



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 5 June 2024 at 11.15am in the Trinity Board Room, Trinity Business School.

- Present* Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Health Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Professor L. O'Driscoll, Ms. D. Alexander, Professor L. Carson, Professor G. Watson, Ms. R. Emakpor, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Registrar, Mr C. Reddy, Mr M. McAndrew, Mr S. Sardina, Dean of Research, Professor A. Gibson, Professor J. Coleman, Professor P. O'Grady, Professor B. Daly, Professor K. Neenan, Mr. A. Burgess. VP for Global Engagement, Professor A.M. Malone, Mr. E. Gilroy, Librarian and College Archivist.
- Apologies* Academic Secretary, Professor D. Romelli, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor J Wyse, Professor B Fitzgerald, Mr R Saulnier, Dr M Olmstead, Senior Tutor.
- In attendance* Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, Assistant Academic Secretary (Academic Affairs), Chief Operating Officer, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Professor Gregory O' Hare, Academic Affairs Education Policy Developer.

**SECTION A.1: Policy Matters**

The Provost welcomed everyone to Council. The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance noted that the Vice-President for Global Engagement had declared an interest in item *C25(ii) Co-opted members of Council for 2024/25*, and that it had been agreed that she would leave the meeting for the item. It was also noted that the Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics had declared an interest in item *C29 (ii) Faculty Deans* and that following discussion with her, it had been agreed that she would remain in the meeting for the item.

The Provost noted that it was the last meeting for the Senior Lecturer; the Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS); Professor Carson; Professor Gibson; Professor Romelli; Mr Reddy; Mr Sardina and Dr Donnellan. She thanked the outgoing members for their valued contribution to Council during their term of office.

**CL/23-24/214 Minutes**

**(i) Minutes 8 May 2024**

The minutes of the Council meeting of the 8 May 2024 were approved.

**(ii) Amendments to the minutes of the 8 May 2024**

The circulated amendments to the minutes of the Council meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were approved.

**CL/23-24/215 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**CL/23-24/216 Senior Lecturer's Annual Report 2022/23**

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies presented his 2022/23 annual report to Council. Commenting that the data in the circulated report is a year in arrears, he advised that his presentation also included highlights and activities of the 2023/24 academic year.

Presenting admissions data for 2022/23, he reported that the undergraduate student body accounted for 70% of the student population, with Trinity attracting 29% of the total level-8 applications to the CAO and the highest proportion of first preference applications across the sector. Eighty three percent (83%) of applicants were from Leinster, up 3% from the previous year, with approximately 65% coming from the Dublin area. 2022/23 saw 51 new entrants from Northern Ireland (NI), down seven from 2021/22. The proposed recalibration of CAO points to A-levels, due to be implemented in 2025/26, may help to address this. In the meantime, NIFS will run next year as will the deferred places initiative and recruitment have a wide range of initiatives and activities to encourage students from NI to come to Trinity.

With regard to Entrance Exhibitions, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the numbers awarded were down 11 on the 2021/22 numbers, and he suggested that this reflected the gradual post-Covid normalisation of Leaving Certificate examination results. The Trinity Admissions Feasibility Study (TAFS) admitted only 14 students to three courses in 2022/23 - Law (5), History (6) and Ancient and Medieval History and Culture (3), which explained why in June 2023, Council approved the conclusion of the feasibility study.

There was a slight decrease in the number of students entering Trinity undergraduate programmes via alternative admission routes, from 27% in 2021/22 to 24% in 2022/23. The decrease was seen across all entry routes, with the exception being those entering through the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE), which saw an increase from 302 students in 2021/22 to 353 students in 2022/23. The number of admissions through the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR), which is aimed at students from low-income backgrounds, reduced by 24% in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22 figures (215 vs 164). The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies suggested that the National Access Plan has noted that rising costs associated with higher education, which are a significant barrier for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, may have disproportionately affected these students. There was an overall retention rate for new entrants of 94% (vs 95% in 2021/22) and a progression rate to SF of 89% (vs 91% in 2021/22). Overall, student attrition across the whole student UG body for 2022/23 was 3%, which has remained unchanged since 2020/21. New entrants who entered through alternative routes had an 85% pass rate in 2022/23, a 1% decrease from 2021/22 and a 6% decrease overall since 2020/21, and the proportion of new entrants entering through alternative entry routes repeating the year was 12% in 2022/23 (10% in 2021/22 and 7% in 2020/21). This compares to 5% of entrants who entered through standard entry routes. Entrants entering through standard routes had a 93% pass rate in 2022/23.

