



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 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 11.15am in the Trinity Board Room, Trinity Business School.**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Present</i>       | Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Professor P. O’Grady, Professor D. Geary, Professor V. Colasanti, Professor C. Kenny, Professor B. Daly, Professor AM. Malone, Professor G. Watson, Professor B. Fitzgerald, Ms D. Alexander, Mr M. McAndrew, Mr E. Gilroy, Ms G. Villa, Ms R. Emakpor, Mr R. Saulnier. |
| <i>Apologies</i>     | Senior Tutor, Vice-President for Global Engagement, Dean of Health Sciences, Dean of Students, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Research, Prof L O’Driscoll, Academic Secretary, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Professor K. Neenan.   |
| <i>In attendance</i> | Chief Operating Officer, Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, Librarian and College Archivist, Assistant Academic Secretary, Professor G. O’Hare.   |
| <i>Observers</i>     | Ms R. Chen  |

**SECTION A.1: Policy Matters**

The Provost welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting of year 2024/25.

- CL/24-25/001    Declarations**  
New members: Senior Lecturer; Prof Daniel Geary; Prof Valentina Colasanti; Prof Ciaran Kenny; Ms Giulia Villa (AHSS UG rep). New Observer: Ms Rachel (Yuxuan) Chen. The new members and the observer of Council made the required statutory declarations.
- CL/24-25/002    Statements of Interest**  
The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance noted that there were statements of interests reported as follows:
- C21(ii) University Council attendees. CIEO Dr Michelle Olmstead (apologies sent) and Prof Gregory O’Hare.
  - A3 Task Force Terms of Reference. Membership of Task Force: VP/CAO (or nominee); COO (or nominee); VP Global Engagement (or nominee) (apologies sent); Librarian and College Archivist (or nominee); Dean of Research (or nominee) (apologies sent); Dean of AHSS (or nominee); Dean of HS (or nominee) (apologies sent); Dean of STEM (or nominee) (apologies sent); CIEO (or nominee) (apologies sent).  
The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance recommended that members remain in the meeting for item A3.
  - C24 Review Group on Student Conduct and Capacity. Registrar as Chair.  
The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance recommended that the Registrar remain in the meeting for item C24.
  - D34(ii) Selection Committee ERC Exceptional Hire. Prof Graeme Watson (other members are ex officio)

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance recommended that the member remain in the meeting for item D34(ii).

- D36(ii) Promotions Call 2024, Promotions to Professor Of (Personal Chair), Professor In, and Associate Professor. Prof Daniel Geary.

The Secretary to the College recommended that he withdraw from the meeting for item D36(ii).

For the benefit of new members, the Provost explained that agenda A.1. items are for discussion, that agenda A.2. items going forward will need to be flagged for discussion in advance, and that the rest of the agenda is largely for noting and approval, but members can raise questions and comment.

#### **CL/24-25/003 University Council membership and attendees**

This item was taken at this point in the meeting.

- (i) The Secretary to College/ Director of Governance explained that the name of the Research Representative is not yet confirmed and will be brought to the November meeting instead.
- (ii) **Decision CL/24-25/003.1:** The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Secretary of College/ Director of Governance dated 9 October 2024.

Professor G. O'Hare, Heads of Schools representative, joined the meeting.

#### **CL/24-25/004 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were approved.

The Provost asked that corrections to the minutes should be submitted to the Secretary to the College/Director of Governance in advance of the meetings.

#### **CL/24-25/005 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

CL/23-24/216.2 – Action: The decline in admissions through some alternative access routes, in particular the HEAR scheme, is to be followed up. An update on this action will be given under the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer's Report.

Prof. Eoin O'Sullivan, the Senior Dean, joined the meeting.

#### **CL/24-25/006 Task Force – Terms of Reference**

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The Provost and the Senior Dean presented the draft terms of reference and proposed membership of the Task Force on Academic and Institutional International Links and Related Matters.

