

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN  
TRINITY COLLEGE**

**GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 am on Thursday 23 February, 2006  
Boardroom, Provost's House

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**Present:** Prof. Patrick Prendergast, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*),  
Prof. Eunan O'Halpin, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Histories & Humanities  
Prof. J Saeed, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences  
Dr Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), Vice Deanery, Faculty of Arts & Humanities  
Prof. Vincent Cahill, School of Computer Science & Statistics  
Prof. June Nunn, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Dental Science  
Mr Gerard Tobin, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Nursing & Midwifery  
Dr John Clancy, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Dr Richard Timoney, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Mathematics  
Dr Kenneth Irvine, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Natural Sciences  
Dr Richard K. Porter, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Biochemistry & Immunology  
Prof. Kenneth Benoit, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Social Sciences & Philosophy  
Dr Helen Buckley, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Social Work & Social Policy  
Dr Kevin Tierney, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Psychology  
Prof. Paul Coughlan, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Business  
Dr Andrew Loxley, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), Vice Deanery, Faculty of Social & Human Sciences  
Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services (*Ex officio*)  
Mr John Lawlor, Information Systems Services (*Ex officio*)  
Mr Ryan Sheridan, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)  
Mr Charles Larkin, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President (*Ex officio*)

**Apologies:** Prof. Ian Robertson, Dean of Research  
Dr Stefano Sanvito, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Physics  
Prof. Henry Rice, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Engineering  
Prof. Mark Lawler, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Medicine  
Prof. John Kelly, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Chemistry  
Prof. Seamus Martin, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), Vice Deanery of Genetics & Microbiology

**In attendance:** Ms Ewa Sadowska, Graduate Studies Office, (*Secretary Ex officio*)  
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office

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The Dean welcomed Prof. Seamus Martin, Prof. Mark Lawler and Dr John Clancy as new members of the Committee and Ms Helen Thornbury from the Graduate Studies Office who will be in attendance.

### **192.0 Minutes of 15 December 2005**

The minutes of the meeting of 15th December 2005 were approved and signed by the Dean.

### **192.1 Matters arising**

None were raised.

### **192.2 Role of Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) [DTLP]**

The Dean briefly spoke to the document circulated as Item 3 (a) and noted that the DTLP brief had been approved by Board as part of the restructuring process of College. The former role of heads of department has been changed in consequence and a significant component of it has been taken over by the DTLP. The Support Services Task Force has been examining how to ensure that adequate resources be put in place in order to enable the DTLP to discharge their duties at the School level. The Graduate Studies Office is in the process of reviewing its administrative procedures in order to adjust them to the new academic structures. The Dean outlined that, at this meeting and the next two, examination, transfer, and admissions, will be addressed in turn.

Ms Helen Thornbury brought the meeting through an updated research examination process and underlined the proposed changes. After discussion, the Committee approved the following changes with immediate effect for implementation in the Schools: the examiners' nomination form would be sent to the DTLP; the *viva voce* would be chaired by the DTLP who may nominate a head of discipline or an academic of equal standing for that role; the DTLP would consult with the supervisor and a head of discipline, where appropriate, about a nomination for internal and external examiners; the internal examiner would be a point of contact for the external examiner to do with all issues of the *viva voce* examination and would have an overall responsibility for organizing it; the supervisor has the right to be present at the *viva voce* examination purely as an observer unless the student wishes otherwise in which case s/he would need to inform the DTLP in advance; the examiner may not be a recent graduate of the University of Dublin and/or may not have been linked via recent research with the student directly; should the DTLP be an internal examiner or the supervisor, a pro-DTLP should be appointed by the Head of School. It was agreed that in the Vice-Deaneries the above DTLP tasks where appropriate would be continued to be discharged by heads of department for the moment at least. It was confirmed that a proposal for a revised transfer procedure would be brought before the Committee's next meeting to be followed by new forms and guidelines for admissions.

