



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 2 November 2022 at 11.15am in the Trinity Board Room, Trinity Business School.

Present Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Dean of Students, Senior Tutor, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor L. Carson, Professor P. O'Grady, Professor D. Romelli, Professor G. Watson, Professor B. Fitzgerald, Professor J. Wyse, Professor B. Daly, Dr. O. Gobbo, Ms. D. Alexander, Ms Z. Cummins, Mr E. Gilroy, Mr S. Lysaght.

Apologies Registrar, Professor A. Bray, Vice-President for Global Engagement, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Professor J. Coleman, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor K. Neenan, Professor AM Malone, Mr. M. Mc Andrew, Ms. E. Sweeney, Secretary to Scholars, Chief Operating Officer (COO).

In attendance Secretary to the College, Librarian and College Archivist, Academic Secretary, Assistant Academic Secretary.

Observers -

SECTION A.1: Policy Matters

The Provost welcomed everyone to Council and requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest relating to the agenda. The Secretary to the College noted that there were no conflicts of interest reported.

The Secretary to the College advised that item 19 'Membership of the University Council – Representatives of the Senate' be considered first, as it relates to representation on University Council.

CL/22-23/030 Membership of the University Council – Representatives of the Senate

Decision:

CL/22-23/030.1: Council noted that Ms. D. Alexander and Mr. M. Mc Andrew had been elected by Senate and would serve as on the University Council until the Senate election in Michaelmas term 2024.

Ms. D. Alexander joined the meeting.

CL/22-23/031 Declarations by new Members and Observers

The new member of Council made the required statutory declaration.

CL/22-23/032 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 5 October 2022 were approved and signed.

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CL/22-23/033 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Secretary to the College referred Council to minute CL/22-23/009 'Provost's Report' providing updates as follows:

- (i) Graduate Students' Union (GSU).
The changes to the Statutes will be brought to the next Board meeting on 16 November 2022.
- (iii) Future Council meetings
The Council Work Programme 2022-23 is an item on the agenda for discussion.
- (iv) Trinity Governance
The Higher Education Authority (HEA) Bill 2022 was passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas and was signed into law by the President of Ireland on 12 October 2022. The Secretary to the College advised that Board had approved updates to the Supplemental Charter on 7 October 2022 which was submitted to the Government for recognition by Governance Order under section 31 of the Universities Act, 1997. A Town Hall meeting on the HEA Act 2022, Supplemental Charter and College Governance will be held for all staff and students on Monday, 7 November 2022 at 3.30pm. The consultation process will also include a specific invitation to students and trade unions, staff associations, the Fellows and the Visitors to make submissions on future procedures.

CL/22-23/034 Council Work Programme 2022-23

The Provost informed Council that Council meetings will be more strategic in focus and that the Council Work Programme 2022-23, a draft for consideration and discussion, is a step in this direction.

The Academic Secretary presented the work programme to Council drawing attention to the main areas that Council items fall under, as follows, 'Policy Matters and Project Updates', 'Quality Matters', 'Academic Officers'/Heads of Area Reports', 'Officers' Reports', 'Section A2: Policy Matters, including Course Proposals considered already by Committees of Council'. She advised that the items indicated under 'Policy Matters and Project Updates' are at the instigation stage such as the 'Admissions Strategy' presented under '30 November 2022'. She noted that the items presented for each Council meeting of the academic year 2022/23 may be subject to change with some items being presented later than indicated, some being removed, and additional items being added.

The Provost thanked the Academic Secretary and invited questions and comments.

Responding to a query from the Librarian and College Archivist on inclusion of items on digital infrastructure, and sustainability and climate change under 'Policy Matters and Project Updates', the Provost explained that these items will be considered from a governance perspective and will be discussed at Board and at committee meetings. She highlighted that College will be examining Board's composition in response to the HEA Act 2022, and that this process will also involve a review of the principal committees of Board and of Council taking into consideration the nature, composition, and work of the committees.

The Provost invited members to advise the Secretary's Office of additional items for inclusion in the work programme.

Decision:

CL/22-23/034.1: Council approved the Council Work Programme 2022-23.

CL/22-23/035 Quality Review of the LIR Academy Programmes

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The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer in introducing the item extended her thanks to the Review Team and to Dr. Ciara O'Farrell for acting as Internal Facilitator for the review, which took place from 7-8 June 2022. Providing an overview of Trinity's relationship to the LIR Academy, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer explained that the LIR Academy was the outcome of a partnership between Trinity and the Cathal Ryan Trust. While the LIR Academy is not part of Trinity its students are registered students of Trinity and are recipients of Trinity awards for six programmes. The LIR Academy is academically aligned with the School of Creative Arts.

