



**XX = Board relevance**

**Trinity College Dublin  
The University of Dublin**

**A meeting of the University Council was held on 12 April 2023 at 11.15am in the Trinity Board Room, Trinity Business School.**

*Present* Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Research, Vice-President for Global Engagement, Dean of Students, Senior Tutor, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor L. Carson, Professor P. O'Grady, Professor A. Gibson, Professor D. Romelli, Professor G. Watson, Professor B. Fitzgerald, Professor J. Wyse, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Professor B. Daly, Professor K. Neenan, Professor AM. Malone, Dr. O. Gobbo, Ms. D. Alexander, Mr. M. McAndrew, Ms Z. Cummins, Mr E. Gilroy, Mr S. Lysaght, Mr C. Reddy, Mr O. Cassidy.

*Apologies* Academic Secretary, Professor J. Coleman, Ms. E. Sweeney, Mr. O. Horgan.

*In attendance* Chief Operating Officer, Secretary to the College, Librarian and College Archivist, Assistant Academic Secretary.

*Observers* -

**SECTION A.1: Policy Matters**

The Provost welcomed everyone to Council. She offered her condolences to Trinity staff, students, and the family of Ms Esah Goenka, a first-year student in Medicine, who died in a tragic accident on 6 April 2023. She thanked the Vice-President for Global Engagement, the Dean of Students, and the Senior Tutor for the care, attention, and support they are providing to affected staff and students, and the family.

The Provost requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest relating to the agenda. The Secretary to the College noted that there were conflicts of interests reported as follows, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer had declared a conflict of interest for item C.19 'Higher Degrees', as she is being recommended for Sc.D.; and [this information is restricted for reasons of HR confidentiality] had each declared a conflict of interest for item D. 25 'Senior Academic Promotions Committee', as they are recommended for promotion. The Secretary to the College recommended that all concerned withdraw from the meeting for discussion of their respective items.

The Secretary to the College noted that Professor G. Watson had declared a conflict of interest for item C.20 'Head of Schools', as he has been nominated as Head of School for the School of Chemistry. It was recommended that Professor Watson remain in the meeting as the item was for noting rather than approval.

**CL/22-23/162 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 15 March 2023 with amendments to the list of attendees were approved and signed.

**CL/22-23/163 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Secretary to the College referred Council to minute CL/22-23/141 'Committee Structures Update', advising that a memorandum on this will be brought to the May 2023 Council meeting.

**CL/22-23/164 Annual Report of the Dean of Graduate Studies 2021/22**

The Dean of Graduate Studies in introducing her annual report provided an overview of the College divisions and services that the Graduate Studies Office engages with to deliver its activities. In 2021/22, this engagement resulted in the processing of over ten thousand postgraduate taught (PGT) applications, registration of 6,054 students; the management and processing of a high number of student cases (2,395), 11 new courses, and ten micro-credentials.

Reporting on postgraduate research student (PGR) admissions for 2021/22, the Dean of Graduate Studies attributed the slight decrease in overall admissions to a marked drop in applications to Health Sciences (HS) which had experienced a large increase in 2020/21, with a return in 2021/22 to pre-pandemic levels of applications. 2021/22 saw an increase in PGT admissions (+650). The majority of registered students were from the EU (75%), the majority of whom were from Ireland. Referring to the non-EU student body, the Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted some changes in the demographic profile from 2020/21, with PGT admissions from India overtaking the percentage of students from China and the UK no longer represented in the top five countries. Speaking to the distribution of PGT students, she noted the increase in applications in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) and HS, and strong conversion rates leading to an overall increase in PGT numbers. Micro-credentials were delivered for the first time in 2021/22.

Addressing PGR applications, the Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that while there was a small decrease experienced in 2021/22, AHSS experienced an increase in applications and registrations. Conversion rates from applications to offers varied across Faculties with only 33% of applications converting to offers in AHSS, compared to 91% in STEM. She attributed the difference to contrasting models of research student recruitment, resulting in increased time required to process student-led applications in AHSS in order to recruit and register each research student. Despite this challenge, AHSS experienced an increase in PGR student numbers from 2020/21.