### **192.3 MSc in Applied Psychology (a new course proposal: 1 yr full-time/2 yrs part-time)**

Dr Kevin Tierney, the proposed acting course director spoke to the circulated course proposal and explained that the course will offer a generic applied masters degree. This from the student's point of view will provide a preparatory training for those intending to apply for other more specialised postgraduate professional courses in psychology and for those intending to pursue a career in which psychological expertise of a high level is necessary or beneficial. From the School's point of view the course will provide a basis for the future development of new professional programmes and will also make available a set of taught modules that can be integrated into the postgraduate research degree programme. Such a development will support the strategic objectives of the School of (i) increasing its intake of postgraduate research students, by increasing the attractiveness of its PhD degree through an improvement in the quality of the training provided, and (ii) the establishment of a Psychology Graduate School. In terms of its structure, the course will comprise two core modules and four advanced modules (chosen from a list of specialised options), as well as a research dissertation. A flexible modular course structure will enable the course to be completed on a part-time or full-time basis, and as such will be in keeping with the university's strategy for the provision of opportunities for lifelong learning. In the first instance one additional member of staff will be appointed, fully supported by the fee income from the course (the change fund has provided the salary cost for the current year). It is anticipated that the course will easily attract sufficient numbers required to pay for such a post. Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services, has confirmed that the course is likely to be approved by the Library Committee at its next meeting. After a brief discussion the Committee approved the proposal.

### **192.4 MPhil in Comparative Literature (a new course proposal: 1 yr full-time)**

Dr Cormac Ó Cuilleain, DTLP from the Vice Deanery, Faculty of Arts & Humanities, spoke to the circulated course proposal and explained that in common with other recently introduced M.Phil. programmes, the M.Phil. in Comparative Literature is central to the strategic aim of the aspirant School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies of increasing relative and absolute postgraduate numbers, both directly and – in so far as students on this course may be expected to proceed to Ph.D. study – indirectly. He emphasised that the significant interest in advanced study of literature beyond undergraduate level is underlined by successful courses in TCD and elsewhere. An M.Phil. in Comparative Literature should therefore appeal directly to graduates who wish to develop their cultural expertise and their understanding of structures and processes of cultural difference on the one hand and cultural interchange on the other. The Committee were happy that there was sufficient synergies with other MPhils in the School. The course proposal has not however been fully considered by the Finance Committee and the Library Committee and it was understood that some significant changes to do with the proposed costing would need to be introduced to the proposal before it can be put before those Committees. The Dean also sought clarification with regard to some admissions criteria. The Committee approved the proposal subject to its pending approval by the other two Committees before the Dean could bring it to Council.

### **192.5 TCD – IMI Graduate School of Management**

The Dean has explained that the Trinity-IMI Graduate School of Management had already been approved by Board and that the remit of the Graduate Studies Committee is to consider its proposed academic structures, and to draw items of academic importance to the Senior Lecturer's attention for Heads' Committee. He

invited Prof. Paul Coughlan, DTLP from the School of Business to speak to the circulated document. Prof. Coughlan explained that the submission outlined the action taken on foot of Board's approval in April 2005 to create a School of Business. The subsequently set up Graduate School of Management in partnership with the Irish Management Institute within the newly formed School of Business is a result of a carefully planned growth strategy by the School Executive aiming to position Trinity's School in the top European rank. The Graduate School aims to provide a world-ranked executive education and research undertaking with an Irish base. It will seek to place management research on an equal footing with research in science and technology. During an initial phase there will be two dimensions to the Graduate School's teaching programme (i) taught graduate degree programmes and (ii) non-award programmes. The School's research degree programme (M.Litt. and Ph.D.) will continue to be offered through the School of Business and not the Trinity-IMI Graduate School of Management. Thus, there are no implications for research student admission or supervision raised by this proposal. Non-award programmes will become the responsibility of the Graduate School Executive, and will not be brought to Graduate Studies Committee for approval; award programmes would, of course, be brought before the Graduate Studies Committee. The Trinity-IMI Graduate School of Management will not hire directly as an employer. Academic staff of the School of Business and the IMI will become faculty members of the Trinity-IMI Graduate School of Management, and it is proposed to extend recognition to IMI faculty as adjunct/associate members of the School of Business without grading appointments in the Graduate School. School of Business, and IMI faculty will be engaged in teaching and dissertation supervision on the taught degree programmes offered through the Graduate School as directed by the Executive of the Trinity-IMI Graduate School of Management. A number of substantive concerns were raised including:

