

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee on Thursday 8th May, 2003
in Room 2026, Arts & Social Sciences Building.

Present (Chair)	Dean of Graduate Studies
Dean of Research	Prof. M. Gibney
Arts (Humanities)	Dr. M.-A. Valiulis
	Dr. A. Chantler
Arts (Letters)	Prof. D. Singleton
Business, Economic & Social Studies	Dr. E. Mahon
	Dr. K. Benoit
Engineering & Systems Science	Dr. T. Orr
	Dr. A. Moore
Science	Dr. T. Kavanagh
	Dr. P. Kruger
Health Sciences	Ms. A. Higgins
	Dr. F. Falkiner
GSU	Mr. C. Travis
	Mr. D. Scammell

In attendance: Ms. G. Hogan (ISS); Ms. L. Donnellan (GSO); Ms. N. Saunders (GSO); Dr. J. McDonagh (Business Studies); Dr M. Teeling (Pharmacology & Therapeutics); Ms. E. Fahy-McCarthy and Dr. M. McCarron (Nursing & Midwifery); Prof. H. Rice (Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering); Dr. K. Tierney (Psychology); Mrs. D. Leahy (Computer Science).

Apologies: Mr. T. O' Donnell; Dr. C. Morris; Ms. E. McGlade;

169.0 Minutes of the meeting of the 3rd April, 2003

There were no changes to the minutes.

169.1 Matters arising

Regarding item 166.2 of the minutes of the meeting of the 6th February 2003, the proposed changes to the Calendar regulations regarding the Ph.D. in Political Science-awarding of a lower degree, the Dean of Graduate Studies reported that Prof. Laver had agreed to make the recommended changes to the course regulations but that he had requested that the changes should not be implemented until the academic year 2004/2005. The Dean had assured Prof. Laver that the proposed changes would not have any implication for the eligibility of students in the department for IRCHSS awards.

Regarding item 168.5 of the minutes of the meeting of the 3rd April 2003, the proposed M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Medicine, the Dean reported that since there were some

further queries from the Committee, Dr Mary Teeling would be attending today's meeting to answer these questions.

Regarding item 168.6 of the minutes of the meeting of the 3rd April 2003, recruitment of non-EU students for postgraduate courses, the Dean reported that the Senior Lecturer had agreed to raise the issue of advertising for postgraduate courses with the College Officers.

169.2 Proposal for a part-time postgraduate International Business Programme

The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced Dr Joe McDonagh from the School of Business, who then briefly outlined the programme to the Committee. There are currently four programmes in the suite of part-time management programmes run by the School of Business in conjunction with the Irish Management Institute (IMI) and which lead to the award of an M.Sc. (Mgmt) degree - Management Practice, Organisational Behaviour, Business Administration & Strategic Management. It is proposed that the International Business programme would form a fifth option in that suite and would also be based in the IMI. Funding for the programme is being provided by Enterprise Ireland (E.I.).

Prof. Singleton queried how the course would address possible barriers to market entry arising from cultural and linguistic differences. Dr McDonagh said that he felt that the module on International Business, which included market entry and development, would cover this issue. Dr Valiulis queried how Dr McDonagh was planning to recruit students for the course. He said that it would be done primarily through E.I., using their developmental advisors. These advisors, of which there were 120, had put together a briefing programme, which they would use to target companies directly. Dr Valiulis then asked about the gender balance on the programme and Dr McDonagh said that as there was usually a good gender mix on existing business programmes he did not feel that this would be an issue. Dr Mahon queried how this programme differed from the MBA and Dr McDonagh replied that while the MBA provided a transition to general management for those from highly technical backgrounds, this programme would be aimed at those already in management who wished to deepen their management focus. Dr Mahon asked whether the funding from E.I. was per student or per programme. Dr McDonagh replied that E.I. was providing funding per student for a maximum of 30 students but that the income for this number of students would be guaranteed even if a smaller number enrolled.

