

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd June, 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, Dr Evelyn Mahon, Dr John Donegan, Mr Trevor Peare, Ms Gail Hogan, Dr Trevor Hodkinson, Dr Trevor Orr, Dr Frederick Falkiner, Ms Susannah Scott, Ms Mairead De Roiste,

In attendance: Ms Ewa Sadowska (GSO), Ms Nicky Saunders (GSO), Prof. Patrick Prendergast

Apologies: Prof. Michael Gibney, Dr Christine Morris, Mr Michael Dowling, Dr Joseph McDonagh,

180.0 Minutes of the meeting of 6th May 2004

The minutes of the meeting of 6th May 2004 were approved by the Committee and signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

180.1 Matters arising

The Dean welcomed Prof. Patrick Prendergast as an incoming Dean of Graduate Studies and thanked Dr Maryann Valiulis, Prof. David Singleton, Dr Trevor Orr for serving on the Committee for 3 years. He also thanked Ms Gail Hogan whose membership on the Committee would cease this academic year on account of retirement. Dr Maryann Valiulis thanked the Dean for his service to the Committee.

The Dean confirmed that Council approved all the new courses which had been approved by the GSC at its previous meeting in May. Re. 179.7 the Dean noted that no clarification had been received to date of the resource implications and fee structure for the one-year full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Oncological Nursing.

180.2 Graduate Studies Office Annual Report 2002/03

The Dean confirmed that the Report had been approved by Council in April 2004 and was brought before the Committee for information. The Dean noted that this year's Report contained additional types of statistical data, for example on gender, which made the Report a much more comprehensive document on postgraduate issues in College. The Committee thanked the Dean and the Graduate Studies Office Administrator for their efforts in producing the Report.

180.3 M.Sc. in Molecular Pathology (a DIT/TCD course review)

Dr Fred Falkiner, the TCD course coordinator, spoke to the circulated documents and explained that the course had run between Trinity College and DIT for some years now. He explained that the course was designed as a promotional grade. The College review was subsequently followed by a professional review carried out by the Institute of Biomedical Sciences and the Irish Academic of Medical Laboratory Science. The professional assessors would have preferred one review only and queried the role of College in reviewing such a professional course. The students, many of whom have already been awarded a Master's degree in a different area prior to registering on this course, expressed concern that Trinity College would not award a second Master's degree. Dr Falkiner saw this as a problem for future applicants. The University of Cork intends to set up a similar course to start a strong competition to the Trinity/DIT monopoly. He also raised the issue of un-graded Masters as an area of students' complaint.

The Dean explained that the Registrar had been reviewing the Statutes and practices in College to address the issue of awarding double Masters and is in the process of finalising an alternative solution to the present practice. The proposal still would not permit the award of a second Master's but will permit for a certificate to be issued with a Latin inscription to be awarded in a commencement-like ceremony. The Dean confirmed that a graduand can be awarded an MSc if s/he had already been awarded an MPhil. The Dean also confirmed that all taught Masters are not graded and are only awarded on a Pass or Fail basis and that it is not proper to grade dissertations. Only coursework may be graded on an internal (continuous assessment) basis. The issue of unclassified Masters had already been discussed in College on a number of occasions and came before Council which always rejected proposals to change the *status quo*.

Dr Falkiner also noted that the students on the course, who work around the country and receive most of their tuition in DIT, expressed some concern about their tenuous links with Trinity. The Dean advised that the students should contact the GSU in order to enhance their sense of belonging to the Trinity postgraduate community.

Dr Falkiner emphasized that numerous improvements had already come out of the review.

180.4 Incentivisation: a survey of departmental core and self-financing courses

Faculty Representatives continued to report on new submissions. It was noted that Prof. F. Ruane was the author of the submission on the MSc in Economic Policy Studies with respect to which 2 issues were discussed in more detail. Firstly, it was confirmed that it was up to departments to come up with workable packages in terms of viable student numbers which should not be determined as a College-set formula for all postgraduate courses. Secondly, the Dean confirmed that permanent staff may not be paid directly for their teaching on postgraduate courses. Currently, some funding is diverted towards their research accounts. Dr Trevor Orr spoke on behalf of his department and expressed concern that self-financing courses are expected to fund core postgraduate courses in the department which does not receive adequate funding from the *cista communis* for this type of its activity, which is unsustainable. The Dean explained that he had already spoken to the Faculty Dean twice to bring this situation to his attention for consideration. There was a general feeling that currently College did not provide sufficient incentivisation to departments to expand their postgraduate programmes.

The Dean noted that he would pass all submissions to the Senior Lecturer for the Deans' Committee as requested and also to the Bursar.