Reporting on foundation and non-foundation Scholarships, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that 62 new Scholars were elected in 2022/23, a 21% increase on 2021/22. Thirty-four of these were female and 28 were male. In 2022/23, the number of students registered for examination accommodations with the Disability Service increased by 29% compared to the previous year (1,844 vs 1,430). Remarking that the need for examination accommodations has increased year on year since 2020/21, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies stated that this has placed significant demand on sourcing suitable exam accommodation venues. The number of Gold medals awarded was reduced in 2022/23 (127) compared to 2021/22 (140) and this may be attributed to the settling down of marks after the pandemic. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Graduate Studies reported that graduate outcome data from the Careers Office was available for the first time this year. The data showed that, for honours students, there was a growing trend to progress directly to employment following graduation and a decreasing trend to progress to postgraduate education.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the Terms of Reference and membership of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) had been revised in 2023/24. Providing an overview of other developments in 2023/24, he reported on Generative AI, Admissions, Assessment, Policies, Scholarships, and Sustainability as follows:

#### Generative AI

- The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) discussed a draft Institutional Statement on Generative AI that will come to Council for approval in the Autumn. USC also heard contributions from Academic Practice and from Schools on how they have responded to the challenges and opportunities posed by Gen AI and whether a discipline-specific approach is required.

#### Admissions

- Reporting on initiatives in the Admissions space, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised Council that USC had approved new A-level/Leaving Certificate equivalences, the ceasing of the Matriculation examinations, a revised admission process for the B.Mus.Ed., and updated admissions equivalences for Indian and South African applicants.
- A new process for the enrolment of incoming visiting students was approved in 2023/24.
- Existing modules on the International Foundation Programme (IFP), run by Marino Institute of Education (MIE), were updated in 2023/24 and a new module was co-created with Computer Science.

#### Assessment

- With regard to the QQI project on degree classifications prompted by alleged grade inflation, the Senior Lecturer thanked colleagues in Academic Affairs, the Quality Office and in Law, English, Nursing and Midwifery and BESS for their work on the project to date and he indicated that a response to the report submitted by College was due back from QQI over the summer.
- The project to automate the External Examiner Nomination process using MS Power Automate was rolled out in 2023/24, and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked colleagues in the Quality Office for their work in this regard.
- Updating Council on developments in undergraduate education, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that a new TJH and new minor subject in Early Irish, new open modules with Languages, and three new Trinity Electives were approved in 2023/24. He also advised that students in Pharmacy can now take Trinity Electives.
- The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked staff in the Academic Registry for their work on returning examinations to campus, noting that the number of examinations held in the RDS in 2023/24 had been reduced considerably, especially in Semester 2.

#### Policies

- Reporting on the work undertaken in 2023/24 to update Policies and Procedures, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies notified members that revisions had been made to the Programme and Curriculum Design and Approval Policy; the Programme Handbook Policy; the Fitness to Study Policy and to the UG Attendance regulations and processes.

#### Scholarships

- Referring to the Laidlaw scholarships, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted that 96 applications were received, with 40 interviews held resulting in 25 awards being presented.
- Reporting on Foundation/Non-Foundation Scholarships, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted that 73 Scholars were elected in 2023/24, representing a 19% increase on 2022/23. A record number of applications were received, and a record number of students attended the exam. However, even with the introduction of the new attendance confirmation step, there were still more than 300 no-shows.

#### Sustainability

- The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that work continued in 2023/24 to embed sustainability into the Undergraduate Curriculum. The ESD Fellows and Trinity Teaching and Learning worked on the development of an ESD module which will be

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delivered to undergraduate Business students as a pilot in 2024/25. Schools will also consider how they engage their students in sustainability issues within and beyond their discipline.

Concluding the presentation of his report, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies extended his thanks to all involved in supporting the work of undergraduate studies in Trinity this past year and throughout his tenure.

The Provost thanked the Senior Lecturer and invited comments from members. A member reported on the difficulty that some Schools, particularly those with professional programmes, may have in incorporating a sustainability module into what is already a very busy curriculum. The Provost reported that the VP for Biodiversity and Climate Action would be meeting with individual Schools to see what they could accommodate in their curricula, and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the Directors of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning have been asked to consult locally regarding what would work for their Schools, and that he would be meeting with ESD fellows and the VP for Biodiversity and Climate Action in the coming weeks to review the feedback and consider next steps for 2024/25.

With regard to the increase in the number of Scholars elected in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22, the Secretary to the Scholars reported that the increase is within the statistical fluctuation of numbers for the last few years and is below the levels seen in the 2010s. Noting the high number of students not turning up for Schol exams, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies reported that the central scholarship committee has been grappling with this issue for some time and that while the introduction of the confirmation step has helped, there is no incentive for students to turn up as there are no consequences for non-attendance. In response to a query from the Provost, the Secretary to the Scholars reported that a bursary, funded by the scholars and run in conjunction with Trinity Access, would be introduced in 2024/25 and is intended to provide some financial support to students who may otherwise have to forego preparation for Schol exams in order to work. In closing the discussion, the Provost asked that the decline in admission through some alternative access routes, in particular applicants through the HEAR scheme, be followed up as an action item.

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/216.1:** Council approved the Senior Lecturer's Annual Report 2022/23.

**Action:**

**CL/23-24/216.2:** The decline in admission through some alternative access routes, in particular through the HEAR scheme, to be followed up.

