

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE**

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 26 March, 2009
Boardroom, Provost's House

Present: Prof. John Kelly, School of Chemistry (*Chair*),
Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Dr Richard Porter, School of Biochemistry & Immunology
Dr Anne O'Connell, School of Dental Science
Ms Carmel O'Sullivan, School of Education
Prof. Brian Broderick, School of Engineering
Dr Darryl Jones, School of English
Prof. Cormac Ó Cuilleaináin, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Dr Neville Cox, School of Law
Dr Jeffrey Kallen, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Dr Thomas Connor, School of Medicine
Dr Paula Murphy, School of Natural Sciences
Dr Fintan Sheerin, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Dr Andrew Harkin, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dr Kevin Tierney, School of Psychology
Dr Gillian Wylie, Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics
Dr Robert Thomson, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services (in attendance *Ex officio*)
Dr Jacqueline Potter, C.A.P.S.L. (in attendance)
Mr Michael McGrath, Acting Manager of MIS (*Ex officio*)
Mr Ronan Hodson, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)
Ms Alexandra Murphy, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President (*Ex officio*)

Apologies: Prof. Carol O'Sullivan, Dean of Graduate Studies
Dr David Lloyd, Dean of Research
Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Dr Joe McDonagh, School of Business
Dr Matthew Causey, School of Drama, Film & Music
Dr Hazel Dodge, School of Histories & Humanities
Dr Seamus Martin, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Dr Stefan Sint, School of Mathematics
Prof. Stefano Sanvito, School of Physics
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, School of Social Work and Social Policy
Dr Carl Vogel, (*Acting*) School of Computer Science and Statistics

In attendance: Mr Robert Otway-Norwood, Graduate Studies Office, Secretary to the meeting (*Ex officio*)
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office

GS/08-09/032 Minutes of 19 February 2009

The minutes of the meeting of 19th February were approved by the Committee as circulated.

GS/08-09/033 Matters Arising

Post Graduate Student Handbook

The Chair, Professor John Kelly pointed out that the previous set of minutes had invited comment on the Post Graduate Research Student Handbook and encouraged members to send them in. He noted that the Dean had not yet received any.

Erasmus Mundus II

The meeting was informed that there will be a meeting on Monday 30th March, and that the Graduate Studies Office would send out details of venue

GS/08-09/034 M.Sc. in Cancer Care

The Chair welcomed Dr Elizabeth Curtis and Ms Mary McMahon from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, and invited them to speak to the circulated document.

Dr Curtis explained that she and Ms McMahon were jointly presenting the programme, and pointed out that there were several reasons for proposing the course, and that there was strong demand from the students themselves. She pointed out that there were seven taught modules, each of which was 30 hours and all were assessed. Dr Curtis noted that the Core modules will be taught within the School of Nursing, while the specialist modules will be provided through the hospitals. She stated that in addition in year one there was a minimum of 22 weeks clinical practice, while in year 2 there is a further consolidation of clinical practice.

The meeting noted that the course had been approved by the Library committee, and the IT issues had been addressed with Michael McGrath.

Dr Curtis informed the committee that the fee for the First Year will be €7,500.00, and the fee for the Second year will be €5000.00. It was noted that the course is open to Non-EU students, but that they would have to be registered with An Bord Altranais.

In discussion it was pointed out that placements will be organised by the school, and that there are a designated number of cancer centres around the country. In response to a question concerning students who have already attained the Post Graduate Diploma, the committee was informed that discussions are in progress and that proposals will be put before the committee to facilitate their entry to the Masters programme. It was noted that while the sub-committee considering the proposals has met on a number of occasions it is not envisaged that they will be completed for this academic year. In this context it was noted that this course is seen as a replacement for the Post Graduate Diploma in oncological nursing. In response to a question concerning the formal Memorandum of Agreement with St. Luke's Hospital, it was noted that the School was still operating under the original memorandum, but that it is intended that it will be updated following approval of the course. On the question of funding for students the committee was informed that it is envisaged that the majority will be partially funded by the HSE. In respect of the broader funding situation, the committee was informed that unofficial assurance has been given that the course is not on the HSE list for cutting, that there has been a strong commitment to cancer care over many years, and that it is of sufficient importance to require development. The committee was informed that discussions on the possibility of developing an interdisciplinary pathway were continuing.

It was noted that the course required a minimum of 8 students to be economically viable. In response to a query the committee noted that the provision of 'programme outcomes' will be addressed.

The committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to any additional amendments that may be required following the assessor's report.

GS/08-09/035 M.Sc. in Cognitive Psychotherapy

The Chair welcomed Dr Brian Fitzmaurice from the Discipline of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine, and invited him to speak to the circulated document.

Dr Fitzmaurice informed the committee that the proposal had arisen from a review of courses in 2006, and follows the successful launch of the Post Graduate Diploma in 2006/7, and that it was clear that there is a need for a taught Masters course. He pointed out that there is a high level of demand and a need for training in psychotherapy, and noted that there was significant investment in the field in the UK, and that the proposal had strong support from the Health Service providers. Dr Fitzmaurice pointed out that the course fitted the guidelines on training standards for Psychotherapy, although it was noted that the accreditation body had not yet been fully established.

