

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE**

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 14th October 2010
Boardroom, Provost's House

- Present:** Professor Veronica Campbell, 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 Claire Healy, School of Dental Science
Dr Carmel O'Sullivan, School of Education
Professor Brian Broderick, School of Engineering
Professor Nicholas Grene, School of English
Dr Joseph Clarke, School of Histories & Humanities
Dr Caitriona Leahy, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Dr Neville Cox, School of Law
Dr Stefan Sint, School of Mathematics
Dr John Gormley, School of Medicine
Dr Robin Edwards, School of Natural Sciences
Ms Anne-Marie Brady, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Dr Andrew Harkin, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dr Mauro Ferreira, School of Physics
Dr Gillian Wylie, Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics
Dr Gail McElroy, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, School of Social Work and Social Policy
- Ms Dearbhail Lawless, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)
Ms Simone Cameron-Coen, Graduate Students' Union Vice-President (*Ex officio*)
Ms Alex Anderson, CAPSL Representative (*Ex officio*)
Mr Trevor Peare, Keeper of Readers' Services (in attendance *Ex officio*)
Dr Patrick Geoghegan, Associate Dean of Research (in attendance *Ex officio*)
- Apologies:** Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Dr Stephen Connon, School of Chemistry
Dr Siobhán Clarke, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Dr Melissa Sihra, School of Drama, Film & Music
Professor Tim Foster, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Dr Jeffrey Kallen, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
- Mr John Lawler, IS Services Representative
- In attendance:** Ms Jennifer Hill, Graduate Studies Office, Secretary to the meeting (*Ex officio*)
Ms Helen Thornbury, Graduate Studies Office
-

GS/10-11/001 Minutes of 17th June 2010

The minutes of the meeting of 17th June 2010 were approved by the Committee as circulated.

GS/10-11/002 Matters Arising

The Dean confirmed that since the last meeting, the Master in Fine Arts course proposal had subsequently received an excellent external review and has been approved by Council.

GS/10-11/003 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology

The Dean introduced Dr Frank Houston and asked him to speak to the item. Dr Houston explained that the development of the Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology had arisen following a request

from the Dental Council. There is a newly recognized group of clinical dental technicians and a need to formalize their current practices and enable them to train and work within a regulated setting. The course will be taught over 65 weeks, 3 days per week and will be 70 ECTS, rather than the usual 60 ECTS for this type of course to reflect the professional element to the course. The course is to be part-time in recognition of the fact that the target group are already working in the area and will continue to do so while studying. It was confirmed that there is no existing qualification at this level in this area. There is currently a Level 7 course in Dental Technology, but this new Postgraduate Diploma is intended for people who have already completed that and have a minimum of three additional years of experience in a dental laboratory.

This will be a self-financing course and funding from the HSE has been approved.

The first cohort of students is planned for January 2011 and although this is a tight time-scale applicants have already been identified. The next intake will then be September 2012 to align with College's academic structure.

Dr Claire Healy confirmed that the School of Dental Science is supportive of this proposal, which they have been under pressure to develop in order to regulate this area of dental care. She also confirmed that no other institution offers such a course.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that a minimum number of two students has been set as this course will be very resource-intensive from a clinical training perspective, although it is envisaged that the course will actually be oversubscribed due to demands from the sector.

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/10-11/004 Innovation Academy - update

The Dean confirmed that the Innovation Academy is now open and the first module in Innovation and Entrepreneurship is due to start in November. The full course proposal is currently under development and will come to the Graduate Studies Committee before Christmas. Discussions are being held with the Research and Innovation office and others to ensure that new module development occurs in a coordinated manner.

The ten Innovation Bursaries have been allocated and the successful students have now registered and will engage in the educational activities of the Innovation Academy.

The official launch of the Innovation Academy is to be held on November 19th.

A query was raised on the sharing of modules between TCD and UCD.. As per the DRHEA Memorandum of Understanding a reciprocal arrangement is in place whereby, for example, a UCD student takes a module(s) at TCD as a "visiting student" and therefore retains access to the library, IT facilities, etc, at their home institution.

