

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE**

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 21st January 2010
Boardroom, Provost's House

Present: Professor Carol O'Sullivan, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*),
Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Dr Derek Nolan, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Dr Martin Fellenz, School of Business
Dr Siobhan Clarke, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Dr Carmel O'Sullivan, School of Education
Professor Brian Broderick, School of Engineering
Professor Moray McGowan, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Dr Stefan Sint, School of Mathematics
Dr Paula Murphy, School of Natural Sciences
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 Jim Levine, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Mr Michael McGrath, Acting Manager of MIS (*Ex officio*)
Mr Ronan Hodson, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)

Apologies: Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Dr Stephen Connon, School of Chemistry
Dr Claire Healy, School of Dental Science
Dr Ruth Barton, School of Drama, Film & Music
Dr Sam Slote, School of English
Dr Hazel Dodge, School of Histories & Humanities
Dr Jeffrey Kallen, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Dr Thomas Connor, School of Medicine
Dr Fintan Sheerin, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services (in attendance *Ex officio*)

In attendance: Ms Jennifer Hill, Graduate Studies Office, Secretary to the meeting (*Ex officio*)
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office

GS/09-10/018 Minutes of 17th December 2009

The minutes of the meeting of 17th December 2009 were approved by the Committee as circulated.

GS/09-10/019 Matters Arising

The Dean informed the Committee that up to 10 PhD studentships (4-years from September 2010) and up to 5 post-doctoral bursaries (up to €5K each) will be awarded in TCD in 2010, funded from the Research Committee budget. These programmes must contribute to an exploration of the theme: "Sustainable Society" and be interdisciplinary: at least two academics from different disciplines for the PhD studentships are required and cross-faculty collaboration is encouraged. The programmes must also stimulate innovation in its broadest sense across College. The decisions will be made by a panel, chaired by the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, constituted as follows: VP-CAO (chair), Dean of Research, Dean of Graduate Studies, Three Faculty Deans (or nominees), Associate Director TR&I. PhD students should follow a structured PhD programme, where feasible, and accumulate 30 ECTS in appropriate credits within the first 18 months of their studies.

The Dean explained that a call for proposals would be sent out shortly and that the positions would be advertised by the beginning of March.

GS/09-10/020 M.Sc. in International Politics

The Dean welcomed Dr William Phelan from the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, and invited him to speak to the circulated document.

Dr Phelan explained that a central question raised when this proposal was discussed at the Graduate Studies Committee meeting in December related to the relationship between this course and the existing M.Phil. in Peace Studies. Relevant members of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy and the Irish School of Ecumenics have now met and addressed the issues.

Both Schools are now in agreement that the proposal for the M.Sc. in International Politics can proceed. The committee approved the course for submission to the University Council.

GS/09-10/021 Vision for Student Management

The Dean welcomed Mr Michael Hughes, the Workstream Coordinator for the Student Workstream of the eStrategy, and invited him to speak to the circulated document.

Mr Hughes explained that the purpose of eStrategy is to enable improvements in information flows, processes and technology for selected College administrative functions.

Mr Hughes also explained that the current systems in use in College are operating on unsupported technology. There are a number of disjointed systems and paper-based systems in use and significant data is not always available or visible to those who need it.

Mr Hughes gave details on Phase One of the eStrategy which has been to document current processes together with a vision of where we would like to be. Phase Two will be to create a "shopping list" of what we want; to begin a competitive dialogue with potential vendors; prepare the data; and, finally, select a vendor and plan the implementation of the new system.

Mr Hughes confirmed that the new system will have huge benefits for everyone in College including improved business processes, better access to data and improved communications.

In answer to questions raised, Mr Hughes confirmed that three vendors have been selected and are large organizations, in 90% of the top fifty universities in the world, with tried and tested systems. The estimated timeline for this process will be nine months to select the system and a further two years to implement.

For any further queries, a contact email address has been set up: estategy@tcd.ie

Section B for noting and approval

- a) The Committee noted and approved the proposed name change to the M.Phil. in Ethnic and Racial Studies.
- b) The Committee also noted and approved the proposed *Calendar Part 2* changes for 2010 as listed in Section B on the agenda

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.32 am.

Prof. Carol O'Sullivan

Date: 21st January 2010