**CL/23-24/217 Trinity Global Annual Report 2023/24**

The Vice-President for Global Engagement (VPGE) presented the Trinity Global Annual Report 2023/24, noting that it is situated in the Global Relations Strategy (GRS 3) and the Trinity Strategic Plan 2020-25. She reported that in 2023/24, the student body comprised 21,120 students, of which 4,771 were non-EU students. Speaking to global mobility, the VPGE advised that 39% of eligible third year undergraduate Trinity students undertook an international experience as part of their programme in 2023/24. This number has increased from the 37% who travelled in 2022/23. Seven thousand, seven hundred and twenty one (7,721) students were from outside Ireland representing 118 countries, and the 123 students participating in the International Foundation Programme (IFP) delivered by Marino Institute of Education (MIE) were from 22 countries. The VPGE reported that approximately 70% of students progress from that programme to third-level education.

Referring to the Trinity Global student experience, the Vice-President for Global Engagement reported that in 2023/24 there were 44 Trinity Global Ambassadors who provided a range of supports and services to students, including peer-to-peer support and campus tours. She advised that a dedicated Immigration and Support Officer assists students with visas and immigration queries, and that in 2023/24 over 240 information sessions and one-to-one appointments were

arranged. Reporting that visa issues are increasing, particularly for postgraduate students, the VPGE stressed the importance of Trinity's Embassy and Diplomatic Strategy in finding solutions. She noted that as this is a sector-wide issue, sectoral advocacy would be welcomed.

Highlighting the 342 events held in the Global Room in 2023/24, the Vice-President for Global Engagement noted the importance of these events for international students, and for their peers and friends who also attend. The 'pathway to belonging' programme was launched in 2023/24 to support students who are new to Trinity and includes a bespoke 8-week pre-arrival webinar, and a 'Goin' to Trinity' community platform app with student-led content which provides a safe space for students to connect before coming to Trinity.

Reporting on student recruitment and marketing, the VPGE advised that over 1,200 student recruitment events were attended with the majority of these held in-person. New countries visited in 2023/24 to promote Trinity programmes included Kenya, South Africa, Greece, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and Egypt. Trinity Global co-ordinated national and global Open Days to engage with new countries and with Irish secondary schools, and there were over 12,000 registrants. In November 2023, over 150 international guidance counsellors were welcomed to an event in the Old Library.

Speaking to Trinity Global's unique Embassy and Diplomatic Strategy, the VPGE reported that 2023/24 saw visits to and from embassies as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs, and European Institutions including ambassadors, government delegations, dignitaries, and donors to the University. She reported that these links yielded both tangible and intangible results. Trinity is involved in a number of networks and alliances such as the COIMBRA group, the Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad (CASA) and the European University Foundation, which are not only important for professional staff development but also to exchange and sense-check ideas.

The VPGE highlighted that Trinity's globally connected community comprises over 300 universities from around the world in 28 countries offering opportunities from exchange programmes to joint education partnerships. In 2023/24, Trinity's Global Footprint was launched, an interactive worldwide community map that shows Trinity's Global Partners, Networks and Alliances; Trinity's Global student community; and Trinity's Alumni. The VPGE reported that, in time, it is hoped to add Trinity Innovation and Trinity Research to the map. Through the Embassy and Diplomatic Strategy, staff have an opportunity to engage with visiting delegations. New partnerships programmes were established with Law and Engineering in 2023/24, and Trinity hosted a delegation from the University of Bergen to launch a new partnership across the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences which will facilitate exchange opportunities for staff and students. Exchange agreements were also signed with Otago University, Auckland University of Technology, George Washington University, and Hokkaido University. Finally, the VPGE reported that in 2023/24 Trinity Global became the first professional unit in Trinity and in Ireland to achieve an Athena Swan Bronze award.

The Provost thanked the Vice-President for Global Engagement for her presentation and invited comment from members. A student representative suggested that it would be useful in the table on page 12 of the report, to delineate between PG research and PG taught students. With reference to the issue of student visas, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies queried the nature and status of the current IUA discussions. The VPGE reported that a number of issues are being considered by the IUA VPs for Global Group and that there is anxiety that a change in political mood may result in further challenges for students to access educational opportunities in Ireland. She advised that Ireland's "stay-back" visa currently allows legally resident non-EEA students who hold a level 8 or level 9 award from a recognised Irish awarding body to stay in Ireland and work full time after their studies for a period of time. As the stay-back regulations have recently changed in other countries, the VPGE stressed the need to ensure that similar changes do not happen here. She noted that there is no sectoral data on key areas of challenge being faced by students but that it is becoming apparent that Schengen visas are taking a long time to process. She suggested that evidence could be gathered at a sectoral level

and a case made to the DFA in this regard, and that if a particular cohort of students are found to be unduly affected, the relevant embassies could be contacted and interventions made on a case-by-case basis.