The Dean then thanked Dr McDonagh and the Committee discussed the proposal. Members expressed concern about the lack of attention to cross-cultural issues. The Committee approved the course but suggested to the course committee that they might more overtly address these issues.

169.3 Proposal for an M.Sc./Diploma in Pharmaceutical Medicine-further queries

The Dean of Graduate Studies introduced Dr Mary Teeling from the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

The Committee had some queries about the mode of delivery of the courses, including the costing for course materials for the distance-learning element of the course. Dr Teeling reported that all costs would go through the new Centre for Advanced Clinical Therapeutics, which she had set-up and for which she had funding and a secretary who

could deal with the electronic distribution of course materials. Therefore there would be no additional costs to the programme. Dr Mahon queried whether students would be provided with a distance-learning package and Dr Teeling confirmed that they would be but that there would be no extra cost to the course for this. The Dean thanked Dr Teeling and the Committee discussed the proposal. Dr Mahon felt that the distance-learning element of the course was not the usual interpretation of a distance-learning model and that E-learning had not been mentioned in the proposal. The Committee approved the proposal. The Dean said that there was an issue regarding the fee structure for the course, which he would address separately with the Department.

169.4 Proposal for an additional strand to the Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing - Care of dementia for persons with intellectual disability strand

The Dean of Graduate Studies welcomed Ms. Elizabeth Fahy-McCarthy and Dr. Mary McCarron from the School of Nursing & Midwifery. Ms Fahy-McCarthy began by apologising for the use of the term validation rather than approval in their proposal. She introduced Dr McCarron, who briefly outlined the new strand to the Committee. She reported that there had been a significant change in the demographic outline of people with intellectual disability. In addition, since it was difficult to diagnose dementia quickly, there was a need for clinicians who were trained in the assessment of dementia. Many staff working in the area did not have the advanced skills required for this area. Therefore there was a need to up-skill these staff in both the clinical skills and the changes in policy regarding intellectual disability. Dr McCarron, in response to a query from Dr Mahon, outlined the relationships with other nursing courses dealing with dementia. The Committee approved the proposed additional strand.

169.5 European doctorates

The Dean introduced this item by explaining that given an increase of interest across College in the relatively new notion of European doctorates, he was keen to establish a procedure where proposals for such should be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee before passing to the Registrar for formal approval of the relevant inter-university agreements. He welcomed Prof. Henry Rice from the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering who outlined his proposal that the department join a European doctorate in Sound and Vibration Studies with a group of universities and research institutions including Southampton, Leuven, INSA Lyon, Ferrara, Padova, the Technical University of Denmark and the French Aeronautics and Space Research Centre. Prof Rice described this doctorate and also outlined the details of European doctorates in general, including their funding under the EU's Sixth Framework Programme. The Committee discussed with Prof Rice requirements for residence abroad, the role of the foreign languages in the *viva voce* examinations and the implication for the appointment of external examiners. The Dean then thanked Prof. Rice and, following a brief discussion, the Committee approved the scheme.

169.6 Review of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and revised Calendar entry

The Dean introduced the item to the Committee by requesting the Committee's permission to view this review as serving two purposes: the review requested by the Academic Appeals Committee for Graduate Students following its consideration of an academic appeal from a student on the course and as part of the quinquennial Departmental Review. The Committee agreed to this proposal. The Dean introduced the course co-ordinator, Dr Kevin Tierney, who briefly outlined the changes that had been implemented. A number of changes in regulations, reflected in the proposed Calendar