##### *Key highlights:*

This Task Force is being established to address the issues raised in the resolution statement (8th May) arising from the encampment regarding the conflict in Gaza. Any recommendations or actions considered by the Task Force will follow the usual College governance processes and will be discussed by the relevant Academic and Principal Committees (e.g., USC, Research, GSC) as appropriate, and at Council and/or Board meetings as necessary. The terms of reference are deliberately high-level to allow the Task Force to work out the details, and the proposed membership is intentionally broad and large to ensure diverse voices are represented.

##### *Council Discussion:*

The Council welcomed the proposed structured approach to decision-making on complex issues and thanked the Provost and the Senior Dean for the work so far. A member of the Council raised a query on the three final members who are to be nominated by the Chair of the Board

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and recommended considering avenues to ensure that a diverse international perspective is captured, and perhaps that a wider PG student representation is considered. It was confirmed that the three final members are not yet known, and the Provost and the Senior Dean will relay the Council's feedback to the Board. It was also confirmed that a step of the Task Force Chair approving College officer nominees was put in place in order to reduce nominees changing from meeting to meeting, thus ensuring continuity. In response to a query from a member of the Council, the Provost confirmed that the main context for the Task Force is armed conflicts, and that some room for manoeuvre is important to retain. Additionally, it was confirmed that there is no defined timeline yet for the operation of the Task Force; this will be developed after the Board approval. An update on this item will go back to Board and will be made public thereafter.

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/006.1:** Council approved the Terms of Reference and Membership of Task Force.

**Action:**

**CL/24-25/006.2:** The Provost and the Senior Dean are to share Council's feedback with the Board and to bring timelines of Task Force work to a future Council meeting.

Prof. Eoin O'Sullivan, the Senior Dean, left the meeting.

**CL/24-25/007 International Education Mark – TrustEd Application**

Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer gave a brief overview on International Education Mark (IEM).

*Key highlights:*

The International Education Mark (IEM) is a new quality standard established and managed by QQI to address the lack of confidence among international learners, stemming from poor experiences with a few industry providers. Over the past few years, Trinity has actively participated in sectoral discussions and consultations regarding the establishment of this single national standard. Trinity has contributed to the details underpinning the mark and has communicated concerns. The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer confirmed that, as a University, we must apply for the mark and are confident in being fully compliant.

The Provost also highlighted the general pressures arising from various external requirements.

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/007.1:** Council approved College's TrustEd Application.

**CL/24-25/008 Remits of Board and Council**

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The Registrar outlined an overview of the memorandum on the Remits of Board and Council which was circulated to Council.

*Key highlights:*

Last year, both the Council and the Board raised concerns about the lack of clarity in the precise relationship between them in certain governance areas. Based on the Statutes and the Universities Act, there are areas that are confusing or overlapping, such as the Board's role (if any) in reviewing Council decisions, in initiating academic proposals, in setting exams, and in approving Council minutes. This lack of clarity can be problematic for governance and decision-making. The Registrar recommended forming a joint working group to address the issues raised in the document and to make proposals (including proposals for statute changes) to Board and Council as to how greater clarity could be achieved.

*Council Discussion:*

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A member of the Council inquired whether the recent change in the Board's composition prompted this review. It was clarified that a specific incident last year highlighted a lack of clarity in remits but that this was not related to the Board's different composition. Another Council member welcomed the efforts to create synergies between the Council and the Board and suggested that a representative from the Unions might be considered for membership. It was confirmed that the joint working group's recommendations will be presented to the Council as well as Board.

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/008.1:** Council approved the Registrar's memorandum and recommendations on Remits of Board and Council. The memorandum will now proceed to the Board.

**CL/24-25/009 Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer's Report**

The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer reported on access admission trends from a recent IUA meeting, focusing on the HEAR (economic or social background underrepresentation access) and DARE (disabilities access) schemes. The impact of the trends shows that DARE has increased its share of the CAO cohort by 60% since 2018 while HEAR has decreased its share by 20% during that time despite an overall increase in CAO numbers. The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer also highlighted that data within the College varies by faculty with a significant reduction in AHSS numbers. She confirmed that the University can make its own recommendations to increase access. The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer noted that there is a significant amount of data to review and interpret, and she, along with the Senior Lecturer, can present a paper on this at a future Council meeting.