The Provost noted the need to be aware of silent barriers that hinder international students pursuing university degrees, citing international examples of this. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted the impact of reduced income from international students on job losses in UK universities. Referring to the planned inclusion of Trinity Innovation and Trinity Research in the Trinity Global Footprint map, the Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics asked how this data would be collected. The VPGE advised that Trinity Global would rely on information from the relevant offices. Elaborating on this further, she reported that information on Trinity's engagement with Danish and Mexican companies and research has already been collated as the information was readily available. The stakeholder response to this data will inform the next steps. The VPGE stressed the need to approach this in a systemic way, noting that Trinity Global is just one part of the global story in Trinity, and to establish the best way to source and capture the data for inclusion in the global footprint project.

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/217.1:** Council approved the Trinity Global Annual Report 2023/24

**CL/23-24/218 Academic Integrity Steering Group Closing Report**

The Dean of Graduate Studies provided the background to the Academic Integrity Steering Group Closing Report, reminding Council members that in February 2022, Council approved an Academic Integrity Working Group (AIWG) with four terms of reference (below). She stated that the purpose of the report was to detail the work that has been undertaken under these Terms of Reference (TOR) in the last two years.

- *To develop a statement of principles for academics, professional staff, and students which clarifies the meaning and importance of integrity within Trinity as an academic institution and how these principles relate to its core values.*
- *To work with units in College to ensure that academic integrity is supported by: (i) nationally and internationally benchmarked pedagogical resources and practices for teachers, learners and researchers at all stages (UG, PGT, PGR, staff) and (ii) the governance structures of the university.*
- *To review and improve policies and processes relating to academic conduct and misconduct (including but not limited to plagiarism and cheating) and to ensure that these are aligned with the statement of principles on institutional integrity and benchmarked against national and international best practice.*
- *To develop proposals to promote a culture of awareness that academic integrity is essential to our core value of responsibility, across the range of our activities, from undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and learning to research and administration.*

Three working groups were established to fulfil the ToR – (i) Promoting Academic Integrity/Preventing Academic Misconduct; (ii) Responding to and Managing Academic Misconduct; and (iii) Academic Integrity and Research Integrity. The functions of these groups were subsumed into the Academic Integrity Working Group at the end of the 2022/23 academic year, at which point the group was renamed the Academic Integrity Steering Group (AISG) to reflect the focus on providing oversight, guidance, and strategic direction. The Group was co-chaired by the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Speaking to a slide presentation on the report, the Dean of Graduate Studies highlighted the role of the Academic Secretary in securing funding for the work and she thanked Ms Lizzie Whitcher, whose appointment she said marked a step change in terms of driving the work forward. Outlining the key achievements, the Dean reported that a new policy and procedures around academic integrity had been developed, and a new website with information and resources for

staff and students had been launched. In this regard, she thanked colleagues in Academic Practice, Academic Affairs, the Quality Office, and Student Learning and Development for their help. The Dean reported that a number of academic integrity awareness events and activities had taken place over the two years, including two Academic Integrity awareness weeks, the first in October 2022 which was held online, and the second in October 2023. She noted that by early 2023, the rise of generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) meant that the acronym 'AI' was more often being used to refer to Artificial Intelligence. It did, however, make cultural awareness raising of Academic Integrity easier. In September 2023, Trinity was the first Irish university to administer the ICAI-McCabe Survey on academic integrity and misconduct, which was sent out to all academic staff and to students. The response rate was good and findings indicated that Trinity does not stand out in comparison to other universities who have contributed data to ICAI. There was general concordance between staff and student opinions. Two areas where perspectives differed were in relation to academic integrity in the context of collaborative working and in relation to downloading resources and information from online sources.

With regard to future considerations, the Dean of Graduate Studies stressed the need to consider how to continue and nurture the work, noting that a sustained approach will be required as cultural change is slow. The Policies and Procedures that have been developed will need to be regularly reviewed and Gen AI will continue to impact how academic integrity is perceived and managed. She noted that Trinity now has a system which makes it possible to record cases of academic misconduct in SITS but that time and resources are required to guide schools in how to accurately identify and record cases to ensure that the data captures the full extent of the problem. The Dean concluded by remarking that Gen AI has changed the landscape in this area, and she suggested that another working group is required to address the opportunities and challenges Gen AI presents.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies stated that while Trinity was arguably lagging behind the sector when work began in this area in early 2022, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken in the last 2 years and that Trinity has made huge strides to improve its nurturing and safe-guarding of academic integrity. He expressed the hope that Trinity can continue to build on the work that has already been done in this area in order that the University doesn't fall behind in comparison to its peers. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer thanked the members of the working groups and the steering group for their work. In relation to future supports for academic integrity, outlined on page 9 of the report, she clarified that resources are currently provided from a funding stream identified by the Academic Secretary and that there is no core funding for this work. The Dean of Graduate Studies suggested that academic integrity processes and procedures must be embedded at School level. Referencing the QQI-funded project on Academic Integrity currently being undertaken by Professor Andrew Gibson, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies suggested that QQI could be approached to advocate for government funding. The Librarian and College Archivist remarked on the importance of ensuring that academic integrity is not wholly subsumed into the discussion on Gen AI and that it is clearly articulated that Gen AI is only one aspect of Academic Integrity.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies for their report.

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/218:** Council approved the Academic Integrity Steering Group Closing Report.