Providing an overview of the Terms of Reference she highlighted that the review team was asked to assess and make recommendations to the University on the quality of LIR's undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, and to:

1. Benchmark the suite of current education programmes against those offered by leading conservatoires in dramatic arts.
2. Review the curriculum and comment on the quality of the programmes, academic and practice standards, and the quality assurance of teaching and learning.
3. Review the academic governance and the financial model that support the design, delivery, and quality assurance of academic programmes.
4. Assess the quality of the student experience.
5. Assess the LIR's success in establishing the requisite network of academic, industry and other third-party relationships/collaborations to deliver an internationally visible activity of scale as compared to other such university associated conservatoires.

Speaking to the recommendations of the review team, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer addressed these under four areas as follows:

- **Address** the student experience and the concerns raised on student welfare, which may have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and the student body's lack of awareness of the suite of welfare and pastoral supports offered by Trinity.
- **Review** curriculum, academic and practice standards, namely, to undertake a review of module and programme learning outcomes and associated assessment practices.
- **Address** issues relating to academic governance and oversight.
- **Regularise** the role of the Academic Director, filled by a Trinity staff member, who provides a link between LIR and Trinity for quality assurance in the delivery of educational programmes delivered by the Academy, and to implement a succession plan.

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

Referring to the recommendations on the student experience, the Senior Tutor highlighted that he was a frequent visitor to the LIR Academy during 2021/22 and that an orientation had been provided for LIR students to raise awareness of Trinity supports and resources that are available to them. He noted the diversity of the student body and suggested that the role of the Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) be considered in relation to providing financial supports to students where needed. Responding to a comment from the Dean of Students on the need to raise awareness amongst LIR staff of the suite of Trinity supports available to LIR students, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that there is greater awareness in LIR of student supports following a discussion of the review at the Quality Committee meeting on 20 October

2022. She noted the challenges associated with students on satellite campuses and the need to encourage students to visit and engage with the range of services available in Trinity.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for her report.

Decision:

CL/22-23/035.1: Council approved the Quality Review of the LIR Academy Programmes.

CL/22-23/036 Academic Integrity Update

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies updated Council on the work of the Academic Integrity Working Group (AIWG) referring to the three workstreams established in June 2022 - i) the policy, procedures and promoting academic integrity awareness workstream, ii) the pedagogical approaches workstream, and iii) the integrity in the research context workstream. The focus of the AIWG and workstreams to date, he added, has been on building a greater awareness of academic integrity and what constitutes academic misconduct. He referred to an email campaign sent by the AIWG during Academic Integrity Awareness week (17 – 21 October 2022) to the College community to raise awareness of Academic Integrity and academic misconduct. Other areas progressed by the AIWG have included, agreeing a conceptual framework on Academic Integrity and academic misconduct and the conceptualisation of Academic Integrity in pedagogical terms rather than in disciplinary terms, and broadening the understanding of academic misconduct to include contract cheating and collusion, and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to complete assignments.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted the discussion of the AIWG at its meeting earlier on piloting the McCabe-ICAI Academic Integrity Surveys at Trinity with Faculty and students and applying for funding from Quality and Qualifications of Ireland (QQI) to undertake this pilot. The aim is to complete the survey by the end of the academic year.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies for the update noting the significant work that QQI is undertaking in this area through the National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN).

A brief discussion took place on the role of assessment design in mitigating the risk of academic misconduct with the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drawing attention to the contribution of Dr Michelle D’Arcy, Political Science, in a video on how to reduce the risk of AI writing essays for her students. The Students’ Union Education Officer noting the importance of robust assessment design and planning, and highlighted the targeting of vulnerable students by contract cheating companies.

CL/22-23/037 Postgraduate Renewal Programme – Revised Terms of Reference

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The Dean of Graduate Studies reminded Council that in May 2022 it had given its approval for the Postgraduate Renewal Programme to proceed with an incremental approach to programme delivery over three horizons beginning with Horizon 1 in 2022/23. She reported that as a result of the Programme entering a new phase of implementation, the ToR have been reviewed and revised as follows:

1. Steering Committee with more strategic oversight of the Programme.
2. For the establishment of:
 - a. A working Group of Leads to have operational oversight for delivery of the implementation plan.
 - b. ‘Circle of Student Friends’ re-titled as ‘Postgraduate Student Forum’ to convey the understanding that students are partners in the process.

- c. A Circle of Critical Friends to comprise external stakeholders to be brought in when needed.
3. Terms for attendance at meetings of Steering and the Working Group of Leads.

She also drew attention to the proposal to invite the Dean of STEM to join the Steering Committee.

Decision:

CL/22-23/037.1: Council approved the revised Terms of Reference for the governance of Horizon 1 of the Postgraduate Renewal Programme and the inclusion of the Dean of STEM as a member on the Steering Committee.

