

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE
GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 am on Thursday 19 October, 2006
Boardroom, Provost's House

Present: Prof. Patrick Prendergast, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*),
Dr Richard Porter, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Biochemistry & Immunology
Prof. Paul Coughlan, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Business
Prof. John Kelly, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Chemistry
Prof. June Nunn, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Dental Science
Dr Matthew Causey, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Drama, Film & Music
Prof. Eunan O'Halpin, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Histories & Humanities
Prof. Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
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
Mr Damien Brennan, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Nursing & Midwifery
Dr John Clancy, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Prof. Stefano Sanvito, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Physics
Dr Kevin Tierney, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Psychology
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
Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services (*Ex officio*)
Ms Ruth Palileo, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)
Mr Paul Laird, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President (*Ex officio*)

Apologies: Mr Brendan Tangney, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Computer Science & Statistics
Dr Andrew Loxley, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Education
Prof. Henry Rice, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Engineering
Prof. Nicholas Grene, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of English
Dr Eoin O'Dell, Acting Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Law
Prof. J Saeed, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Prof. Mark Lawler, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), School of Medicine
Prof. Seamus Martin, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), Vice Deanery of Genetics & Microbiology
Mr John Lawlor, MIS Manager (*Ex officio*)
Prof. Ian Robertson, Dean of Research (*Ex officio*)
Ms Ewa Sadowska, Graduate Studies Office, Secretary to the meeting (*Ex officio*)
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office

In attendance: Ms Paula McDonagh, Graduate Studies Office as temporary Secretary to the meeting

The Dean welcomed the new Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) - Prof. Nicholas Grene (School of English), Dr Neville Cox (School of Law) who is on sabbatical for 3 months and Dr Eoin O'Dell will act for Dr Cox during his absence, Mr Damien Brennan (School of Nursing & Midwifery), Dr Matthew Causey (School of Drama, Film & Music), Mr Brendan Tangney (School of Computer Science & Statistics) as new members of the Committee in the academic year 06/07. He also welcomed Ms Ruth Palileo and Mr Paul Laird from the Graduate Students' Union as new members. The Dean also noted that the Terms of Reference for the Graduate Studies Committee are now printed in the Calendar Part 2, page 9.

196.0 Minutes of 8 June 2006

The minutes of the meeting of 8 June 2006 were approved by the Committee as circulated. However, Prof. Eunan O'Halpin stated in relation to item **195.5** Intercalated Masters for Medical Students, that it should be noted that neither the Head of School nor the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) from the School of Medicine, were present at the last meeting to present this important matter.

196.1 Matters arising

a) *Re. 195.1 (a)*: The Dean noted that the Board agreed with the proposal in relation to reviewing the current ARAM arrangements for taught courses, when taught courses are part of an Integrated Ph.D. Dr Timoney raised a query regarding the ARAM credit and its application where students switch Schools after graduating from the taught masters. The Dean stated that ARAM would go to the School for the integrated Ph.D., although presumably if more than one School was involved in the programme there would be an agreement between the Heads of School in respect of ARAM. The Dean also stated that he would be writing to the DTLPs shortly in respect of integrated Ph.D. programmes.

b) *Re. 195.7 (a)*: The Dean re-confirmed that the Directors of Research were the conduit for information on sources of funding rather than the DTLPs. The Dean agreed to follow this issue up to ensure that the Directors of Research have been informed accordingly.

c) *Re. 195.7 (c)*: The Committee discussed the on-line application system for postgraduate students. The Dean stated his view that the advice of IS Services will be important in choosing the appropriate system. The Committee emphasised that moving away from paper-based system is imperative.

196.2 Postgraduate Diploma in Management (a new course proposal)

The Dean welcomed Dr Gerard McHugh and Dr Robert Galavan (a proposed course director) and invited them to speak to the circulated course proposal. Dr McHugh explained that the new course proposal for a Postgraduate Diploma in Management has come about as a result of an alliance formed between IMI and the School of Business through the Trinity-IMI Graduate School of Management, and it represents the first initiative to come to the Graduate Studies Committee on foot of this. This new postgraduate diploma is designed in response to both market demand and the School strategic development plans, and is aimed at experienced practicing managers and specialists. Whilst this programme has already existed with HETAC accreditation and is part of an IMI suite of courses, it was viewed crucial to the collaboration to run a joint taught course of this nature and to substantially re-brand it.

Dr Galavan spoke of the history of the course and its success to date. The course was reviewed a few years ago and upgraded to a postgraduate qualification due to the majority of students already having a degree. The course is part-time to allow professionals to manage both work and study, with the full knowledge and support of the student's work manager. It is not designed for those who want to be managers in the future, but rather for those who already are in a managerial role. The course consists of individual and group work. Applicants should have a degree and a minimum of 5 years relevant work experience. The Postgraduate Diploma class will meet for at least a three-day block once a month.

In a discussion which followed a number of issues were raised including the late submission of the course proposal to the Committee, given that the academic year has already started. It was pointed out that many of the IMI courses operate to a different academic calendar to Trinity's and cater for experienced practicing managers and specialists. The issue of revenue and funding was also raised. Dr McHugh confirmed that the Treasurer's Office is aware of the issues involved and that a formal financial proposal is going to the ARAM committee for approval.

The Committee queried the amount of time required by the student to spend on the course, given its part-time delivery. Dr Galavan stated that the work required was related to issues at the student's place of work, and that the student would need to have the full support of their employer and this was made clear to students upon application. A concern was also raised regarding the promotion of environmental awareness as part of the course material. Dr Galavan stated that although this was not mentioned specifically there is a module at the end of the course that addresses the broader concept of the impact of business in society, which would include issues related to responsible management of business. The course has received 50 expressions of interest to date, while last year it had run with a maximum of 30 students. The new diploma course aims to recruit 25 students per annum.