**CL/23-24/219 Consolidated Annual Faculty Quality Report 2022/23**

The VP/CAO introduced the consolidated 2022/23 Annual Faculty Quality Report by reporting that the individual Faculty Quality Reports for 2022/23 had been discussed and approved by the Quality Committee at its April meeting. The consolidated report draws together the key enhancements and challenges arising from the individual Faculty reports, and it highlights emerging and recurrent themes:

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- low response rates to student surveys,
- external examiner system issues,
- lack of interoperability across key systems which results in duplication of effort on the part of staff,
- quality of teaching and research space, and the impact on the student and staff experience.
- key infrastructure and critical equipment failure and lack of an income stream to repair and replace equipment required for capstone projects and research activity.

The VP/CAO highlighted new themes that arose in 2022/23, which included (i) the difficulty in recruiting elected postgraduate student representatives to Faculty and School Executive Committees, positions that are currently being filled on a volunteer basis and (ii) initiatives by Schools to address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), and Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI.

The Faculty report commended the following initiatives:

- the return to College-based exam venues for 80% of assessments, which was noted as providing a positive experience for students and staff,
- the positive impact of the Faculty Liaison Officers following the first full year of the implementation of these positions,
- the positive work of the Postgraduate Renewal Project and its impact across Schools,
- the strategic prioritization of module and programme evaluation functionality by the VLE Review Project, to inform the procurement of a new VLE.

With regard to contemporary issues of concern in 2023/24, the VP/CAO reported that the increase in the processing turnaround times for PG applications was worrying. There has been an increase in PG applications which, although welcomed, has put an additional burden on Schools and on the Academic Registry.

The Provost thanked the VP/CAO and remarked on how similar the issues raised were from year to year. With regard to the point raised concerning postgraduate representation on committees, a student member suggested that better communication to students around vacancies on committees was required as he felt that many postgraduate students were not aware that these opportunities exist. Highlighting the role now played by the Students' Union in supporting postgraduate students, the SU Education Officer reported that a plan was being developed, for discussion with the VP/CAO and the Dean of Students, which aims to have postgraduate representatives in place on all relevant committees by September. The Head of the School of Computer Science and Statistics reported that students in the School had requested that an election would be held to appoint the postgraduate representative to the School Executive, which ensured that the PG rep would have voting rights which they would not have had if they were filling the role on a voluntary basis. The VP/CAO undertook to update Council in September on progress with the appointment of postgraduate student representatives and the SU Education Officer offered his services in this regard over the summer period. In concluding the discussion, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences suggested that consideration be given to presenting the report in the Autumn for the previous academic year. The Provost asked that consideration of this suggestion be taken as an action from the discussion.

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/219.1:** Council approved the Consolidated Annual Faculty Quality Report 2022/23.

**Action:**

**CL/23-24/219.2:** Consideration be given to presenting the consolidated Annual Faculty Quality Report in Michaelmas Term for the previous academic year, rather than in Hilary Term for the previous two years as is currently the case.

**CL/23-24/220 Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's Report**

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The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer updated Council members on discussions regarding Spring Open Day 2025, which were being led by the Senior Lecturer and the Vice-President Global Engagement. She reminded members that previously Trinity had attended the Times Higher Options event in the RDS but that last year academic staff attended Spring Open Day rather than the RDS event. Two possible dates were discussed at USC in May but members were unable to agree on a preferred date, and discussions with unions are ongoing. The VP/CAO advised members that Council may be required to approve a date for Spring Open Day under vacation procedures if a decision is made to hold a Spring Open Day.

#### **CL/23-24/221 Provost's Report**

The Provost gave a detailed account of the events that had taken place from Friday, 3 May with the start of the encampment in Fellows' Square to the conclusion of the encampment on 8 May. She reminded Council members that the agreement reached to end the encampment had been brought to the College Board for approval, and the encampment ended on 8 May. The Provost advised that the University's primary concern throughout the encampment was its duty of care to students and staff and this impacted decision-making at a management level. The Provost updated Council on the wider international context in relation to protests which are occurring in University campuses around the world.

The Provost advised that just prior to the start of the encampment she had met with the incoming and outgoing SU Sabbatical Officers and that she had reconvened meetings with this group since the encampment had ended, with a view to establish better ways of working together going forward. She informed Council that on 20 May, the SU had agreed that going forward, they and the University would work in renewed partnership to deliver on Student Partnership and, in response to this, the Provost had agreed that the University would no longer pursue the payment of the invoice that had been issued.

The Provost outlined the nature of Student Partnership and its history in Trinity. The Provost also noted that the incoming SU Education Officer had met already with the Vice-Provost in relation to bringing forward a new Student Partnership agreement in the Autumn. The Provost reminded Council that she had issued a statement before the encampment that set out that all forms of racism, including antisemitism and Islamophobia, have absolutely no place in Trinity. She reported that concerns had been shared with college management and different members in the University in respect to recent protests, in particular highlighting issues reported with respect to antisemitism.