In a robust discussion it was pointed out that applicants are not necessarily required to have a degree. It was noted that in the case of Nursing, where they had accepted non-graduate students they had encountered an increased 'drop out', and cautioned against accepting such students. Dr Fitzmaurice pointed out that they are running a form of 'extra mural' foundation programme within the Post Graduate Diploma at present. It was suggested that the regulation be 'tightened up' and that perhaps the reference in 7, (b) 'an equivalent training qualification..' be removed.

In response to a query concerning insurance for the students Dr Fitzmaurice informed the committee that those on the course will be provided with honorary contracts with St. Patricks hospital, although it was noted that this may not be possible in respect of the HSE, but that this issue will be addressed. It was further noted that a number of those listed as research supervisors are not college employees, but that it is intended that they will be appointed on a part time non-funded basis.

In response to a query, it was noted that the use of the terms Cognitive and Behavioural in the context of Psychotherapy are acceptable, and that it would not cause confusion to practitioners in the field.

It was pointed out that the fees seem high, but it was noted that this is a high quality course that will depend on the input of lecturers from the UK and that it is important to build up the standard. Dr Fitzmaurice pointed out that while the current financial climate will present difficulty it is in partnership with three hospitals, and that their students will receive preferential access. In this context he noted that at present up to 20 students are interested, and that they are not financially dependent on the course, and can wait if there are not sufficient numbers although he is confident that they will get 8 students.

It was pointed out that the course is heavily dependent on a small number of teachers who will have severe restrictions on their availability to provide lectures, and that if this was the situation it would not prove possible to run the course. The meeting noted that course had been approved by the library committee.

The committee approved the course for submission to the University Council, but expressed concern that the issue raised in respect of the staff be addressed, that a number of editorial corrections are required, and subject to any additional amendments that may be required following the assessor's report.

GS/08-09/036 M.Sc. in Environment and Development

The Chair welcomed Professor David Taylor from the School of Natural Sciences, and invited him to speak to the circulated document.

Professor Taylor informed the committee that he was here on behalf of the Course Director, Dr Pádraig Carmody, who was attending a conference, and forwarded his apologies.

Professor Taylor stated that this is a one year programme, and that the minimum intake is 10 students, although the target is 12 – 18. He indicated that it is open to both EU and Non-EU students, although it is likely that if the course is approved entry for next year will be restricted to EU students given the tight timescale. He pointed out that there is strong support within the school, and that it is part of a broader scheme of research programmes within the school. Professor Taylor stated that there is no such programme in Ireland and that they hope to attract recent graduates, and perhaps adult professionals working in the field already. He considered that the programme was timely as it tapped into an environmental core area of concern, and it was hoped to attract an Irish Aid Fellowship. He stated that there is also an increased awareness of environmental related development issues, and pointed out that a similar course in Edinburgh University recently attracted three times as many applicants as there were places.

Professor Taylor drew the attention of the committee to an amendment to table 1 on page 9, Module 7, Options from UCD Masters in Development Studies and M.Sc. in Global Health TCD the ECTS column should read 'up to 10 ECTS'.

He informed the committee that the fees would be those as normal for a Post Graduate student, and that is it expected that they will pay for themselves, although as already indicated it is hoped to secure fellowships in the future. In answer to a query concerning the proposed travel to Rwanda he stated that this will be an additional cost of approximately €1500, and noted that where students were unable to afford it they would provide a substitute.

In answer to a query as to whether there was a need for special insurance, Professor Taylor informed the committee that it was not considered to be required, and pointed out that he had taken a number of students to Kenya last year, where there was a greater risk and that it had not been necessary.

In response to a query Professor Taylor informed the committee that the Economics modules were being provided by UCD, and pointed out that those in Political Science would be provided by the school in Trinity College.

The committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to any additional amendments that may be required following the assessor's report.

GS/08-09/037 Any Other Business

Self Financing Courses

Concerns were raised regarding future funding plans for self-financing courses, following a recent decision by Board on how resources would be allocated. It was agreed that the Dean of Graduate Studies will report on this issue at the next meeting.

GSU Orientation

Ms Murphy, The Vice President of the Graduate Students Union informed the committee that they had organised an Orientation day for Wednesday 8th April, in Room 2041B Arts Building and asked that the schools advertise it. It was agreed that the Graduate Studies Office would forward an email on behalf of the GSU to all the Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate).

Closing Date ISE

Dr Gillian Wylie asked if there could be any flexibility on the closing date of 26th June for applications. In discussion it was noted that ask a consequence of the re-structuring of the Academic Year deadlines had been tightened, but that she should keep in contact with the office on the matter.

Section B for noting and approval.

The meeting noted and approved the circulated Calendar Part 2 changes for 2009, with the exception of item c), which was withdrawn.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.41 am.