- How does the Graduate School deliver on the research agenda for the School? In the discussion, Prof. Coughlan explained that due to the issue of supervisory capacity of its staff there is no intention to migrate the M.Litt./Ph.D. degrees to the new Graduate School. Some Graduate School faculty may wish to supervise, and if they do it will be under the School of Business's regulations and after admission through College's normal procedures. He, as DTLP, will assign the supervisor and oversee the transfer and examination processes.
- Is the relationship between Trinity and the IMI an exclusive one? i.e. may IMI develop taught masters/Ph.D. programmes with other institutions nationally or internationally? In reply Prof. Coughlan said that an exclusive arrangement was envisaged. The Dean proposed that further clarity was needed on this point, and suggested that it might be important that this should be legally embedded in the foundation documents of the Graduate School. A related issue of delivering non-award programmes by the Graduate School of Management would need to ensure appropriate control over such arrangements in order not to jeopardise its brand name and reputation internationally.
- While noting that some of the IMI staff may be involved with non-award programmes only, concern was expressed that only five of the 21 staff listed had Ph.D. degrees.

The Committee discussed several other matters but agreed that the above were the main issues. The Dean will bring these issues to the attention of the Senior Lecturer and the Heads' Committee before the proposal would go to University Council.

## **192.6 E-theses**

The Dean spoke to the circulated document prepared by Ms Niamh Brennan. He briefly re-capped that Trinity is currently developing an electronic thesis repository as part of a larger prototype digital research archive which is being integrated with the Research Support System in order to allow research students to maintain their own profiles linked to their supervisors' research profiles in the system. Two pilot areas (the School of Histories and Humanities, and the School of Computer Science and Statistics) will test live submissions of e-theses shortly. User testing with the Graduate Studies Office is also being scheduled shortly, to be followed by testing with participants from the pilot projects. TCD electronic theses and dissertations from previous years have been identified via individuals and areas within College. It is planned to load these into the system as soon as it becomes available. This can be done prior to the completion of the full 'live' submission system, and will be used to test search functionality, metadata, IPR, licensing and access issues. The Committee were happy with the progress and agreed that an open demonstration should be organised by the RSS/Library for the DTLP and postgraduate students to show the full merit of the system probably in Trinity Term. The Dean has confirmed that submission of a hard copy will be required in addition to an electronic one for a foreseeable future when the system becomes fully implemented.

### **192.7 Reviewing the Graduate Education Strategy of Schools**

The Dean has reported that the Working Party has met twice and reviewed without any delay all the submitted strategic plans. It is intended to hold a common meeting shortly with the Research Working Party before bringing its recommendations to the Strategic Planning Coordinating Group chaired by the Vice-Provost.

### **192.8 Reviewing PhD transfer practices in College**

The Dean has reported that the Working Party has met once and reviewed all the reports submitted. It is intended that it meets again and then brings its recommendations to the next meeting.

### **192.9 AOB**

- (1) The Committee approved the outcome of the Appeals Sub-committee of the Graduate Studies Committee set up as required under AOB 190.7 (a) re the case of a postgraduate student in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. The decision was to void the result of the examination of the referred version of the student's Masters thesis and to permit the student to make a new resubmission of the version the student had intended to submit by 21 December 2005
- (2) The Committee approved a change of the course title from "M.Sc. in child and adolescent analytic psychotherapy" to "M.Sc. in child and adolescent psychoanalytic psychotherapy" from October 2006.
- (3) At the suggestion of the Vice President of the Graduate Students Union, and several of the DTLP, the Dean agreed to consider as a separate agenda item at its next meeting a number of ARAM-related issues:
  - a) the current situation which requires part-time research students to pay full-time fees
  - b) the 30% increase in the non-EU research fee as approved for 2006/07 and possible academic consequences of such a prohibitive level
- (4) The Vice President of the Graduate Students Union requested the Dean to put it to the Committee that it requests its minutes to be circulated to University Council. This had been the practice until October 2005. The Committee agreed that the Dean should request reinstatement of the former practice.
- (5) The Committee noted and approved item B1.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.30 am. The next meeting is scheduled for 23 March 2006.



**Prof. Patrick J. Prendergast.**

Date: 30 March 2006