

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 am on Thursday 22 February, 2007
Boardroom, Provost's House

Present: Prof. Patrick Prendergast, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*),
Prof. Ian Robertson, Dean of Research (*Ex officio*)

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:

Prof. Paul Coughlan, School of Business
Prof. John Kelly, School of Chemistry
Prof. June Nunn, School of Dental Science
Dr Matthew Causey, School of Drama, Film & Music
Prof. Nicholas Grene, School of English
Prof. Eunan O'Halpin, School of Histories & Humanities
Prof. Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Prof. J Saeed, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Dr Richard Timoney, School of Mathematics
Prof. Mark Lawler, School of Medicine
Dr Kenneth Irvine, School of Natural Sciences
Mr Damien Brennan, School of Nursing & Midwifery
Dr John Clancy, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Prof. Stefano Sanvito, School of Physics
Dr Kevin Tierney, School of Psychology
Prof. Robert Holton, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Dr Helen Buckley, 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:

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:

Mr Brendan Tangney, School of Computer Science & Statistics
Dr Richard Porter, School of Biochemistry & Immunology
Ewa Sadowska, Graduate Studies Office

In attendance: Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office, Secretary to the meeting
Ms Gayle Warnock, Graduate Studies Office

The Dean welcomed the new Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Prof. Robert Holton who attended the meeting for the first time this academic year.

198.0 Minutes of 7 December 2006

The minutes of the meeting of 7 December 2006 were approved by the Committee as circulated.

198.1 Matters arising

Re. 197.2: The Dean noted that the M.Phil/P.Grad.Dip (exit only) in English Language Teaching had been approved at Council and will have an initial intake in October 2007.

198.2 Doctorate in Counselling Psychology

The Dean noted that this Professional Doctorate (D.Counc.Psych.) was a new award type for College and would require Senate approval if approved by the GSC and University Council. He welcomed Dr Ladislav Timulak (proposed course director) and invited him to speak to the circulated course proposal. Dr Timulak explained that the School of Psychology is committed to training students in different areas of Psychology and that it was felt that a Professional Doctorate could address this more comprehensively than a Masters programme. He noted that this would be the first Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology in Ireland and pointed out that they exist in several UK universities. He further noted that the School felt that this level of qualification might eventually become a requirement of the Psychological Society of Ireland. Dr Timulak explained that this proposed course would draw on modules currently provided by other courses currently running in the School of Psychology, most particularly the MSc in Counselling Psychology.

In a discussion which followed a number of concerns were raised. It was generally agreed that the learning outcomes should be rewritten to reflect that the course is of Doctorate level; certainly this should be done for years 2 and 3. The committee expressed concern over the level of research required by prospective students in the proposed course

and it was agreed that this should be reviewed. A concern was also raised about the effect of using resources towards objectives not aligned with the research elements of the strategic plan. Dr Timulak withdrew at this point.

A further more general discussion was held during which Dr Kevin Tierney, Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) in the School of Psychology clarified issues relating to the purpose of professional doctorates relative to the PhD. The importance of meeting the Level Descriptors for Level 10 (i.e. Doctorate) degrees was discussed. The committee concluded that it could not recommend the proposal to the University Council in its present form but that a new proposal, suitably revised to take account of the concerns raised, could be brought to the committee at a future date.

198.3 Developments in the M.Sc Molecular Medicine (Eurolife)

The Dean spoke to the circulated memo seeking support from the GSC to introduce modules delivered at the University of Edinburgh to the existing M.Sc Molecular Medicine programme. He pointed out that these modules will be optional for students; will allow specialities in different areas; and may result in possible research exchanges. It was agreed that students will benefit from this development which is the first step in the development of joint Biomedical Programmes across the EUROLIFE network. The Committee were supportive of this proposal and it was approved.

198.4 M.Sc in Clinical Supervision

The Dean welcomed Ms Mary Creaner (proposed course director) and invited her to speak to the circulated document. Ms Creaner explained that the School of Psychology has provided a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Supervision since 2004 and that a Masters degree in this area has been recommended by the external examiner in past years. The current PG Dip does not offer students an opportunity to undertake research in each of the specialized areas of Clinical, Educational and Counselling Psychology and the proposed Masters will address this and it is also anticipated that it will support the Strategic Plan by feeding qualified students into PhD programmes. Ms Creaner explained that this is a two year part time course with modules entirely different to the existing Postgraduate Diploma and small numbers (4-8 students) are anticipated. The existing proposal has been approved by the Library Committee and the Treasurers Office and is under review with IS Services. Following a broad discussion of the merits of the proposal the Committee approved it being put to the University Council.