180.5 Change of course title from Pg Diploma in Clinical Practice to Pg Diploma in Professional Nursing Studies and Pg Diploma in Professional Midwifery Studies

Ms Margaret Carroll, a Faculty Representative of Health Sciences, spoke to the circulated documents and reported that An Bord Altranais, as part of their validation of nursing courses had recommended that the title of the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Practice (code 629) be changed as the course did not have a practice-based assessment. The School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies subsequently agreed at its meeting on 4 May 2004 that that course be discontinued and re-structured as two separate courses (Pg Diploma in Professional Nursing Studies and Pg Diploma in Professional Midwifery Studies) sharing the taught component between them. There would not be new resource or financial implications resulting from this change which is due to be implemented for admissions entry from October 2004. Two new course codes for registration purposes would be required. The Committee approved the new courses.

180.6 Integrated Doctorate in Molecular Medicine (M.Sc./Ph.D.)

The Dean introduced this item by explaining that the proposal had recently successfully competed nation-wide for significant and prestigious funding from the Health Research Board and as such is not a self-financing but a research programme feeding into the standard PhD structure in College. It was agreed however that as a matter of policy all similar integrated doctoral programmes would need to be approved on academic grounds by the Graduate Studies Committee and then passed for noting before Council rather than be only recognized via the research channel in College.

Dr Ross McManus (Course Co-ordinator) spoke to the circulated documents and reported that the area of molecular medicine had been firmly established as a research discipline in College for over 7 years. The Department runs a well-subscribed taught M.Sc. in Molecular Medicine and the first year of the Integrated Doctorate would tap into that structure. New modules would however be added in as requested by the HRB. Funding of €18,000 (i.e. a HRB stipend) annually per student would be available for 4 years (1 year on Masters and 3 years on the PhD register full time), with fees paid. The fee for year 1 (on the Master's register) will be a standard College fee for 102, and the fee on the PhD register will be a standard College fee for 270. The Committee congratulated Dr McManus and his team for this achievement and approved the proposal for entry from October 2004.

180.7 Postgraduate Diploma in Molecular Medicine (a new course proposal, entry October 2004)

Dr Ross McManus (Course Co-ordinator) spoke to the circulated documents and reported that the proposal for introducing this diploma came from the recognition of a need for a postgraduate course in Molecular Medicine which, unlike the MSc in Molecular Medicine which has a practical project component, would be theoretical in focus. The Committee approved the proposal for entry from October 2004 on a one year part-time basis.

180.8 Integrated Doctorate in Neuroscience (Integrated M.Sc./Ph.D. Neuroscience Programme)

The Dean explained that this proposal had also won significant and prestigious funding from the Health Research Board in the recent nation-wide competition and was ranked first.

Dr Shane O'Mara (Deputy Director) spoke to the circulated documents and reported that the integrated doctorate would be set up as an interdisciplinary training programme in Neuroscience to ensure that its graduates acquire competence in research skills and techniques on par with that demonstrated by North American postgraduates.

Students enrolling in year 1 of the programme would be coded to a new course (M.Sc. in Neuroscience). Students will be expected to progress to the PhD register in year 2. Funding of €18,000 (i.e. a HRB stipend) annually per student would be available for 4 years (1 year on Masters and 3 years on the PhD register full time), with fees paid. The fee for year 1 (on the Master's register) will be a standard College fee for 102, and the fee on the PhD register will be a standard College fee for 270. Students who enroll for the 4-year Integrated Doctorate in Neuroscience and either choose not to continue or are deemed unsatisfactory to continue, may proceed to complete an M.Sc. in Neuroscience. To achieve this they will be required to reach a satisfactory standard in their laboratory rotation work and taught modules in year 1 and submit a satisfactory 20,000 word dissertation.

The Committee congratulated Dr McManus and his team for this achievement and approved the proposal for entry from October 2004.

180.9 NAFA visit to College on 9 June 2004

The Dean reported that a 25-member delegation, representing colleges and universities across the United States, would visit Ireland and Northern Ireland from 9 June to examine opportunities for graduate research and study for Americans on the island. The group is sponsored by the National Association of Fellowship Advisors, the organization for administrators on US campuses responsible for graduate and professional school opportunities for their students. The U.S. delegation includes administrators from a diverse range of small and large universities, including Yale, Dartmouth, the University of Washington (Seattle) and Rice University. This would be the first-ever visit by NAFA to Ireland. Their trip stems from the widening recognition of graduate study possibilities stimulated by the success and recognition of the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program, the flagship project of the US-Ireland Alliance. The NAFA delegation arrives on June 6 in Belfast for visits to Queens University and the University of Ulster. After their visit to Trinity, they would continue their tour in Dublin to NUI Dublin and Dublin City University. In Galway, the NAFA members would meet with representatives of both NUI Galway and University of Limerick. At each university, the NAFA members would have discussions with faculty and students as well as with senior university officials. Prior to their visit to Ireland on 6 June the NAFA delegation would have visited the London School of Economics and the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Warwick and Manchester.