Reflecting on the challenges associated with March PGR student registrations (which account for 15% of registrations), the Dean of Graduate Studies commented that this cohort is vulnerable to being isolated and overlooked. Facilitating the orientation and integration of this cohort of students into the research community requires specific and dedicated resources to ensure they are not disadvantaged by the timing of their registration.

Speaking to Section B of her report which relates to the activities of the Graduate Studies Office, the Dean of Graduate Studies presented selected highlights including, the excellence in research supervision awards resulting in seven awards across the three Faculties; the Prendergast Interdisciplinary Challenge-Based Awards funded through donations from the Provost's Council which saw two awards each funding four PhD students; and the commencement of the consultation phase of the PG Renewal Programme resulting in approval for the implementation of the Horizon 1 phase. The Dean of Graduate Studies drew attention to the findings of a survey of teaching and learning undertaken with Schools and students on the allocation and monitoring of PGR student teaching loads. She highlighted that while the majority of respondents reported teaching in years 1-3 and contributing 100 or less hours, a small minority reported teaching in excess of this number and up to 403 hours. Referring to the

findings relating to the availability of information on teaching commitments, the Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted the need for a single source of information.

Concluding her presentation with 'Looking to the Future', the Dean of Graduate Studies commented on the critical role of DTLPs, the demands placed on them, and the breadth of their work, and the positioning of research students in the university which represent 8% of the total student body, which is significantly lower than partner institutes in the LERU group. She emphasised the need for a dedicated structure and space for PGR students to address the lack of a sense of community that they can experience and the diverse range of needs that exists across the PG student population. Remarking on the increasing separation of supports for PGT and PGR students, she noted that Trinity is in a very small minority of Irish Universities Association (IUA) universities in including PGR and PGT student cohorts under a single Dean of Graduate Studies. She highlighted the need for a consideration of structures and supports in Graduate Studies to address the diverse needs of PG students, including the creation of an Associate Dean position. She added that the appetite for increasing programme diversity, study format options, and the important role of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in encouraging workforce upskilling is evident and that the delivery of these ambitions will require investment and a consideration of programme structures.

The Dean of Graduate Studies in concluding her presentation informed Council that the Horizon 2 workplan, which will include a fully costed business case, will be brought to Council in May 2023 for consideration and approval.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies for her report and invited questions and comments.

Responding to a query from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer relating to the diversity of the PGT community and College priorities concerning part-time learners, distance learners, and RPL pathways, the Dean of Graduate Studies remarked that in terms of pragmatism part-time learners could be considered a priority due to the lower demands they place on digital infrastructure. She noted the challenges presented by micro-credentials for College systems due to the current need to set these up as full programmes in SITS.

The Dean of Graduate Studies in responding to a query from a postgraduate student member on how to increase PGR student numbers given cost-of-living challenges, advised that this will be considered as part of the work being progressed on the College Admissions Strategy. The Provost noting the slight increase in PGR student numbers in the 2020/21 report, commented on fluctuations that can occur globally in response to significant events, such as the dot.com bubble which saw a temporary decrease in PGR student numbers.

A discussion of the range of diverse and complex needs across the PG student population took place with a member commenting on the need to build on the excellent student supports offered to students. The Dean of Graduate Studies reported that this is being examined in the context of PG Renewal, which has identified the need for the greater availability and visibility of information on supports and how existing supports can be scaled to best meet demand. As part of this work supports provided to postgraduate students by LERU institutions are currently being researched.

Responding to a comment from the Provost on the timing of the compilation of the annual report and presentation to Council, the Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that the timing of the report is contingent on the publication of the AR Annual Report.

**Decision:**

**CL/22-23/164.1:** Council approved the Annual Report (2021-22) of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**CL/22-23/165 The Library of Trinity College Dublin Annual Report 2021/22**

The Librarian and College Archivist in presenting her Annual Report 2021/22 to Council reported that the Library is over halfway through a 15-year strategy, which has been recalibrated through the lens of Sustainability, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), and other areas, as approved by the Library and Information Policy Committee. The approved 'Continuity and Development' of the Library Strategy will go through to then elide with the development of the new University Strategy.