CL/22-23/038 Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's Report

The Provost introduced the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's Report to Council as a new item on Council agendas. She highlighted the significant contribution that the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer plays in the delivery of Trinity's academic mission and the relevance of this to Council.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer updated Council on the ongoing challenges faced by Schools in relation to Online Module Enrolment (OME), which was raised at the Heads of Schools Forum. She advised that significant work is being undertaken to address the burden of labour on Schools associated with OME and that an update on this will be provided at a subsequent Council meeting.

Speaking to the item, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer referred to efforts being made by the Irish Universities' Association (IUA) to progress a collective decision on the third language entry requirement for students from Ukraine who are due to matriculate in 2023. She stated that there are approximately 50 students affected. The Vice-President for Global Engagement is exploring an assessment request from some Heads of School to trial in-house assessment and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies is engaging with the Academic Registry (AR) on this issue to tease through the issues that might be raised were a trial to be implemented.

Updating Council on the Admissions Strategy, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that there is a need for Trinity to explore and reflect on the direction it will take on what the student body will look like and to consider the following areas:

- The composition of the student body;
- The types of students Trinity wants to attract;
- The proportion of undergraduate versus postgraduate students, research versus taught postgraduate students, full-time versus part-time students;
- When teaching takes place and how often, and where teaching takes place (should transnational provision be considered)?
- What is a teaching day?

She highlighted that she is working with FSD and Data Analytics to develop a model to establish the consequences of changes in the student demographics and that a paper 'What do we want to be when we grow up' posing a set of questions on these areas will be presented to Council for discussion at its next meeting.

Referring to the KU Leuven Learning Lab that brings together educational expertise in different Faculties and departments, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer highlighted the need to curate Trinity's work on course development, design, and renewal. In response to issues identified by the HEA in relation to Trinity programmes developed under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) Pillar 3, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised Council that a proposal

to develop an enterprise ecosystem to strengthen enterprise engagement in the design, delivery, and marketing of HCI programmes was submitted to the HEA on 1 November 2022. The ecosystem will promote ongoing and new academic enterprise partnerships at Trinity and will involve a consolidation of several activities under the HCI programme. She extended her thanks to HCI work package leads, the Trinity Careers Service, Academic Practice, Tangent, and to the Academic Secretary.

The Provost thanked the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer for her report.

CL/22-23/039 Provost's Report

The Provost updated Council on Printing House Square, which is now open highlighting the new College Health Service space and the disability Hub where the Trinity Disability Service is now located. Printing House Square also comprises student accommodation, which is now been offered to students on the existing waiting list.

Referring to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, which works to build understanding and co-operation between political representatives in the UK and Ireland, the Provost highlighted that she had delivered an address to the 62nd Plenary meeting on 24 October 2022 on the importance of universities in strengthening cooperation and collaborations across Ireland and the UK. She drew attention to the significant number of research papers (20,000) published by Ireland and the UK over the past five years, five thousand of which involve Trinity. She highlighted the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Co-Centre Programme which aims to support collaboration between academic researchers across Ireland, Great Britain, and Northern Ireland, co-funded by industry, to support a competitive economy and address societal and environmental challenges. Speaking to the importance of North-South collaboration, the Provost remarked that next year will mark 25 years of the Good Friday Agreement and that it would be important for College to engage in some joint activities to celebrate the Good Friday Agreement in 2023. She noted that over the last two decades there has been a significant reduction in students from Northern Ireland attending Trinity. A member thanked the Provost for drawing attention to the significant reduction, emphasising the need for Trinity to proactively engage with Northern Ireland to highlight it as a good destination for Northern Ireland students. The Provost noting the importance of the Trinity campus in Belfast agreed to follow-up with the member following the meeting of Council. The Librarian and College Archivist stated that the Library of Trinity College Dublin benefits from legal deposit legislation of both Ireland and the UK and drew attention to the 10th anniversary of The Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-Print Works) Regulations 2013 next year highlighting that this could be marked through an event on 'knowledge diplomacy'.

Referring to the Provost's update on the SFI Co-Centre Programme, the Dean of Research highlighted the forthcoming amalgamation of SFI with the Irish Research Council (IRC) to establish a new agency under a Government strategy aimed at boosting research and innovation. He noted the key role being played by SFI in the establishment of the agency and highlighted concerns amongst some academics that the amalgamation may dilute research in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. The Provost emphasised the need to ensure that the IRC has parity of esteem with the SFI.

Responding to a query from the Librarian and College Archivist on attendance and engagement of UK representatives on international networks such as LERU, the Provost advised that LERU is redefining itself as a European association rather than being an EU association to encourage the participation of UK universities in the consortium.

CL/22-23/040 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no any other urgent business.

SECTION A.2: Policy Matters which have already been considered by Committees

CL/22-23/041 Revised Child Protection Policy
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Decision:

CL/22-23/041.1: Council approved the Revised Child Protection Policy.