198.5 Graduate Studies Annual Report 2005/06 with Admissions Data 2006/07

The Dean spoke briefly to the circulated document and noted that there has been a continuous rise in Postgraduate Students since 2000. He commented on the fact that almost 12% of all College students are undertaking research degrees and also noted that the examination period for research theses is commendable with 90% of students examinations completed in 7 months or less. The Dean requested that quota information missing from the Taught Course Admissions Appendix be submitted by Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) to the Graduate Studies Office as this would provide an accurate indication of unfilled capacity on these courses. A general discussion on the merits of the current practice of registering all incoming research students on the Masters register in the first instance ensued and it was agreed that although HEA funding mechanisms are being adjusted at present the College must continue to operate its transfer process in line with Universities best practice.

198.6 M.Sc/ P.Grad.Dip (exit only) in Physical Sciences in Medicine

The Dean welcomed Dr Neil O'Hare (proposed course director) and invited him to speak to the circulated document. Dr O'Hare explained that this course was a new form of a course with the same title which had been suspended. He explained that the rationale behind this course was in line with Health Service changes in how best to deliver training to physicists. Dr O'Hare explained that the course had been reworked to take in these changes. The proposed course is a one year programme which will allow students to specialise in one of three areas. It is anticipated that graduates will follow this training with a further 2 years training in hospital and they would then be eligible for employment as a basic grade physicist. A discussion on the title of the course arose and it was noted that should a Graduate Clinical Engineer grade role be created in the Health Services the title of this proposed course may be adjusted to reflect that clinical engineering is a significant component of this course. The Committee approved the course for submission to the University Council.

198.7 M.Phil Literatures of the Americas

The Dean welcomed the Head of the School of English, Prof. Stephen Matterson and invited him to speak to the circulated document. Prof Matterson explained that the School had long held aspirations of holding a course of this nature and that current staffing expertise now allowed for this. He pointed out that there was a strong demand already for M.Litt supervision in this area and that the new course should lead to an increased number of qualified M.Phil graduates applying to continue on to complete PhD research in postcolonial studies. Prof Matterson noted that the School of Languages Literatures and Cultures were involved in preliminary discussions about exchange options and shared modules and that both Schools were looking to develop this collaboration further. After discussion on points relating to such collaboration, the committee approved the proposal for submission to the University Council with an anticipated initial intake in October 2007.

198.8 Procedure for approval of GREP/HRB graduate programme proposals.

The Dean explained that the IRCSET and IRCHSS call for GREP proposals is expected to be announced in April and that these proposals would be assessed in June for Graduate Programmes with an October intake. He pointed out that this timeline could be problematic as approvals would need to be granted under vacation procedures in College. The Dean suggested that an outline of all proposals for submission should be brought to the Graduate Studies Committee for outline approval in advance of the June deadline. Outline approval could then be sought from the University Council and thereby keep the Council informed regarding new proposals which may need to be approved quickly towards the end of this academic year for intake in October 2007. This suggestion was welcomed by the Committee and, following discussion, it was agreed that a template for outline proposals would be circulated to the committee members. The outline proposals would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

198.9 Procedures for students presenting for a second Masters degree.

The Dean spoke to the circulated Memo which addressed the issue of students presenting for the same award twice. He noted that this issue had been under discussion for some time and that following consultation with the Registrar a solution had been proposed. Two new distinct Master in Science degree awards would be created: Master in Science (Research) and Master in Science (Taught) which would address the issue satisfactorily. It was noted that M.Sc. (taught) would not be an appropriate name for an award, and the Dean confirmed that this naming was not intended for final use but rather Master in Science (Studies) would be the version sent to Council for approval. The Committee welcomed this move and the document was approved for submission to the University Council and Senate.

199.0 Role of Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate)

The Dean introduced this by noting that it is now two years since most Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) were appointed and it was his view that the specifics of the role should be reviewed at this point. A discussion arose which expressed the general viewpoint that Schools should be providing more support to the DTLPG and that the role itself involved significantly more pastoral care than had been initially expected. The issue of the lack of emoluments and benefits was briefly discussed, as was the suggestion that the additional workload of current Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) should be reduced to facilitate their increased involvement in postgraduate affairs. It was agreed that this issue would need a much fuller discussion and the Dean's proposal to put this item on the agenda of the next GSC for such discussion was welcomed.

199.1 AOB

a) The Committee approved the items which were enclosed for noting and approval.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.55 am. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 March 2007.

Prof. Patrick J. Prendergast.

Date: 22 February 2007