The Librarian and College Archivist reported huge progress has been made on the 'once in a century' undertaking of the Old Library Redevelopment Project, and she paid tribute to her Library colleagues for stepping up to the challenges presented by major programmes of work, for supporting students and researchers, and for navigating the aftermath of the pandemic.

Presenting the implementation plan for the Library Strategy she reminded Council that this comprises five pillars underpinned by communications, operations, and training and development. She presented selected highlights for each of the Pillars as follows:

- i. **Pillar 1: Integrated Space.** The Librarian highlighted the three parallel building projects for the Old Library Redevelopment Project; firstly the conservation of the Old Library which has seen the start of the decant of 700,000 collection items from the Old Library to temporary storage; secondly the conservation of the protected structure, the Printing House, which will host the Book of Kells while work progresses on the conservation and protection of the Old Library building; and thirdly, the Ussher Library Basement which will provide an alternative reading space for the Research Collections and therefore provide continuity of access to the collections, expert staff and services for readers during the closure of the Old Library.
- ii. **Pillar 2: Integrated Digital.** Trinity hosted the annual meeting of the UK Legal Deposit Library Directors on Bloomsday (June 16, 2022). The six directors instigated a review of the future strategic direction of UK legal deposit in the run-up to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2013 enabling legislation for non-print legal deposit, which has now provided access to over ten million e-journal articles and almost 800,000 e-books. She noted that while the collaboration between the six legal deposit libraries resulted in an incredible resource, and the six research Libraries in four nations have effectively created a seventh transnational electronic Library on a vast scale, there are continuing challenges concerning access to the resources outside of the physical Libraries, which was even more highlighted for the three University Libraries during the pandemic. The Librarian and College Archivist observed that the interplay between print and e-material was increasingly important, from technological, financial, and sustainability perspectives.
- iii. **Pillar 3: Teaching, Learning, Research.** Commenting on the impact of unsustainable publisher practices on scholarly activity, the Librarian and College Archivist noted the publishing trends as having a detrimental impact on current students and future researchers. The Library is a member of the Irish, cross-sectoral 'e-book SOS' campaign, which has called for action on the electronic content crisis facing Libraries and Library users, the need to address the unsustainability of electronic content, e-book pricing, and the terms and conditions under which they are made available. There is a campaign in the UK and increasingly in the US, and the Librarian has raised this at LERU.
- iv. **Pillar 4: Prioritised Funding.** Referring to philanthropy in support of the Old Library and the Virtual Trinity Library, the Librarian and College Archivist highlighted the generous benefactors which included individuals for the Old Library, and funding for the conservation and digitisation of the Book of Leinster by the Bank of America, as

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings

continuation of the very successful Carnegie Corporation of New York's funding for the Medieval Manuscripts as part of the Virtual Trinity Library

- v. **Pillar 5: Suite of Policies and Programmes.** The Librarian and College Archivist highlighted the Stewardship Policy 'in action', as part of the decant of the Old Library. The decant comprises significant conservation, as the volumes are cleaned, RFID (radio frequency identification) tagged, catalogued, and measured. As well as the benefits of conserving the collections, the Librarian outlined the benefits of access for researchers which are already materialising from this work,

Speaking to external events and communications, the Librarian and College Archivist drew attention to the hosting of the Trinity Women Graduates Centenary Exhibition in the Long Room in April 2022; the hosting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) World Congress satellite event in the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute and the flash mob of 50 librarians from around the world reading excerpts from Joyce's Ulysses in their own languages; and the visit from the UK Labour Party leader Keir Starmer to the Library.

The Librarian and College Archivist presented the percentage breakdown of overall expenditure on resources (printed books, journals, and e-resources) by Faculty during 2021/22 commenting on the increase in spending in AHSS, which was due to the one-off purchase of 14 important new databases that will grant perpetual access to material.