A draft programme was put in place to start the visit in Trinity with a Deans' Session on Faculty presentations to be followed by presentations on specific research and taught areas by academics from across the whole College. A group of 15 American students would join the NAFA guests for coffee to talk about their experience of studying in Trinity. The College Librarian Mr Robin Adams had kindly agreed to take the guests on a tour of the Old Library. The Provost is to sponsor the event and all the participants would lunch together in the Atrium. The event is hosted by the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Registrar on behalf of the Provost and is organised by the Graduate Studies Office Administrator.

190.0 M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology (a revised new course proposal for approval, entry January 2005)

Ms Ingrid Hook, Head of School of Pharmacy, spoke to the tabled documents. Ms Hook noted that the proposal had been considered by the Committee at its previous meeting and that the content had been approved but the proposed duration of 2 and a half years was referred back for reconsideration. In the context of Bologna, the proposal was changed to a one year part-time Master's course to follow year 1 Diploma. Students would register in year 1 on a diploma with an entry requirement of 2.1, and would pass to the Master's course for year 2 upon obtaining a successful standard in the end of year examinations. Dissertations would be worked on throughout the whole year 2. Those students who do not finish their dissertation by the end of year 2 would need to register for a continuation year at the standard College fee. The Committee approved the revised proposal of the new Master's course.

190.1 Any other business

Re. 179.5 Higher Doctorates

(i) composition of the Higher Doctorates sub-committee of the Graduate Studies Committee in the academic year 2004/05 was confirmed as consisting of the following Faculty representatives: Dr A. Kramer (Arts Humanities); Dr Ch. Morris (Arts Letters); Dr J. Donegan (Science); Dr E. Mahon (BESS); Dr F. Falkiner (Health Sciences); Dr A. Moore (ESS). Dean of Graduate Studies may, in consultation with the relevant Faculty Deans, invite additional academic staff as experts onto the committee as required. The sub-committee will be chaired by the Dean of Graduate Studies, its secretary will be the Graduate Studies Office Administrator.

(ii) Fees for Higher Doctorates

Council authorised the Graduate Studies Committee to set up a realistic economic fee to cover the full costs of operating the scheme inclusive of assessors' fees, and actual administrative costs.

After discussing a range of options it was agreed that once a *prima facie* case had been established an applicant's fee will be €2000 inclusive of an assessor's fee of €500. In addition, there will be a non-refundable application fee of €500.

(iii) The Committee agreed that Trinity staff should not be exempt from the payment of such fees on the grounds that this was not an academic programme.

a) One Year Postgraduate Awards for Continuing Students 2004/05

The Dean noted that new postgraduate studentships and Faculty Usshers are available to new entrants only. There are 100 such awards annually and the Faculties were in the process currently of reviewing applications in order to short-list their nominees. The Dean confirmed that the so-called Old Awards, funded by the Trinity Trust and various benefactions, had been channelled into 30 One Year Postgraduate Awards for Continuing Students for which students must compete on an annual basis. The award provides an equivalent to EU fee remission and maintenance of €2158 which gets subsumed into the fee shortfall for non-EU fee paying students. The Dean noted that there were around 100 applications in the GSO for assessment. Dr A. Kramer, Dr E. Mahon and Dr T. Hodkinson volunteered to act as Faculty representatives to assess applications on behalf of their respective faculties of Arts Humanities, BESS and Science. Christine Morris was to be contacted to assess applications from the Faculty of Arts (Letters). It was confirmed that the priority criteria for assessment will be to rank applicants on the PhD over those on Masters, and rank PhD applicants in year 4 over those in other years.

b) The Dean advised the Committee members to respond directly to the Senior Lecturer with respect to the Life-Long Learning document for discussion.

c) The Faculty members on the GSC for 2004/05 have been nominated as Prof. Terence Brown to replace Prof. D. Singleton (Arts Letters), Prof. Vinny Cahill to replace Dr T. Orr (ESS), Dr Brian Lucy to replace Dr J. McDonagh (for 2004/05 only BESS), Dr Lilian Alweiss to replace Dr M. Valiulis (Arts Humanities)

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.40 am. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2004, with a specific date to be announced at a later stage.



Prof. Patrick J. Prendergast

Date: 21 October 2004