Additionally, the Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer informed the Council that at the meeting with the Department of Education and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, two important items will be discussed: the mechanism for reversing the Leaving Certificate mark uplifts and the timing of Leaving Certificate results release.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer advised that there would not be a second round of the Human Capital Initiative.

The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer reported on the commencement of sectoral work to review the HPAT exams (required for admission to Medicine), assessing their fitness for purpose and modelling possible alternatives.

Lastly, she thanked the Students' Union for their collaboration on the student partnership agreement.

*Council Discussion:*

Members of the Council expressed their disappointment with the HEAR access numbers and confirmed that they would welcome a more detailed report and potential action plan at a future Council meeting. In response to a query from a member, the Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer confirmed that success rates for applicants in HEAR or DARE are similar but the change in absolute numbers induces a pressure point in terms of widening access.

A student representative welcomed the update on the work commencing on the HPAT exams, which have become a de-facto academic test. The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer confirmed that Trinity is proactively exploring the impact of the HPAT. For now, it remains the only test available, and while some countries have opted to replace such tests with interviews, this approach may not be suitable in the Irish context.

**Action:**

**CL/24-25/009.1:** The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer to bring a report on HEAR and DARE admissions to a future Council meeting.

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**CL/24-25/010 Provost's Report**

The Provost reported on two substantive topics:

(i) Budget 2025

The Provost provided an update on the key provisions in Budget 2025 for the third level sector and noted that the University had participated in a sustained sectoral approach to raising awareness of the funding gap in higher education in the run up to Budget 2025. There were several positive aspects in Budget 2025 including the principle of committing to the provision of additional funding on a multi-annual basis. There would be additional core funding in 2025 with a pledge to increase this steadily to 2029 towards meeting the deficit already acknowledged. There will be an allocation in 2025 to cover government-agreed national pay awards for core staff only, however the shortfall in pay budgets for the current year had not been addressed in Budget 2025 and work on a supplementary budget to address this was underway. The Provost added that while the positive moves in the Budget were welcome, it remains apparent that the annual funding gap of €307m. has not been fully addressed.

It was noted that there would be a one-off €1k reduction in the student contribution fee. The Provost welcomed the fact that the PhD stipend had been increased to €25k per annum funded from the National Training Fund (NTF). The Provost commended members of the University for being involved in a sustained effort to increase that stipend level. Other welcome provisions included additional funding from the National Training Fund (NTF) up to 2030 to cater for extra provision in healthcare, veterinary and other key national skills areas that required capital expenditure.

The Provost concluded that efforts on public messaging to support funding for higher education will continue, especially in the context of the upcoming elections, and noted that the new Director of Trinity Communications will be key in this. Lastly, the Provost thanked the Students' Union for their voter registration campaign.

(ii) Research – Irish and European updates

The Provost advised that Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland was established on 1 August 2024. Professor Valeria Nicolosi had been appointed to the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland. Council congratulated Professor Nicolosi on her appointment.

It was noted that since the establishment of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland, the pre-proposal applications that had been made to the SFI Centres call were now being addressed under the Research Ireland Centres Programme. It was also noted that, of the 21 pre-proposal applications made for Centres nationally, 15 of these applications had moved to the Full Submission stage, of which 7 were from Trinity, and this was testimony of the strong research culture at Trinity.

The Provost advised that the Dean of Research and the Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer are supporting the preparations for the next stage submission in February 2026.

The Provost informed Council that Professor Aoife McLysaght, Professor of Evolutionary Genetics at Trinity, had been appointed as Government Science Advisor and would chair the new National Science Advice Forum. Council congratulated Professor McLysaght on her appointment.

The Provost advised that Ms Ekaterina Zaharevia (Bulgaria) had been announced as Commissioner designate for Startups, Research and Innovation. It was noted that there are many questions remaining about the future of the funding Framework programme and this

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would require the Research Office to monitor and assess Trinity's position in respect to the uncertain position.

*Council Discussion:*

The Dean of AHSS congratulated the research centres that are progressing to the next stage of the application process and raised a query about how the AHSS Faculty could be more engaged and visible at the College level when lobbying for foundational research support and funding opportunities. The Provost confirmed that she and the Dean of Research would be happy to continue working with the Dean and the faculty of AHSS on this.

A member of Council also commented that, at the European level, much of the research funding agenda seems to be influenced by the Mario Draghi report and the need for European competitiveness it highlights. However, the report also emphasizes interdisciplinary research, which may present more opportunities for the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The Senior Lecturer added that interdisciplinarity is a performance metric, and we need to understand, build on, and maximize our opportunities.

In response to a query from a Council member, the Provost confirmed that messaging on a sectoral level regarding funding for higher education and research is coordinated, where possible, among IUA members.

In response to a query from a Council member, the Provost advised that Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland funding for programmes such as doctoral research training is not yet known. The Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer, responding to another Council member's query, confirmed that the HEA has accepted Trinity's submission for the Performance System Framework.

**CL/24-25/011 Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no other urgent business.

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

**CL/24-25/012 EU Qualifications Framework**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/012.1:** Council Approved the EU qualifications framework.

**CL/24-25/013 Revised Internship and Placements Policy**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/013.1:** Council approved the revised Internship and Placement Policy.

**CL/24-25/014 School of Psychology Quality Review Report**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/014.1:** Council approved the School of Psychology Quality Review Report.

**CL/24-25/015 School of Natural Sciences Quality Review Implementation Plan**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/015.1:** Council approved the School of Natural Sciences Quality Review Implementation Plan.

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**CL/24-25/016 Marino Institute of Education Quality Review Implementation Plan**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/016.1:** Council approved Marino Institute of Education Quality Review Implementation Plan.

**CL/24-25/017 The Lir Academy Progress Report**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/017.1:** Council Approved the Lir Academy Progress Report.

**SECTION B**

**CL/24-25/018 Global Engagement Committee**

**Decisions:**

**CL/24-25/018.1:** The minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/018.2:** The minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/018.3:** The minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/018.4:** The draft minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/019 Graduate Studies Committee**

The Dean of Graduate Studies thanked the Student's Union for their work on PG representation on committees.

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/019.1:** The minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/020 Quality Committee**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/020.1:** The minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/021 Student Life Committee**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/021.1:** The minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/022 Undergraduate Studies Committee**

The Senior Lecturer advised that College guideline document on GenAI is forthcoming. This will not be a policy but rather a live document on how College is negotiating this landscape.

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/022.1:** The minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 were noted and approved.

**SECTION C**

**CL/24-25/023 Administrative Procedures during the Summer Session**

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The Council noted the circulated memorandum from the Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, dated 8 October 2024, including:

- (i) Graduate Studies Committee Business – Suspension of Programmes
- (ii) Undergraduate Studies Committee Business - Update to Calendar Regulations Part II
- (iii) Academic Appeals Committee
- (iv) Heads of Discipline
- (v) School Directors
- (vi) Nominations for Appointment
- (vii) Confirmation of Academic Staff in Post Following Probation
- (viii) Senior Academic Promotions Committee
- (ix) Junior Academic Progression Committee - Final Tenure Review 2024
- (x) Professor of Personalised Therapeutics (2024) – Establishment of Chair, Permission to Commence Recruitment and Selection Committee
- (xi) Joseph W. Bigger Professor of Clinical Microbiology (2003) – Amended Selection Committee
- (xii) Professor of Health Innovation (2024) – Amended Selection Committee
- (xiii) Undergraduate Studies Committee Business – Progression and Award Regulations Derogation Request and Update to Calendar Regulations Part II
- (xiv) Council – Observer
- (xv) Other Directors
- (xvi) Summary of Staff Appointments
- (xvii) Senior Academic Promotions – Update to the Membership of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Senior Academic Promotions Committee 2024

#### **CL/24-25/024 Memberships of the Committees of Council**

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Registrar dated 9 October 2024.

#### **CL/24-25/025 Review Group on Student Conduct and Capacity**

The Council noted the circulated memorandum from the Registrar dated 9 October 2024.

#### **CL/24-25/026 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the circulated reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 16 October 2024:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>M.D.</b>  | Lucy Ellen Chapman; Niamh Mairéad Cleary; Eimear Doody; Anna Keogh; Mary Elizabeth Mansfield; John Edward O'Connell; Fintan John O'Hara; Clare Quigley; Serhiy Semenov  |
| <b>Ph.D.</b> | Aidan Agnew; Fatima Mohammed Alhossaini; Fermin Alvarez; Shaakya Anand-Vembar; Lee Brian Anderson; Merve Ataman Devrim; Anna Lydia Attwood; Marina Navas Bachiller; Ali Ahmad S. Bakheet; Tarek Bassil; Lydia Grace Blake; Vanessa Boland; Caoilfhionn Breathnach; Kevin Brennan; Georgia Brown; Eoin Butler; Susannah Honor Calvert; Bill Cass; Bruna Chagas De Melo; Áine Fiona Coogan; Paul Corcoran; Audrey Elizabeth Marie Covert; Claire Crowley; Stacey Leigh Daly; Kathryn Ann Dane; Maxime Deckers; Shauna Donohoe; Aoife Doyle; Lisa Amy Doyle; Celine Fox; Eugenia Maria Frezza; Mohit Garg; Claire Irene Gleeson; Maximilian Günnewig-Mönert; Tómas Arnar Guðmundsson; Alexander Haidurov; Kathleen Rose Harkin; Iñigo Iribarren; Jennifer Michelle Johnson Trainor; Adam Eric Aidan Kavanagh Coyne; Colm Kerr; Sara Hope Kift; Kasper Jan Kop; Aleksandra Maria Krajewska; Pawel Krawinski; Aleksandra |



Helena Kusiak; Janeen Laabei; Louis-Marin Paul Maximin Lapastoure; Kathryn Elizabeth LaPenna; Danielle Paula Leblanc; Zehao Lei; Nele Lüttmann; John Malone-Leigh; Adina Nicole Mac Mahon Copas; Saeed Masoumi; Francesca Matrà; Kevin Mc Carthy; Rachel McCauley; Michelle Maria Pio McKeon-Bennett; Karen Nora McCarthy; Mark Anthony McCrystal; Lorraine Mary Ann McEvoy; Rhonda McGovern; Scotty Mc Queen; Eleanor Flora Mullen; Paula Jane Murphy; Anna Absalom Mwakitalu; Monika Barbara Myślińska; Seosamh Ó Beacháin; Pia O'Farrell; Michael Patrick O'Gorman; Conor O'Keeffe; Floriane Elisa O'Keeffe; Robert O'Meara; Charlotte Amélie Caroline Oliver; Joseph O'Shea; Simon David O'Shaughnessy; Christian Peace; Agnieszka Kamila Pedrak; Lucy Prendeville; Jing Qian; Chenyue Qi; Jennifer Quirke; Annie Regan; Esther Reilly; Promit Roy; Katja Savolainen; Sinead Shannon; Shizhe Shao; Vinay Sharma; Brian Shortall; Tigran Simonian; Caroline Louise Smyth; Erik Patrik Soderholm; Amy Lois Stapleton; Andrew Torsney; Ellen Tuck; Larissa Vilhena; Zhongyu Wang; Susan Una Ward; Chelsea Ann Whittaker; Sigrun Borgen Wik; Jiangtao Xie

- D.Ch.Dent.** Richard William Fraser Carr; Maeve Cooney; Isabel Cristina Olegário da Costa
- D.Ed.** Linda Cardiff; Derek David Maher
- M.Sc.** Noemi Fabiano; Therese Rebecca Friis; Alexis Angelica Garduno; Jessica Tessa Henihan; Bea Jackson; Sean Lonergan; Fiona Nulty; Matthew O'Riordan; Stephen Ryder

**CL/24-25/027 Derogation Requests for Examinations Outside the Formal 2024/25 Assessment Sessions**

The Council noted and approved the circulated memorandum from the Assessment and Progression Manager, Academic Registry, dated 3 October 2024.

**CL/24-25/028 Head of Discipline**

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Lewis Winning as Head of Restorative Dentistry and Periodontology, from 1 October 2024 to 30 June 2027.

**CL/24-25/029 School Director**

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Seamus Donnelly as Director of Innovation, School of Medicine, from 1 September 2024 to the end of Trinity Term 2026.

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....

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