GS/10-11/005 PRTL I - update

The Dean confirmed that PRTL I (cycle 5) funding has led to the creation of structured Ph.D. programmes in a number of research areas across the College, which will either be led by TCD or led by a partner institution with TCD input. The budget allocated for these programmes has been reduced and a meeting of the PIs has been convened for early November to discuss how the programmes may maximise the academic training component in light of the reduced funding. The Dean congratulated those involved in leading the successful bids to PRTL I

GS/10-11/006 Implementation of Graduate Education Strategy

The Dean confirmed that implementation of the Graduate Education Strategy, including modularisation of postgraduate courses, flexibility, developing strands and sharing modules, is ongoing. An Implementation Group has been set up with both academic and administrative staff as members and will include: Prof. Veronica Campbell, Dr Carmel O'Sullivan, Dr John Gormley, Dr Stefan Sint, Ms. Catherine O'Brien and Ms. Helen Thornbury and representatives from Student Records, ISS and Fees Office. A student representative will also be included. The remit of the group will be to identify issues and make recommendations on the implementation phase so that the modularisation of postgraduate courses is complete by 2012.

An additional working group has been established to consider the possibility of Graduate School structures. The working group, consisting of Professor Veronica Campbell, Dr Andrew Harkin, Dr Derek Nolan, Professor Joseph Clarke, Dr John Gormley, Dr Mauro Ferreira and Dr Caitriona Leahy, will meet and bring a discussion document to the GSC in due course. This item will be discussed extensively by the GSC during this academic year.

GS/10-11/007 Higher Doctorates: Sub-Committee

The Dean confirmed that there had been a number of applications for the Higher Doctorates and a sub-committee comprising Professor Timothy Foster, Professor James Wilson and Professor Eilean Ni Chuilleanain had been established.

GS/10-11/008 Trinity Inclusive Curriculum

The Dean explained that a lot of work has taken place on this for undergraduates which is now being extended to postgraduates. Information and resources are available on the TCD website and this should be used at School level for the preparation of handbooks and teaching activities. Schools are requested to reflect on their compliance with the TIC when developing new courses and considering course reviews. Recently, the Graduate Students Union, in association with Graduate Studies and the International Office, arranged a Cultural Orientation which was particularly useful for international students. The Dean thanked the GSU for their input into this initiative and confirmed that a cultural orientation will be a regular component of the general orientation for new postgraduate students.

GS/10-11/009 AOB

- The Dean distributed an additional document regarding posthumous degrees. The Registrar has set up a working group to consider the issuing of degrees posthumously. The Dean outlined the main points of the document to the Committee.

The Dean also confirmed that these regulations will be backdated to the change in statutes from four years ago and any student who meets these requirements will be awarded the appropriate degree posthumously at a commencement ceremony.

It was confirmed that these regulations only begin once the thesis has been submitted by the student. Prior to this, a certificate of achievement can be awarded.

A couple of queries were raised including what happens in situations where the second external examiners report is not positive or where a supervisor is unable to undertake the minor corrections on behalf of the student and the Dean agreed to bring these queries to the Registrar.

- The Graduate Students Union requested to bring attention to an issue in the School of Physics concerning students who demonstrate but are not receiving payment. However, it was confirmed that many of these students receive a stipend and the School has made a guarantee that the student will retain the stipend despite financial constraints. The Dean confirmed that this issue is being dealt with within the School.
- It was mentioned that under the new academic structure, which requires students to submit their dissertation / thesis at the end of August, is proving an issue for some academics as August is the only time for them to take their own leave. However, it was confirmed that while this is the new academic structure, all students could avail of Dean's Grace, which would allow them until the end of September to submit.
- Many Ph.D. students who are registered part-time due to outside work commitments are having difficulty accessing certain courses within college such as those held by the library due to the times they are offered. This was noted.
- Students are currently not permitted to go "off books" for financial reasons and this is increasingly becoming a problem as it is also for those who work and are sent abroad. There was some concern that this regulation seems to conflict with the fact that College is trying to encourage and promote lifelong learning. This was noted.

Section B for noting and approval

- a) The Committee noted and approved the Texts, Contexts, Cultures handbook
- b) The Committee noted and approved the TIDI module on Adapting Research Methodologies for Developing Country Conditions. However, it was noted that while there would be no issue with Ph.D. students taking the module at 2.5 ECTS, before Masters students are permitted to take it, further consideration would need to be given the credit volume as this is not in line with Council policy on credit.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.20am.

Prof. Veronica Campbell

Date: 18th October 2010