The Provost reported how the University was responding to this, including the involvement of the EDI office in working with students and staff on these issues. The Provost noted that these issues would be returned to in due course and work is ongoing. The Provost informed Council that one of the key aspects of the agreement reached on May 8 was the creation of a Task Force that would look at how the University preserves academic freedom in the context of what is a very changed geopolitical environment, something which most institutions globally are facing. She advised that the format, shape and terms of reference for the Task Force had not yet been decided but that given his experience and recent involvement, she had asked the Senior Dean to conduct some background research on different approaches to such a Task Force and to garner input from diverse voices and diverse expertise both internally and externally. This would inform a meaningful set of options on format, shape and terms of reference for fulfilling what was agreed on 8 May. The Provost advised that various different committees and groups would feed into the options, and that given the importance of the role of the Task Force, she was recommending that Council and subsequently Board would have the opportunity to discuss the options for the Task Force, and that both would ultimately sign off on the Terms of Reference.

She reiterated that, as had been noted in the agreement approved by the Board, this Task Force would work within the normal governance structures of the University and that any recommendations that were made by it would follow the University decision-making structures.

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She underlined that another crucial and essential aspect would be that the Task Force would need to develop and use processes that ensured meaningful, widespread engagement on the issues for which it would focus. She emphasised the importance of being able to stand over the fact that any recommendations that were forthcoming would have had a widespread and in-depth airing and that all implications would be fully understood, and that discussions would need to be evidence-based, and decisions would need to be made together and to stand over those decisions.

The Provost noted that until the Task Force makes recommendations to the relevant Principal Committees, which in turn would need to be considered by those Committees in line with the University's formal governance structures, no decisions beyond what had been agreed and approved by the Board on 8 May would be made. The Provost reported that, as had been agreed on 8 May, divestment from Israeli companies who have activities in the Occupied Territories and appear on the UN Blacklist was expected to be completed in June, and that this approach is in line with actions being taken by the NTMA/ISIF.

Turning to the European Elections on the 7 June 2024, the Provost informed members that the Irish Universities Association (IUA) had sent out a document to all candidates in the upcoming EU elections that contained three key points focused on the changing research landscape in Europe, the size of the research budget and potential constraints. The Provost provided some commentary on the changing research landscape in Europe, including the development of a European Degree, which will mean national research funding becomes even more important. She advised that Council will need to keep a watching brief on this and that the Research Committee would also be focussing on it.

The Provost highlighted concerns regarding Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the outstanding SFI funding call from which results are due. Speaking to core funding, she reported that there is a recognised €307million gap in funding for HEIs which the government begun to redress. However, absent uplifts in funding to cover pay awards, €120 allocated to the sector translates to a net value of €8m once pay awards and inflation into consideration. The Provost concluded by stating that in the current political landscape where housing and immigration are the top priorities, education is in danger of being overlooked.

The SU Education Officer thanked the VP/CAO and the Provost for the opportunity to engage with College on the development of a new student partnership agreement.

**CL/23-24/222 Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no other urgent business.

**SECTION A.2:**

**Policy Matters which have already been considered by Committees.**

**CL/23-24/223 Postgraduate Renewal Programme (Student Lifecycle) (Horizon 2):**

**(i) Proposed new English Language Requirements Framework for Admission to Trinity**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/223.1:** Council approved the Proposed new English Language Requirements Framework for Admission to Trinity as part of the Postgraduate Renewal Programme (Student Lifecycle) (Horizon 2).

**(ii) Structure and Spaces – Discussion Paper exploring Reorganisation of the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/223.2:** Council approved the Structure and Spaces – Discussion Paper exploring Reorganisation of the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.**

**(iii) Triple I (Interdisciplinary, International, Intersectoral) – Proposed Approach to the Design of a Triple I Framework**

In response to a request from a student member, the Dean of Graduate Studies confirmed that the number and location (home school) of the PhD students engaged with as part of the consultation process would be recorded.

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/223.3:** Council approved the Proposed Approach to the Design of a Triple I (Interdisciplinary, International, Intersectoral) Framework

**(iv) Supervision – Interim Evaluation of the Pilot Implementation Supervisor-Research Student Agreement and Recommendations for 2024/25.**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/223.4:** Council approved the Interim Evaluation of the Pilot Implementation Supervisor-Research Student Agreement and Recommendations for 2024/25.

The Registrar and Professor Coleman left the meeting at this point.

**CL/23-24/224 Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure in Cases of Suspected Academic Misconduct**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/224.1:** Council approved the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure in Cases of Suspected Academic Misconduct

**CL/23-24/225 Proposal for a Framework Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Irish for Teachers**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/225.1:** Council approved the Proposal for a Framework Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Irish for Teachers.