entry, dealt with issue arising from the academic appeal and related to the issue of assessment and progression on the course. In particular the Calendar entry had been amended to be more specific about the number of times a failed element could be repeated or resubmitted. Dr Mahon asked whether the doctoral programme was approved by both the Psychological Society of Ireland and the British Psychological Society. Dr Tierney said that the course had approval from the Psychological Society of Ireland but previous approval by British Psychological Society had been withdrawn following that Society's decision to cease validating courses outside of the U.K. Mr Travis asked whether the Calendar regulations concerning unsuitability for training were standard. Dr Tierney said that there were but that there were also other mechanisms for assessing failure on the course and that those deemed unsuitable for training had often failed other elements of the course. Dr Mahon asked for clarification on the role of clinicians on the programme. Dr Tierney reported that a large number of clinicians were involved in the practice elements of the programme, only a minority of whom were members of staff. Dr Valiulis asked whether a resubmitted assessment element, which had been originally failed, would receive a grade if it were passed on resubmission. Dr Tierney said that it could only receive a pass or a fail grade. The Dean of Graduate Studies asked Dr Tierney for his view of the appropriateness of the integrated Masters/PhD model for a clinical doctorate like the D. Clin. Psy. Dr Tierney said that he thought it was a good model and would help formalize the view of progression presented in the revisions. He said that he would be discussing with the course committee how best to introduce it. The Dean thanked Dr Tierney and the Committee then approved the review report and the amended Calendar entry.

169.7 Revised proposal for an M.Sc. in Management Information Systems

The Dean introduced Mrs Denise Leahy from the Department of Computer Science. Mrs Leahy outlined the revisions to the proposal which included a tightening of the pass/fail criteria and then inclusion of an increased emphasis on the human and social aspects of those who manage in the IT sector. The Dean thanked Mrs Leahy and the Committee approved the revised proposal.

169.8 Higher doctorates - procedures

The Dean presented proposals filling the outline approved at the Committee's meeting of 6th February 2003 for revision of the procedures for the award of the degrees of D.D., LL.D., Litt.D, Sc.D and Mus.D. These proposals consisted of two parts. The first related to procedures for application and assessment and sought to address the concern that our previous procedures were overly informal and lacked transparency. In addition the relevant Calendar entries are rather vague and contradictory. The Dean proposed the establishment of a Higher Doctorates Subcommittee of the Graduate Studies Committee to establish a *prima facie* case before setting up the external assessment process. This committee would be chaired by the Dean, have at least three representatives from the Committee and should co-opt the relevant Deans and heads of department for the applications before it. The Subcommittee would meet twice a year, in April and October.

He also proposed that applications for admissions onto the register for higher doctorates be considered twice a year in the same two months that research students are registered, i.e. October and April each year. As implied by our current regulations, the Graduate Studies Subcommittee would in effect be deciding whether to admit the applicant to the register for purposes of external assessment. If an applicant is

admitted, the evaluation procedure would remain essentially as it currently is: two assessors will be nominated by the Dean of Graduate Studies on the advice of the appropriate Dean of the Faculty and Head of Department. The Committee approved these new procedures.

The second part of the proposals related to the guidelines to be given to applicants and external assessors. Here the Dean reported that he had discussed the proposals with Deans, heads of relevant departments and senior colleagues in the academic areas covered by these degrees and that there was a strong degree of consensus on the role of these degrees and the eligibility of applicants. There is agreement that such degrees should be of a substantially higher level than the PhD, that they should reflect a sustained and high quality of contribution to a discipline, such that the candidate should be recognised at national and international level, and that the award should depend on published work. On eligibility: colleagues are agreed that candidates should be graduates of the university of more than eight years standing, although a longer period of ten years was suggested by some. There is also agreement that in our current age of greater intellectual mobility and inter-disciplinary studies the type of qualifying degree should not be specified. The Committee discussed and approved this view of the role of higher doctorates.

The Dean reported that revision of the Calendar regulations would be complicated by the fact that individual statutes governed these degrees and contained elements that colleagues felt were no longer appropriate. For example the Mus.D. Statute unlike others (and contrary to the Calendar) states: "He must have submitted for approval an exercise, and have passed the requisite examinations." Dr Valiulus commented that aside from the academic problems with this Statute, the College should seek to use gender-neutral terminology wherever possible. The Committee gave their approval for the Dean to pursue a change in the Statutes as necessary.

169.9 Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

The next meeting is due to take place on the 21st May 2003.

Signed :

Date: