-alone modules for credit and micro-credentials proposed under HCI Pillar 3.

Action:

CL/20-21/120.2: Council approved the recommendation that the Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and the SU Education Officer develop a proposal for a climate awareness event to take place on 22 April 2021 (Earth Day).

SECTION C

CL/20-21/121 Higher Degrees—Reports of Examiners

The Council noted and approved the circulated reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees, approved by the sub-committee of Board and Council on 20 January 2021 and noted by Board on 27 January 2021.

(i) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

PHD	Nicholas Aidoo, Irene Battel, Ioana Boian, Lynsey Hannah Callaghan, Róisín Aine Costello, Immanuel Darkwa, Gwendoline Deslyper, Ewelina Weronika Flis, Ciaran Haberlin, David Hamill, Martijn Hidding, Changhyun Hong, Marilena Karavyraki, Bryan Patrick Kelly, Yvelynne Patrice Kelly, Ciara Mahon, Sarah Frances Mc Comish, James Patrick Mc Keown, Elaine Mary Moloney, Andrew Murphy, Alejandra Núñez Asomoza, Kate O'Donnell, Andrew O'Neill, Kate Aileen O'Reilly, Shelley Stafford, Alun Morton Thomas, Thomas Tormey, Ruzana Binti Tukimin, Rachel Mary Elizabeth Widdis Cambay.
D.Ch.Dent	Ayup Hani.
M.Sc.	Sinead Moynihan, Amanda Schmidt.

CL/20-21/122 Head of School

The Council noted that the Board had approved the nomination of Professor Brian O'Connell as Head of School of Dental Science for a further three-year term, to 30 November 2023.

CL/20-21/123 Head of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the following nomination:

(i) Professor Gerald Dickens as Head of Discipline of Geology, School of Natural Sciences for a three-year term from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date