The Librarian and College Archivist explained that the Library Leadership considers the changing societal, political, and technological landscape each year and recalibrates the overall strategy in the light of emerging issues and risks. Reflecting on the challenges and opportunities for the Library Strategy for 2022/23 onwards, the Librarian and College Archivist stated that these include:

- Recalibrated Strategy through the lens of Sustainability and EDI
- 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UK e-legal deposit, transnational digital infrastructure
- Environmental and digital sustainability
- New Library Management System
- Off-site Collections Resource Centre
- Cyber security, knowledge security and foreign interference.
- Trinity's Legacy issues
- Next phases of Open Scholarship
- Old Library Redevelopment Project
- Virtual Trinity Library

The Provost thanked the Librarian and College Archivist for her presentation and report.

**Decision:**

**CL/22-23/165.1:** Council approved the Library Annual Report 2021/22.

**CL/22-23/166 Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's Report**

Updating Council on the development of the University Admissions Strategy, the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer reported that a short survey had been issued to the College community on 11 April 2023. Responses from the survey will be collated and will inform the development of the Strategy.

**CL/22-23/167 Provost's Report**

Speaking to the Research and Innovation Bill, which will provide for the establishment of a new Research and Innovation funding agency and the amalgamation of the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), the Provost noted that engagement with government on the Bill had been limited to-date. She highlighted the efforts of the IUA and the Dean of Research in this regard. The publication of the Heads of Bill may result in a delay to the legislation being drafted, and the impact of the delay on the SFI and IRC is not clear.

The Provost remarked on the key roles played by Martin Mansergh, Monica McWilliams, Jonathan Powell, and Nancy Soderberg in the Good Friday Agreement, who were conferred with Honorary degrees of the University of Dublin on the eve of Good Friday.

Referring to the Laidlaw Foundation visit to Trinity on 12 April 2023, the Provost acknowledged the importance of the Laidlaw Scholars and Research Programme, the Pathways for Women in Business Programme, and the Laidlaw Venture Partners (venture capital financing) for Trinity.

The Provost commended Professor Jane Ohlmeyer on winning the highly prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant.

Commenting on the importance of sport on health and wellbeing, the Provost informed Council that a root and branch review of sport in Trinity and how it is funded will be undertaken in the coming months. The review will examine funding avenues, future ambitions, and the development of facilities.

**CL/22-23/168 Any Other Urgent Business**

The Provost invited Council members to make recommendations on the Policy Matters Section of the Agenda.

**SECTION A.2: Policy Matters which have already been considered by Committees****CL/22-23/169 New Masters course in Irish-Medium and Gaeltacht Education (M.Ed)**

Speaking to the new Masters course, the Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted that the course was developed in response to a Department of Education tender. She explained that due to the tender requirements the Masters comprises 100 ECTS to enable students to demonstrate competence in educational theory and practice, and in Irish proficiency.

The Provost highlighted that a review of the required documentation for new course proposals will be undertaken with the view to streamlining proposal development.

**Decision:**

**CL/22-23/169.1:** Council approved the proposal for the two-year part-time course in Irish-Medium and Gaeltacht Education leading to a Masters in Education (100 ECTS) and exit awards of Postgraduate Diploma in Irish-Medium and Gaeltacht Education (60 ECTS) and Postgraduate Certificate in Irish-Medium and Gaeltacht Education (30 ECTS) at NFQ level 9 offered by the School of Education, with a first intake in September 2023.

**CL/22-23/170 Postgraduate Renewal Programme**

The Dean of Graduate Studies commented that work package 1 of the Postgraduate Renewal Programme has proposed five alternative formats for the postgraduate taught research element. She noted the broad welcome from the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) for this approach.

**Decisions:**

**CL/22-23/170.1:** Council approved the Postgraduate Renewal Programme: Proposal for a Postgraduate Taught Research Model Framework effective from 2023-24.