Mr Trevor Peare enquired about a possible use by the diploma students of the Trinity Library facilities. Dr Galavan stated that the students would mainly be using the IMI library, which is fully resourced electronically and physically closer to the students.

After further discussion the Committee approved the course subject to specifying in the proposal the amount of work experience required by applicants and that the Course Committee be detailed in terms of posts rather than individuals. The Dean agreed to address these points before presenting the proposal to Council.

196.3 Intercalated Masters for medical students

The Dean noted that the Heads of School Committee had not approved the intercalated Masters for medical students and had referred the proposal back to the Graduate Studies Committee for further deliberation. The Dean invited Professor Dermot Kelleher, Head of the School of Medicine and Vice-Provost for Medical Affairs to further discuss the issue and in particular to address the students' standing after year three of the undergraduate medical programme as an entry requirement to the intercalated Masters specified in the current proposal.

Professor Kelleher described the advantages of an intercalated Masters for medical students, stating that it would encourage students to go down the Ph.D. route and will give them sound knowledge to further an academic career in

medicine. Professor Kelleher emphasised that this extremely innovative programme would put Trinity into a leadership position vis-à-vis international academic medical education, and help stimulate the development of academic medicine in Ireland as a whole.

In order to address the remaining issues, it was proposed that the structure of the programme be changed to the following: medical students would do the intercalated year in their 4th year of study, i.e., after year 3 as undergraduate medical students, and then do a further clinical research project/literature review the following year (i.e. during their fifth year in Trinity but on their fourth year back on the undergraduate programme), which would aim to further develop their scientific knowledge in relation to clinical practice they would be experiencing in hospitals. (This Literature Review should not be confused with the one the student would do as part of the MSc dissertation). The students would be awarded the Masters degree together with their medical degrees at the end of their medical course. With this modification to the arrangements for the intercalated Masters, students would only qualify for the Masters degree after 5 years of undergraduate medical study. It was also noted that should a student decided to opt out of the intercalated Masters they would not be prejudiced in terms of returning to their medical studies.

The Committee were supportive of this proposal in its revised form and decided to approve it with clarification regarding the ECTS component and assessment procedures for the final year. The Dean agreed to clarify these points and circulate the revised document to the Committee for noting.

196.4 Work-programme for the Graduate Studies Committee 2006/07

a) The Dean stated that a paper he prepared for the ARAM task force regarding a change in fee status for part-time research students had received a positive reaction. The Dean suggested that a working party should be formed to meet up once to discuss ARAM and fee issues, the findings of this meeting would be brought to the next Graduate Studies Committee and then to the Finance Committee in Hilary Term. The following agreed to serve on the working party with Dean as Chair: Dr Helen Buckley, Dr Richard Porter, Dr Kenneth Irvine, Ms Ruth Palileo. The Dean may co-opt others as appropriate. In answer to a query from Prof. O'Halpin, the Dean confirmed the working party would be happy to receive written communications.

b) The Dean has written to the Registrar requesting him to progress the matter of awarding a 2nd M.Sc. degree.

c) The Dean advised that he anticipated that there would be many proposals for new courses put before the Committee for approval this year, as several were already in the pipeline.

d) The Committee discussed the IRCSET/IRCHSS exploratory awards made this year. It was felt that IRCSET needs to give more information in terms of feedback to both successful and unsuccessful proposals. Some other matters relating to IRCSET were mentioned and Dean agreed to speak with Mr Martin Hynes regarding these.

196.5 AOB

a) The Dean announced the launch of the new Graduate Studies website, and recorded his appreciation to Ms Paula McDonagh and the staff in the TCD web office for bringing this project to fruition.

b) The Committee discussed the problem of Non-EU students who have submitted their theses and are no longer registered and hence have no access to various support services. The Dean felt that this is not an issue because students who have submitted do retain access to email (for correspondence relating to the viva etc.), but that they are, in fact, not registered students.

c) The issue of the role of the DTLP was raised and it was felt that, after reflection on the last year, the job is more time consuming than originally thought. It was suggested that

- (i) guidelines should be given to the Heads of School suggesting a release from other duties;
- (ii) administrative support should be provided;
- (iii) an allowance should be put in place.

The Dean agreed with these suggestions and undertook to speak to the College Secretary in order to get a better understanding of the College's position. He also agreed that this issue would be put on the agenda of a future meeting.

d) A question was raised of how many times a student can apply to transfer to the Ph.D. register. It was noted that there was no advice on this in the Calendar. The Dean stated that twice would seem appropriate, but that he was happy for this to be at the discretion of the DTLP and Schools.

e) Dr Timoney expressed a concern regarding the wording of the Strategic Plan in relation to how the suggested first year taught component of Ph.D. courses would work across the board. The Dean clarified that this would not be for every Ph.D. and that both apprenticeship and graduate programme routes to the Ph.D. would continue to be available.

f) The content structure of theses was discussed in response to a query. The Dean indicated that he was happy to leave this to the discretion of the DTLP and the Schools, so long as the broad requirements with regard to the thesis format laid out in the Calendar were adhered to.

g) The Committee approved the nomination of Patrick Lyons (postgraduate student number 00159956) for the research award for 2006/07 from the Henry Flood Bequest on the recommendation of Professor of Irish Damian McManus.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.40 am. The next meeting is scheduled for 16 November 2006.



Prof. Patrick J. Prendergast.

Date: 20 October 2006