

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN  
TRINITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2004  
Room 2026, Arts Building.

**Present:** Dean of Graduate Studies (Chair), Dr Maryann Valiulis, Dr Alan Kramer, Ms Margaret Carroll, Dr Alan Moore, Prof. David Singleton, Mr Trevor Peare, Ms Gail Hogan, Dr Trevor Hodgkinson, Dr Trevor Orr, Dr Joseph McDonagh, Dr Frederick Falkiner, Ms Susannah Scott,

**In attendance:** Ms Vivien Jenkins (Academic Secretary), Ms Nicky Saunders (GSO)

**Apologies:** Prof. Michael Gibney, Dr Evelyn Mahon, Ms Ewa Sadowska (GSO), Dr John Donegan, Dr Christine Morris, Mr Michael Dowling, Ms Mairead De Roiste,

**179.0 Minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004**

The minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 were approved by the Committee and signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**179.1 Matters arising**

*Re item 178.7:* The Dean welcomed the Academic Secretary, Ms V. Jenkins who attended the meeting in the context of the current review of the operations of the Graduate Studies Office.

*Re item 178.2:* The Dean confirmed that the Experts' Meeting on Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes had been held and that he would report back to the Committee when the CHIU report was completed.

*Re item 178.1:* Ms. Hogan confirmed that ISS and Prof. Matthews had agreed the ISS requirements for the M.Sc. in Economics.

**179.2 Postgraduate Diploma/M.Sc. in Clinical Speech and Language Studies (Dysphagia)**

The Dean explained to the Committee that approval had previously been granted to the School of Clinical Speech and Language Studies (CSLS) to develop taught postgraduate courses, however, these had not gone ahead due primarily to various external factors. CSLS is now proposing a self-financing taught Masters course with a phased introduction of specialisms, commencing with dysphagia. Dr. Falkiner clarified that the course would provide a professional qualification.

The Dean invited Dr M. Walshe and Ms M. Leahy to speak to the circulated documents. Ms Leahy described a perceived need for the proposed course within the developing profession. Dr Walshe explained that a successful course in dysphagia has been running for some time in the Adelaide and Meath National Children's Hospital (AMNCH) that is accredited by the Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists in association with the UK body, the RCSLT. It is proposed that this course be incorporated into the M.Sc./P.G. Dip. proposal.

The Dean invited comments and discussion. The major query from the Committee related to the financial data attached to the proposal, in particular the projected deficit of -€49 in the fifth year of operation and asked if the EU fee level may be set too low. Ms Leahy responded that it was

average for Health Sciences and had been pitched at that level for competitive reasons against the U.K. market. She further explained that sponsorship which has been agreed on a yearly basis with pharmaceutical companies had not been factored into the financial data schedule resulting in the deficit.

Prof Singleton asked about the relationship between AMNCH and the new course. Dr. Walshe clarified that the AMNCH course would be subsumed into the M.Sc. course and provide modules for the course.

The Dean thanked Dr. Walshe and Ms. Leahy. The Committee approved the proposal subject to review and clarification of the financial deficit and a revision of admission requirements in the University Calendar Part 2 entry to an upper second class honors or equivalent qualification.

### **179.3 M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Technology**

The Dean explained that the proposal represents an upgrade to the existing Postgraduate Diploma in the same subject. The P.G. Dip. is unusual in College in that it is a distance-learning course. The Dean noted that a Working Group on e-learning is currently discussing the possibilities for distance learning at postgraduate level.

The Dean introduced Ms L. Loughrey, the Course Co-ordinator who spoke to the circulated documents. She stressed the need to upgrade to M.Sc. level for competitive purposes since the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in collaboration with the Institute of Technology, Sligo launched an M.Sc. in Industrial Pharmaceutical Science in 2003. Ms Loughrey responded to queries regarding e-learning by explaining that the course was still a conventional distance-learning course but the School of Pharmacy has long-term plans to develop it further on an e-learning basis. Dr. Falkiner commented that the EU fee was quite high in comparison to other Science courses and Ms Loughrey explained that it was still competitive, especially since their employing companies usually pay the fees for the students.

The entry requirement of a lower second class honors grade was queried. The Dean stressed that an upper second class honors was College policy for Masters programmes and suggested to Ms Loughrey that the University Calendar Part 2 and the Postgraduate Prospectus entry would need to be revised to incorporate this requirement. The Committee questioned the extra six months added to the current two-year course duration, for which there were inadequate details of fee or registration arrangements.

The Committee considered the proposal and decided that it could not approve the proposal as it stands. The Committee will revert to the School of Pharmacy for clarification of the registration and fee implications of the additional six months of the course. The entry requirements need to be revised to an upper second class honors or equivalent qualification, in line with college policy. Further information on the course content was also requested.

### **179.4 Professional Doctorate in Education (D.Ed.)**

The Dean invited Prof M. O'Moore and Dr A. Loxley to speak to the circulated documents. Dr Loxley tabled the Financial Data Schedule to add to these documents. Prof O'Moore stressed that the D. Ed represents an important new development for Ireland, as well as for Trinity College. She believes that Trinity should set the standard for Ireland in this regard and that the D.Ed. would begin to meet the needs of the professional within the educational system in Ireland.

Dr Loxley explained further points in the circulated documents, stressing the importance of research training throughout the five years of the course, the entry requirement of a masters level

qualification to fit in with the School of Education's aim of having a contiguous and continuous structure in its postgraduate programmes and the need for an exit point at the end of year 2, leading to an M.Phil. award. He noted that in addition to the usual internal requirements, the programme has been reviewed by the D.Ed. Director in the University of Sheffield, who had responded very positively. Prof O'Moore noted with thanks Dr Loxley's work in co-ordinating the design of the programme.

After discussion, the committee approved the proposal subject to the School of Education consulting Information System Services about the I.T. needs of the course.

#### **179.5 Higher Doctorates-composition of the Higher Doctorates Sub-committee of the GSC**

The Dean suggested that the sub-committee should consist of 6 regular representatives, in addition to the Dean as Chair, and any colleagues invited for special expertise. He noted that the sub-committee would only meet once a year. The Dean requested that each Faculty appoint a representative for the Higher Doctorates sub-committee from the existing Graduate Studies Committee membership and forward the names of the representatives to him before the next GSC meeting. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

#### **179.6 Incentivisation surveys**

The Dean asked the Committee for their comments. Dr Kramer pointed out the difference in perception on the viability of self-financing courses between the submissions of the Faculty of Arts (Letters) and the Department of Medieval History. Dr Orr noted his approval for the idea of the 'one-stop shop' put forward by the response from the Department of Clinical Medicine. The Dean pointed out that the current procedures allowed for any difficulties within a proposal to be isolated prior to submission to the GSC. He further stressed that any new course proposal should be considered by the whole Faculty rather than just the Faculty Executive.

More submissions from faculties are expected and the Dean has undertaken to forward a summary of responses to the Bursar for consideration.

#### **179.7 Postgraduate Diploma in Oncological Nursing-rationale for proposed change in course structure**

The Dean explained that request came out of the demand by students for a one-year, full-time course rather than a two-year, part-time course. Dr Orr noted that this was not obvious in the circulated document, which made no mention of the two-year course being part-time. The Committee approved the proposed change subject to clarification of the resource implications and fee structure for the one-year full-time course.

#### **179.8 Any other business**

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.30 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004.



Professor John Saeed

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004