



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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 11.15am online via Zoom.

*Present* Provost, Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, Registrar, Dean of Research, Dean of Graduate Studies, Senior Tutor, Vice-President for Global Engagement, Dean of Students, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Dean of Health Sciences, Professor D. Geary, Professor V. Colasanti, Professor C. Kenny, Professor K. Neenan, Professor P. O’Grady, Professor G. Watson, Professor B. Fitzgerald, Professor B. Daly, Professor L. O’Driscoll, Professor A.M. Malone, Ms D Alexander, Mr M. McAndrew. Mr E. Gilroy, Ms G. Villa, Mr R. Saulnier, Mr S Sardina, Mr R. Riley Dargan.

*Apologies* Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Ms R. Chen, Dr Neill O’Dwyer.

*In attendance* Secretary to the College/Director of Governance, Librarian and College Archivist, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Academic Secretary, Assistant Academic Secretary, Heads of Schools representative, College Governance Manager.

**SECTION A.1: Policy Matters**

The Provost welcomed everyone to Council and requested that Council members declare any potential conflicts of interest relating to the agenda. The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised Council on statement of interest for Doris Alexander and Martin McAndrew on item C15 ‘Council Membership – Representative of Senate’, they would be joining Council meeting after this item has been considered and approved.

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised that item C.15 ‘Council Membership – Representative of Senate’ be considered first as it related to representation on University Council.

**CL/24-25/109 University Council Membership – Representative of Senate**

**Decision CL/24-25/109:**

The Council noted Ms Doris Alexander and Mr Martin McAndrew as elected by Senate to the University Council for the term 2025 – 2027.

*Ms Doris Alexander and Mr Martin McAndrew joined the meeting.*

**CL/24-25/110 Declarations**

Ms Doris Alexander and Mr Martin McAndrew as incoming members of Council made the required statutory declaration.

**CL/24-25/111 Minutes**

**Decision CL/24-25/111:**

The minutes of the meeting of Council on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were approved.

**CL/24-25/112 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**CL/24-25/113 Vice-Provost/ Chief Academic Officer's Report**

The Vice-Provost / Chief Academic Officer reported that at Board's meeting of February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Postgraduate Representative queried the veracity of Council's minutes related to the Annual Report from the Dean of Graduate Studies. It was clarified that his concern was not the factual representation of the minutes. Rather, he was dissatisfied that the report did not give a formal commitment to pursue the recognition of worker status for postgraduate doctoral students. The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer clarified for Board that the topic remains active on the Graduate Studies Committee agenda and that the decision on status has been made at a sectoral level. Furthermore, the Dean of Graduate Studies continues to work in every way possible within our systems to enhance conditions for research students. The Chair of the Board requested that a note of the discussion be brought to Council for information.

The Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer provided Council an update on the progress of the Senior Academic Promotions Review, describing the ongoing incremental work towards developing a formal career framework, which includes the promotions process. The current consultation, facilitated through three Faculty Working Groups, was initially scheduled to be completed by January 2025. However, upon commencing the engagement, it became apparent that more time was needed to perform a comprehensive review. Therefore, at the request of the Faculty Working Groups and IFUT, the timeline was adjusted to allow for more wide-ranging discussions. Meetings with Heads of School are scheduled during the week of 18<sup>th</sup> March, followed by a 2–3-week period for further edits. Concurrently, the Process and Procedure Group will continue working through their schedule. During April and May, all data will be collated and used to begin drafting a new procedure, process and application form. Once drafts are prepared, they will be brought through an approvals process by the Review Steering Group including Executive Officers Group, Council, People & Culture Committee and Board, before final approval. It is anticipated that a draft set of documents will be presented to Board in Semester 1 of the 2025/25 academic year.

**CL/24-25/114 Provost's Report**

The Provost opened her report to Council by congratulating Helen Shenton and the library team on the success of the Eavan Boland Library naming event, which received positive coverage by the national media. The Provost reminded Council that the University is celebrating Green Week 2025 this week, with a wide range of events and initiatives being held across campus and the community. She highlighted the Sustainability Awards, noting the impressive depth and breadth of sustainability initiatives, and acknowledged the awards received by students, academic staff, and professional staff.

The Provost updated Council on:

(i) A meeting with the new Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Mr James Lawless, noting that initial discussions focused on research, support for students, and the potential future of the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL). She advised that the Minister, who is a Trinity alum, also met with staff and students from the School of Mathematics.

(ii) European research funding updates: The Provost reminded Council that the future of FP10 programme has been uncertain for some time. She reported that LERU universities are actively lobbying for a standalone FP10. The Provost mentioned that the European Parliament approved, in plenary, the Ehler report on Horizon Europe and FP10, asking for a standalone FP10 and a budget of +€200BN and noted that the 27 R&I ministers supported the Warsaw Declaration at the Competitiveness Council, asking for a standalone FP10 and an "adequate" budget. The Provost noted that this means that the European Parliament and Council are now calling upon the European Commission to come up with a proposal for a self-standing FP10 with an adequate budget, instead of absorbing R&I (and its budget) in a (not yet existing) European

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Competitiveness Fund. A member of the Council added that the future of the Marie Curie programme may be uncertain as it falls within the education sector rather than research.