**CL/23-24/226 Revised Fitness to Study Policy**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/226.1:** Council approved the revised Fitness to Study Policy

**CL/23-24/227 Suspension of the Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Course for 2024/25**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/227.1:** Council approved the Suspension of the Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Course for 2024/25

**CL/23-24/228 Suspension of the Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Course for 2024/25**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/228.1:** Council approved the Suspension of the Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Course for 2024/25

**CL/23-24/229 Calendar Part III changes for 2024/25 – Appeals Process**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/229.1:** Council approved the Calendar Part III changes for 2024/25 – Appeals Process

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

**CL/23-24/230 Quality Review Report for the School of Natural Sciences**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/230.1:** Council approved the Quality Review Report for the School of Natural Sciences

**CL/23-24/231 Marino Institute of Education – Institutional Review Report**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/231.1:** Council approved the Marino Institute of Education – Institutional Review Report

**CL/23-24/232 Progress Report on the Professional Diploma in Education – Further Education (PDE-FE)**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/232.1:** Council approved the Progress Report on the Professional Diploma in Education – Further Education (PDE-FE)

**CL/23-24/233 Marino Institute of Education (MIE) – English Language Policy**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/233.1:** Council approved the Marino Institute of Education (MIE) – English Language Policy

**SECTION B – Reports  
from Committees**

**CL/23-24/234 Graduate Studies Committee**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/234.1:** Council noted and approved the draft minutes of the meeting of the 23 May 2024.

**CL/23-24/235 Quality Committee**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/235.1:** Council noted and approved the draft minutes of the meeting of the 23 May 2024

**CL/23-24/236 Research Committee**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/236.1:** Council noted and approved the minutes of the meeting of 9 April 2024.

**CL/23-24/237 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

**Decision:**

**CL/23-24/237.1:** Council noted and approved the draft minutes of the meeting of the 21 May 2024.

**SECTION C**

**CL/23-24/238 Membership of the University Council**

**(i) Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (2024/25 – 2026/27)**

The Council noted that the following have been elected:

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Council meetings.

Senior Constituency: Professor Paul O’Grady (Head of School)  
 Senior Constituency: Professor Daniel Geary  
 Junior Constituency: Professor Valentina Colasanti  
 Junior Constituency: Professor Ciaran Kenny

**(ii) Co-opted Members**

The Council noted and approved that the following will be co-opted members of the University Council for the academic year 2024/25:

Dean of Students  
 Vice-President for Global Engagement

**(iii) Students’ Union**

The Council noted that the following have been elected and will serve as members of the University Council for the academic year 2024/25, and noted and approved that they may attend the Council meeting of 5 June 2024 to observe, if not current serving members:

Education Officer: Eoghan Gilroy  
 Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: Giulia Villa  
 Faculty of Health Sciences: Rarosue Emakpor  
 Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: Ruaidhrí Saulnier

**CL/23-24/239 Administrative Procedures during the Summer Session**

The Council noted and approved that items of routine College business relating to Council will be dealt with by the Provost or Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer between the last Council meeting of 2023/24 (5 June 2024) and the first Council meeting of 2024/25 (16 October 2024), and a report will be made to Council at its meeting of 16 October 2024.

**CL/23-24/240 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 5 June 2024.

**Ph.D.** Mariya Al Hamrashdi; Mark William Anderson; Ralph Andrews; Kristine Nicki Annunziata; Jhonattan Frank Baez Vasquez; Samuel Berman; Kevin Brown; Dearbhaile Casey; Alberto Castagna; Sarah Coughlan; Alejandro Javier Criado Monleon; Charmaine Cruz; Chelo Ann Del Rosario; Anthony Doherty; Juliana (Ana) Dolan; Rebecca Renee Easler; Carolyn Elliott; Ellen Fay; Niamh Frances Siglinde Faulkner; Sheila Galvin; Luke Gibbons; Liam Greal; Md Robiul Hossain; Huiqing Hu; Iseult Jackson; Joan Carmel Mary Kavanagh; Marcus Kenyon; Erica Terese Krueger; Joanna Weronika Laskowska; Eugene Lee; Cheng Long; Seán Martin; Marianna Mekhaeil; Iris Johanna Maria Post; Stefano Rosignoli; Syed Ali Adnan Rizvi; Mengdi Wang; Yamei Zhang

**D.Ed.** Maria Kennedy

**M.Sc.** Patricia Bernadette Flynn; Amy Kinsella

**CL/23-24/241 Schedule of Quality Review 2024/25**

The Council noted the circulated memorandum from the Quality Officer dated 27 May 2024.

**CL/23-24/242 Faculty Deans**

The Council noted that Board had approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Carmel O'Sullivan as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, from 3 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2029
- (ii) Professor Sylvia Draper as Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for a second term from 3 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2027

**CL/23-24/243 Heads of Schools**

The Council noted that Board had approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Ann Devitt as Head of School of Education from 3 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2027
- (ii) Professor Omar Garcia as Head of School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies for a second term from 3 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2028
- (iii) Professor Mary McCarron as Acting Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 10 May 2024 for a period of no longer than one year, to facilitate the appointment of the next Head of School

