

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee on Thursday 14th November, 2002 in Room 2026, Arts & Social Sciences Building.

Present (Chair)	Dean of Graduate Studies
Arts (Humanities)	Dr. M.-A. Valiulus
Arts (Letters)	Dr C. Morris
	Prof. D. Singleton
Engineering & Systems Science	Dr A. Moore
Health Sciences	Dr. F. Falkiner
	Ms. A. Higgins
GSU	Mr D. Scammell
	Mr C. Travis

In attendance: Ms. G. Hogan (ISS), Ms. E. McGlade (Library), Ms. L. Donnellan (GSO),

Apologies: Dr. P. Kruger, Prof. M. Gibney; Dr. A. Chantler; Dr. K. Benoit; Dr. E. Mahon; Dr. T. Orr ; Dr. T. Kavanagh

164.0 Minutes of the meeting of the 17th October, 2002

The Dean signed the minutes of the meeting of the 17th October, 2002. He opened the meeting by apologising for the fact that the papers for this meeting had been circulated by email only. He stated that in future both a paper and an email circulation would occur.

He then welcomed two of the three new Graduate Student's Union representatives, Dylan Scammell (president) and Charles Travis, to the Committee.

He also welcomed the second representative from the Faculty of Engineering and Systems Science, Dr Alan Moore.

164.1 Matters arising

Mr Scammell queried whether GSU representatives should be listed as full members of the Committee in the minutes, as they had been not been listed as such in some of the minutes of the Graduate Studies Committee over the past few months. The Dean replied that the GSU representatives are full members of the Committee. Ms Donnellan said that she would investigate how they had been listed and report back to the Committee.

On the validated Diplomas from the Church of Ireland College of Education the Dean reported that the Registrar was still discussing the fee and no proposal had yet been made to the Finance Committee. He also reported that the partial fee refund pilot scheme would be brought to the next meeting of Council.

Agnes Higgins queried whether the retention of examiners' reports for taught postgraduate courses should remain at 13 months. The Dean said that he felt that they should be retained for at least 13 months, as this was the norm at undergraduate level.

164.2 Eu vs non-EU fees

The Dean gave the background to this issue, outlining some of the misunderstandings caused by the present regulations, especially to postgraduate applicants from abroad. He then circulated a document to the Committee, which outlined the existing regulations applied by TCD and a sample of those applied in other colleges. The document included several proposed amendments to the regulations to address the issues relating to EU vs non-EU fee payment at postgraduate level as follows:

- That a statement clarifying the fact that EU fee status for postgraduate students is based on residency rather than nationality be included with the regulations
- That the term 'post-primary' be replaced by the term 'full-time further or higher education'
- That the regulation which states that a EU application can be made by someone who 'holds a passport from an EU state and has received all his/her full-time post primary education in the EU', be removed.

The Committee then discussed the document. It was felt that the term post-primary education could be interpreted as secondary education only, which would allow for a student to have been out of the country for a period greater than three years but still claim EU fee status on the basis of having attended secondary school in the EU. It was agreed that changing the term to 'full-time further or higher education' would tighten up the regulation in such a way that students who had been out of the country since secondary school would not be eligible to apply for postgraduate EU fees. The Dean noted that College's regulations were more liberal than in some other universities in allowing a period of study in the EU to satisfy residency requirements. He also reported that he had spoken to the Director of International Student Affairs, Ivan Filby about this and that he was supportive of the changes. Mr Scammell queried whether students could alter their fee status during a programme and the Dean confirmed that they could not. Dr Valiulis queried the definition of 'permanently resident' and Prof. Singleton said that he felt the term 'primary residence' would be more appropriate. The Dean said while he was sympathetic to this point, the term 'permanently resident' seemed to be the standard phraseology and he argued that it should be retained. Dr Valiulis queried whether Iceland would be included with the EU countries for the purposes of EU fee status and the Dean said that it would not. Ms Donnellan suggested that section (d) should be altered to read '*...and has been resident in the EU for three years immediately preceding admission,*' which would mirror the way in which it is presented in the undergraduate regulations and emphasise the fact that the applicant must be resident for three years in addition to having refugee status or been granted humanitarian leave to remain in the country.