(iii) US research funding: The Provost, along with the Dean of Research, updated Council on the latest news relating to research funding from the US. The Dean of Research highlighted a recent questionnaire circulated to Principal Investigators (PI) internationally, including those at Trinity, from various US Federal Funding Agencies. The Dean of Research office has reached out to PIs in Trinity who are funded by these Federal Agencies to ensure a coordinated institutional approach.

Council had a comprehensive discussion on this topic and noted the need for contingency planning.

**CL/24-25/115 Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no other urgent business.

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

**CL/24-25/116 Undergraduate Course Proposal for a Dual Degree Programme in Social Policy and Human Rights with the University of Sydney**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/116:** Council approved the Undergraduate Course Proposal for a Dual Degree Programme in Social Policy and Human Rights with the University of Sydney.

**CL/24-25/117 Revised Assessment and Academic Progression Policy**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/117:** Council approved the Revised Assessment and Academic Progression Policy.

**CL/24-25/118 Curriculum Review of Undergraduate Medicine Programme Year 1**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/118:** Council approved the Curriculum Review of Undergraduate Medicine Programme Year 1.

**CL/24-25/119 Policy of Open Licencing of the Library's Digitised Content**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/119:** Council approved the Policy of Open Licencing of the Library's Digitised Content.

**CL/24-25/120 Standing down of Policy on Covid-19 Vaccination for Students in Clinical Placements or Placements in Allied Settings**

**Decision:**

**CL/24-25/120:** Council approved the Standing down of Policy on Covid-19 Vaccination for Students in Clinical Placements or Placements in Allied Settings.

**SECTION B****CL/24-25/121 Graduate Studies Committee****Decision:**

**CL/24-25/121:** The minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/122 Research Committee****Decision:**

**CL/24-25/122:** The minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/123 Student Life Committee****Decisions:**

**CL/24-25/123:** The minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were noted and approved.

**CL/24-25/124 Undergraduate Studies Committee****Decision:**

**CL/24-25/124:** The minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were noted and approved.

**SECTION C****CL/24-25/125 Higher Degrees – Reports of Examiners**

The Council noted and approved the reports of examiners on candidates for higher degrees (Higher Degrees List) dated 12 March 2025.

**M.D.** Raquel Ballester Clau.

**Ph.D.** Lamya Ahmed Mohamed Al Shuhaimi; Dipto Barman; Pieter Stephanus Barnard; Robert Jacob Bowman; Kieva Byrne; Gabriel Byczynski; Eoin Caffrey; Chaomei Chen; Paul James Claffey; Paul Bernard Conway; Shane Thomas Daly; Rachel Dalton; Anjali Dominic; Arón Foley; Amelie Magdalena Freiberg; Lisa Glynn; Xu Han; Fergal James Hamrock; Sinéad C M Harrington; Luke Lillingston Harvey; Jorge Huete Carrasco; Stephen Gabriel Huws; Heather Kennedy; Manish Kanojia; Anna Ledwith; Mengxuan Li; Jan Liedtke; Joana Raquel Lopes Farinha Dos Santos Augusto; Roisin Isabella Lynch; Christine Elizabeth Mahoney; Maeve Margaret McCann; Lána McCarthy; John McGrath; Hollie Moore; Dearbhla Murphy; Louise Newman; Darragh Nimmo; Eleanor Noone; Shane Myles O'Carroll; Alfredo Ormazabal; Rajani Pokharel; Alina Bakhtawar Qaisar; Avril Reddy; Evan Roy; Luca Terribili; Luisa Toledo Tude; Roland Andrew Umanan; Han Wang; Yingjun Wei; Iris Eva Wohnsiedler.

**D.Ch.Dent.** Haji Majidi Haji Awang Bakar; Ioanna Politi.

**D.Music.Perf.** Megan O'Neill.

**M.Sc.** Daniella Anthea De Agrela Gomes; Joseph William Molloy; Aoife Mary Ryan.

**CL/24-25/126 Heads of Schools**

The Council noted that Board had approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Nathan Hill as Head of the School of Linguistics, Speech and Communication Sciences, from 3 June 2025 to the end of the Trinity Term 2028.
- (ii) Professor Gwyneth Jane Farrar as Head of the School of Genetics and Microbiology for a second term to the end of Trinity Term 2028.

**CL/24-25/127 Head of Discipline**

The Council noted and approved the nomination of Professor Elizabeth Mary Connolly as Acting Head of Discipline of Surgery, School of Medicine, from 1 March 2025 for a period of no longer than one year.

**CL/24-25/128 School Directors**

The Council noted and approved the following nominations:

- (i) Professor Joanne Banks as Director of Research, School of Education, from 27 February 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2026
- (ii) Professor Damian Murchan as Director of Teaching and Learning Undergraduate, School of Education, from 27 February 2025 to the end of Trinity Term 2026

**CL/24-25/129 Titles of Personal Chairs**

The Council noted and approved the recommendations set out in the circulated memorandum from the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer dated 6 March 2025.

**SECTION D**

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

Signed .....

Date .....