**CL/23-24/244 Heads of Discipline**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Alison Dougall as Head of Child and Public Dental Health, School of Dental Sciences, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027
- (ii) Professor Dermot Pierse as Head of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Medicine, Pathology and Radiology, School of Dental Sciences, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027
- (iii) Professor Derek Sullivan as Head of Oral Biosciences, School of Dental Sciences, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027
- (iv) Professor David Mitchell as Head of Peace Studies, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, from 4 June 2024 to 8 June 2027
- (v) Professor Cathriona Russell as Head of Religious Studies, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, from 4 June 2024 to 8 June 2027
- (vi) Professor Matthew Campbell as Head of Genetics, School of Genetics and Microbiology, continuing for a second term to 1 July 2025
- (vii) Professor Breffni O'Rourke as Head of the Centre for Language and Communication Studies, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, for a second term until 31 May 2027
- (viii) Professor Martin McMahon as Head of Intellectual Disability Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2027
- (ix) Professor Aidan McDonald, Head of Inorganic and Synthetic Materials Chemistry, School of Chemistry, from 3 June 2024 to 2 June 2027
- (x) Professor Paula Quigley as Head of Film, School of Creative Arts, from 3 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2027
- (xi) Professor Mary Cosgrove as Head of German, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, from 27 May 2024 to 31 May 2025
- (xii) Professor Sarah McCormack as Head of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, School of Engineering, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027
- (xiii) Professor Nicola Marchetti as Head of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, School of Engineering, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027
- (xiv) Professor Ivana Dusparic as Head of Networks and Distributed Systems, School of Computer Science and Statistics, from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2027
- (xv) Professor Caroline Brophy as Head of Statistics and Information Systems, School of Computer Science and Statistics, from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2027

- (xvi) Professor Rachel McDonnell as Head of Graphics and Vision, School of Computer Science and Statistics, from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2027
- (xvii) Professor Anthony Ventresque, as Head of Software Systems, School of Computer Science and Statistics, from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2027
- (xviii) Professor Michelle Spirtos as Head of Occupational Therapy, School of Medicine, for a one-year extension to her current term until 30 June 2025

#### **CL/23-24/245 School Directors**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Jean Fletcher as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Biochemistry and Immunology, from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026
- (ii) Professor Sarah Hamill as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Law, from 3 June 2024 to 1 June 2025
- (iii) Professor David Prendergast as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Law, from 3 June 2024 to 1 June 2025
- (iv) Professor Mark Bell as Director of Research, School of Law, from 3 June 2024 to 1 June 2025
- (v) Professor Rachael Walsh as Director of Global Engagement, School of Law, from 2 June to 31 December 2024
- (vi) Professor Sarah Arduin as Director of Global Engagement, School of Law, from 1 January to 31 August 2025
- (vii) Professor Ioannis Polyzois as Director of Global Engagement, School of Dental Sciences, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026
- (viii) Professor Hal Duncan as Director of Research, School of Dental Sciences, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027
- (ix) Professor Alexandra Grieser as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, from 4 June 2024 to 2 June 2026
- (x) Professor Evangelia Rigaki as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Creative Studies, from 3 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2026
- (xi) Professor Miranda Fay Thomas as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Creative Studies, from 3 June 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2026
- (xii) Professor Juan Pablo Labrador as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Genetics and Microbiology, continuing for a second term to 1 July 2025
- (xiii) Professor Russell McLaughlin as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Genetics and Microbiology, continuing for a second term to 1 July 2025
- (xiv) Professor Eilish Burke as Director Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2026
- (xv) Professor Jacqueline Whelan as Director of Global Engagement, School of Nursing and Midwifery, from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2026
- (xvi) Professor Stefan Sint as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Mathematics, continuing for a second term until 30 June 2026
- (xvii) Professor Stephen Maher as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Medicine, from 6 June 2024 to 5 June 2027
- (xviii) Professor Sharyn O'Halloran as Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, continuing for a second term until 31 May 2026
- (xix) Professor Francis O'Toole as Director of Global Engagement, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, continuing for a second term until 31 May 2026
- (xx) Professor Breiffni Fitzgerald as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Engineering, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026
- (xxi) Professor Michael Monaghan as Director of Research, School of Engineering, for a one-year extension to his existing term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
- (xxii) Professor Anil Kokaram as Director of Global Engagement, School of Engineering, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026
- (xxiii) Professor Sonia Bishop as Director of Research, School of Psychology, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026

- (xxiv) Professor Frédérique Vallières as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Psychology, for a second term from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026
- (xxv) Professor Paul Dockree as Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), School of Psychology, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026
- (xxvi) Professor Pádhraig Fleming as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Dental Science, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027
- (xxvii) Professor Eavan Brady as Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Social Work and Social Policy, from 3 June 2024 to 3 June 2026
- (xxviii) Professor Paula Mayock as Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy, from 3 June 2024 to 31 December 2024
- (xxix) Professor Catherine Conlon as Acting Director of Global Engagement, School of Social Work and Social Policy, from 3 June 2024 to 31 December 2024
- (xxx) Professor Julie Byrne as Director of Global Engagement, School of Social Work and Social Policy, from 1 January 2025 to 3 June 2025
- (xxxi) Professor Ann Nolan as Course Director of B.A. (Mod.) Social Policy (joint honours), School of Social Work and Social Policy, from 3 June 2024 to 3 June 2025

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....