The Committee approved the proposed change to the regulations.

164.3 Admission requirements to PhD programme in Economics

This item had been postponed from the meeting of the 14th November, 2002. The Dean welcomed Prof. Kevin O' Rourke and invited him to present his proposal to the Committee. Prof. O' Rourke apologised for his absence at the last meeting.

He presented a proposal from his department that students who apply for the PhD programme in Economics should have already completed a taught Masters in Economics. He said that currently there is no such regulation and as a result students are often accepted to the doctoral programme with significant deficiencies in their economics background. To compensate for this, students currently attend supplemental courses in economics, often in outside institutions. Prof. O' Rourke reported that it would be a standard requirement in most leading Economics Departments internationally that students applying for doctoral study would have a Masters qualification in Economics.

Prof. Singleton queried whether this regulation would be absolute. Prof. O' Rourke said that it would and that there would be no exceptions made to the regulation. Prof. Singleton regretted that this lack of flexibility would exclude talented students who did not have a formal postgraduate qualification in Economics from the doctoral programme.

The Dean of Graduate Studies noted a growing division in graduate programmes between those focused on professional development, where there was an emphasis on relevant professional training, and more open 'transfer' programmes which allowed students to change tack during their academic careers. He noted a growth in interest in some academic areas in professional doctoral programmes containing taught and practice elements. Prof. Singleton felt that there were merits to the traditional model of doctoral programmes by thesis alone, which could not be attained by attending a taught doctoral programme. The Dean agreed that professional doctoral programmes were perhaps more suited to some academic areas than others. Dr Valiulis supported the proposed change to the entry requirements and reported that, within her Department, students who had completed the M.Phil. in Women's Studies were more suitable for further study at doctoral level in the area of Women's Studies.

Dr Falkiner queried whether all taught Masters were graded, and if so, whether the proposed change to the regulations should specify the grade of Masters in Economics which would be required for entry to the doctoral programme. The Dean replied that many were not (including our own Masters degrees) but that taught programmes usually contained graded elements. The Committee agreed that some specification should be made in the admission regulations about the quality of performance in the required taught Masters.

The Committee approved the proposal, subject to the inclusion of a requirement of good performance in the prerequisite taught Masters in Economics.

164.4 Proposed changes to the M.Sc. in Midwifery and M.Sc. in Nursing programmes

The Dean introduced Ms Catherine McCabe, lecturer in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at St. James's Hospital. Ms McCabe began by outlining the reasons for the proposed changes to the M.Sc. courses. She said that the changes have been proposed on foot of recommendations from the Departmental Review and also from suggestions made by the external examiners. The proposal involves the restructuring of the course content and a standardisation of the length of modules in terms of contact hours. It is also proposed to change the title of two of the existing modules and to incorporate one

module (Advancing Clinical Skills) into the module entitled ' Advancing the Theoretical Foundations for Nursing & Midwifery'. In addition, it is proposed that the Advanced Research Practice 2 module be restructured to allow students the option of taking a module in either ' Advanced Qualitative Research' or 'Advanced Quantitative Research' as is most appropriate to their needs.

Dr Falkiner queried whether the ethics and law components of the 'Advancing the Theoretical Foundations for Nursing and Midwifery' module was shared with other programmes. Ms McCabe said that currently it was not but that they were monitoring it with a view to developing it as a shared module in the future.

The Committee approved the proposal.

164.5 Any other business

The Dean raised the question of Calendar entries for graduate schools. The Committee agreed that such entries, and any changes, should be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee. Dr Falkiner reported that the structure of the Graduate School of Health Sciences was currently under review in the faculty. He raised the issue of differences between graduate schools in different areas, for example between Health Science and Engineering. Professor Singleton suggested that such differences were inevitable and in fact to be welcomed. Dr Valiulis agreed, saying that she hoped that graduate schools would be allowed a degree of flexibility and autonomy.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 9th January, 2003.

Signed

Date