**CL/22-23/170.2:** Council approved the recommendations of the Postgraduate Renewal Programme: Review of roles and responsibilities of the Supervisor and University in supporting the postgraduate research student's development of a multidimensional skillset.

**CL/22-23/170.3:** Council approved the recommendations of the Postgraduate Renewal Programme: Academic Appeals Position Paper.

**CL/22-23/171 Facilitated Entry Grades TAP Foundation Courses and TCD Partnership City of Dublin Education Training Board Courses****Decision:**

**CL/22-23/171.1:** Council approved the Facilitated Entry Grades for TAP Foundation Courses and TCD Partnership City of Dublin Education Training Board Courses.

**CL/22-23/172 Quality Review of the Careers Service**

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**Decision:**

**CL/22-23/172.1:** Council approved the Reviewer's Report on the Quality Review of the Careers Service.

**CL/22-23/173 Trinity-Lir Joint Academic Committee**

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**Decision:**

**CL/22-23/173.1:** Council approved the proposal to establish the Trinity-Lir Joint Committee, and its governance structure.

**CL/22-23/174 Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism): Clarification of Calendar Regulations**

The Dean of Graduate Studies drew Council's attention to the definition of plagiarism in the Calendar (Parts II and III) which states that 'Plagiarism is the act of presenting the work, form of words, or ideas of others as one's own without due acknowledgement.' A clarification that 'work' includes examinations is required for the purposes of the Calendar regulations, as the Plagiarism Policy implies that 'work' occurs in the context of assessed coursework/assignments.

**Decision:**

**CL/22-23/174.1:** Council approved the proposed clarification that 'work' includes examinations in the definition of Plagiarism presented in the Calendar Part II, Part B (96 General) and Part III, Section I (49 General).

**SECTION B****CL/22-23/175 Human Resources Committee**

The minutes of 24 January 2023 were noted and approved.

**CL/22-23/176 Research Committee**

The minutes of 14 February 2023 were noted and approved.

**CL/22-23/177 Graduate Studies Committee**

The draft minutes of 23 March 2023 were noted and approved.

**CL/22-23/178 Quality Committee****Decision:**

**CL/22-23/178.1:** Council noted and approved the draft minutes of 29 March 2023 and appendix: The Implementation Plan for the Quality Review of the Lir.

**CL/22-23/179 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The draft minutes of 21 March 2023 were noted and approved.

**SECTION C****CL/22-23/180 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 12 April 2023.

**(i) Higher Degrees by Publication**

**Sc.D.** Orla Sheils

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

**M.D.** Shane Daniel Brennan; Rachael Mary Flood.

**Ph.D.** Niamh Eilis Curran; Lorna Doyle; Joseph Michael Eiffe; Proinnsias Garoid Fox; Juan Diego Galaz Carvajal; Eva Maria Garcia Albarran; James Garcia; Federica Giangrazi; Kevin Gildea; Ashleigh Alexandra Gorman; Marco William Hickey; Logan Ross Hoffman; Meabh Banrion Hughes; Sean Walter Kelley; Nicolas Lang; Asithandile Thando Mbelu; Sadhbh McGrath; Margarete McGuigan; Jason McGrath; Joan Mary McGrath; Caolán Seán Ó Murchú; Sabrina Jasmin Renken; Camilla Roselli; Camille Elizabeth Stock; Kenny Yu; Julia Margaret Wall; Hao Wu; Richard Wubben.



- D. Music. Perf.** Adrian Mantu; William O’Brien.
- D.Ed.** Miriam O’Donoghue.
- M.Sc.** Matthieu Patrick Bernard Proffit.

**CL/22-23/181 Heads of Schools**

The Council noted that Board had approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Graeme Watson as Head of School of Chemistry for a five-year term from 5 June 2023 to the end of Trinity term 2028.
- (ii) Professor Laurent Muzellec as Head of the Trinity Business School for a four-year term from 5 June 2023 to the end of Trinity term 2027.
- (iii) Professor Damian Murchan as Acting Head of School of Creative Arts for a period not exceeding one year from 22 February 2023.

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....