CL/22-23/042 Role of Adjunct Staff in New Postgraduate Taught Programmes
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Decision:

CL/22-23/042.1: Council approved the Role of Adjunct Staff in New Postgraduate Taught Programmes.

CL/22-23/043 Semester 1, Semester 2, and Reassessment Contingency Days 2022-23
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Responding to concerns raised by the Students' Union Education Officer on the impact on students of the proposed dates for the re-examination period, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that there were protracted discussions on this at USC and with the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer. He noted that efforts are being made to address the issues presented by the dates for the re-examination period. The Provost highlighted that the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, as indicated in her report, will present a paper to Council inviting members to consider the direction College would like to take over the coming years. This will provide an opportunity for a deeper consideration of the issues presented on a range of matters including the Academic Year Structure.

Decision:

CL/22-23/043.1: Council approved the Semester 1, Semester 2, and Reassessment Contingency Days 2022/23.

SECTION B – Reports from Committees

CL/22-23/044 Academic Appeals Committee

- (i) Minutes of the meeting of 27 June 2022
- (ii) Minutes of the meeting of 29 September 2022
- (iii) Minutes of the meeting of 5 October 2022

Decision:

CL/22-23/044.1: Council noted and approved the minutes of 27 June, 29 September, and 5 October 2022.

CL/22-23/045 Graduate Studies Committee

The Dean of Graduate Studies drew Council's attention to minute GS/22-23/027 "'Annual Leave' guidelines for postgraduate research students", advising that GSC had recommended 30 days as

'annual leave' for postgraduate research students to be taken in consultation with the supervisor.

The minutes of 13 October 2022 were noted and approved

CL/22-23/046 Quality Committee

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- (i) Quality Review of the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) Finance Office
- (ii) Quality Review of RIAM Level 7/8 programmes
- (iii) Revised RIAM Quality Standards and Assurance Policy
- (iv) Progress Report for Academic Practice
- (v) Updated schedule of Quality Reviews

Decision:

CL/22-23/046.1: Council noted and approved the minutes of 20 October 2022 and appendices (i) Quality Review of the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) Finance Office, (ii) Quality Review of RIAM Level 7/8 programmes, (iii) Revised RIAM Quality Standards and Assurance Policy, (iv) Progress Report for Academic Practice, (v) Updated schedule of Quality Reviews.

CL/22-23/047 Research Committee

The minutes of 13 September 2022 were noted and approved.

CL/22-23/048 Student Life Committee

- (i) The minutes of the meeting of 19 April 2022
- (ii) The draft minutes of the meeting of 10 May 2022

Decision:

CL/22-23/048.1: Council noted and approved the minutes of 19 April and 10 May 2022.

CL/22-23/049 Undergraduate Studies Committee

The minutes of the meeting of 11 October 2022 were noted and approved.

SECTION C

CL/22-23/050 Membership of the University Council – Representatives of Senate

This item was taken earlier in the meeting. See CL/22-23/030.

CL/22-23/051 Inter-Institutional Collaboration Agreement with the Royal Irish Academy of Music

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Common Architecture and Chair of the Trinity Electives Sub-Committee dated 25 October 2022.

CL/22-23/052 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 2 November 2022.

(i) Professional Higher Degrees by Research Alone

- M.D.** Petya Petrova Bogdanova-Mihaylova; Rachel Wallace.
- D.Ch.Dent.** Paul Kielty; Ciara Mulvihill; David Naughton.
- D.Ed.** Patricia Mary Dwyer; Amy Fahy.

(ii) Higher Degrees by Research Alone

- Ph.D.** Ivana Catherine Bacik; Eoin Norman Baldwin; Mark Berney; Croí-Ellyn Buckley; Danielle Lea Margaret Byrne; Niamh Aisling Carey; Claire Donohoe; Aaron Keith Paul Douglas; Juan Manuel González Sopeña; Holly Rose Hanlon; Catherine Healy; Hassina Kiboua; Patrick Lynch; Fiona Elizabeth McDermott; Eanna Michael Mc Grath; Matthew Moynihan; Thomasena O'Byrne; Kaveena Devi Persand; Claire Sweeney; Rui Zhang.
- M.Sc.** Amy Maria Tuite.

CL/22-23/053 School Director

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Brian Singleton, School of Creative Arts, to extend his current term as Director of Global Engagement until 1 June 2023.

CL/22-23/054 Head of Discipline

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Agustin Benetrix as Head of the Discipline of Economics from 1 January 2023 to 31 May 2026.

CL/22-23/055 Examinations outside the formal 2022/23 (Semester 1, Semester 2 and Reassessment) assessment sessions

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Manager of Assessment and Progression, Academic Registry, dated 18 October 2022.

SECTION D

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

Signed

Date

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