

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN
TRINITY COLLEGE**

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 31st May 2012
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 Melissa Sihra, School of Drama, Film & Music
Dr Jurgen Uhlich, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Dr John Gormley, School of Medicine
Professor Anna Davies, School of Natural Sciences
Ms Anne-Marie Brady, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Dr Mauro Ferreira, School of Physics
Dr Kevin Tierney, School of Psychology
Dr Gillian Wylie, Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics
Dr Gail McElroy, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Ms Mary O'Connor, Graduate Students' Union President (*Ex officio*)
Mr Martin McAndrew, 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*)
Ms Lee Mills, Information System Services Representative

Apologies: Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Professor Isabel Rozas, School of Chemistry
Professor Simon Wilson, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Dr Claire Healy, School of Dental Science
Dr Conor McGuckin, School of Education
Dr Sam Slote, School of English
Dr Joseph Clarke, School of Histories & Humanities
Dr Jeffrey Kallen, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Dr Stefan Sint, School of Mathematics
Dr Andrew Harkin, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dr Stephanie Holt, School of Social Work and Social Policy

Professor Vinny Cahill, Dean of Research

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

GS/11-12/053 Minutes of 3rd May 2012

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd May 2012 were approved by the Committee as circulated.

GS/11-12/054 Matters Arising

The Dean confirmed that as per item GS/11-12/048 The Harmonisation of Assessment Regulations document had been approved by the Committee subject to a meeting with

those Schools who had requested further discussion regarding the issue of categoric marking. That meeting has now taken place and a footnote has been added to the document to reflect that the regulations will accommodate a combination of numeric and categoric marking for some courses. The Dean explained that this issue may also be relevant when the professional doctorates are considered.

The Harmonisation of Assessment Regulations document will be considered by the University Council at the next meeting on 13th June. The Harmonisation of Assessment Regulations document for undergraduate courses was approved at the last meeting of Council. An appropriate wording for the assessment section of Calendar Part 2 will be devised and further amendments required for each Schools' calendar entries may require approval under vacation procedures.

The Dean informed the Committee that their concern over the new SITS system had been keenly noted by the GeneSIS project team and since the last meeting some changes in approach, increased engagement with schools and enhanced communications have been implemented.

Helen Thornbury provided further update and confirmed the following:

- applicants are now receiving email notifications of changes to their application status and testing is taking place of email notifications to assessors
- issues including uploading of documentation and emails to referees are now fixed
- a tick box has now been added to the start of the application form for applicants to indicate they can be contacted prior to them submitting their application. The project team are working on a report to provide details of these applicants only to assessors

The Dean confirmed that the Arabic modules proposed by the School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics will be brought back to a later meeting.

GS/11-12/055 Master in Fine Arts

The Dean introduced Dr Melissa Sihra and asked her to speak to the circulated proposal. Dr Sihra explained she was presenting this on behalf of the course director, Professor Brian Singleton.

The proposal is for two new strands as part of the Master in Fine Art. The MFA currently has one strand in Playwriting and the proposed Master in Fine Art (Theatre Directing) and Master in Fine Art (Stage Design) will complement this existing strand which has been offered since September 2011 by The Lir – National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity College Dublin.

Coordinators for the strands are to be appointed but they will be staff of the Lir and all costs associated with the course new strands are included in the Academy budget.

In relation to resubmission of failed assignments it was suggested that the deadline of end of August be brought forward to early or middle of August and clarification was sought regarding whether this deadline also applies to failed assignments from Michaelmas term.

It was noted that the library would appreciate a contribution of funding from the Academy towards the cost of increased quantity of library books required for these new strands.

It was noted that the new strands are being proposed to commence in September 2013 and this is the reason they have been circulated to the committee at this late stage of the academic year. They will most likely be presented to the University Council at the first meeting of 2012/2013 to allow sufficient time for recruitment for a September 2013 start.

The Committee approved the course for submission to the University Council subject to the above clarification of resubmission dates and any additional amendments that may be

required following the external assessor's report. It was noted that to ensure expertise in the relevant area, there will be a separate external assessor for each strand.

GS/11-12/056 Global Relations Strategy

The Dean introduced Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, apologised that it has only been possible for her to meet with the committee now and asked her to speak to the circulated document.

Professor Ohlmeyer thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak to them and explained that the Global Relations Strategy (as outlined in the circulated document) has now been approved by the Board.

There are three pillars to the strategy:

- Internationalisation
- Alumni relations
- Advancement

Professor Ohlmeyer explained that in relation to recruitment of international students TCD will focus on core markets such as North America, India and China and also on areas such as Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Russia and Central Asia (eg Kazakhstan). It is important in some of these areas (including China and India) to offer scholarships and so obtaining money for these scholarships is a priority.

Another area to be developed will be a six month or twelve month internship following completion of a TCD course.

In relation to the staff involved in the Global Relations Strategy, a new Director of the International Office is to be appointed and a new team will also be recruited, including a student recruitment person for each of the specific regions that are being targeted. These individuals will be recruiting students for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Staff from the International Office dealing with processing of international student applications will be based in the academic registry. A new in-house team focusing on marketing will also work on branding, social networking and improving the website and brochures which is currently done locally but should be more centralised. There will be four Global Officers recruited immediately, and four more next year, they will be based in the Schools and play a very important role in international student recruitment, engaging with alumni and marketing.

Professor Ohlmeyer will also making overseas trips several times a year and would encourage other academics to be involved in these visits as it is acknowledged that many colleagues already have a wealth of international networks and relationships.

€3 million has been invested by College into the Global Relations Strategy, however by Year 4 the GRS will be making €9 million in non-exchequer funding and 40% of this will be returned to the Schools. A fixed amount is also to be invested in student support services as more international students will increase the demand on student services.

In answer to a query regarding the Singapore Institute of Technology, Professor Ohlmeyer confirmed that this is the only country in which there is an exclusivity arrangement.

The Committee were invited to contact Professor Ohlmeyer directly with any other comments or queries.

GS/11-12/057 AOB

The Dean confirmed that, although finances are not a function of the Graduate Studies Committee, a future meeting of the Committee will discuss the relationship between the

funding model and issues around the provision of postgraduate courses. This discussion may require a presentation to the committee on the current funding model.

Section B for noting and approval

1. The Committee approved the closure of the M.Phil. in German Literature and Language Pedagogy
2. The Committee approved the amendment of the Postgraduate Diploma in Molecular Medicine from a part-time to a full-time course
3. Calendar Part 2 changes were approved, subject to a couple of minor clarifications being sought, for the Schools of: Biochemistry and Immunology, Business, Computer Sciences and Statistics, Dental Science, Drama, Film and Music, Education, Engineering, English, Histories and Humanities, Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Law, Linguistics, Speech and Communication Sciences, Medicine, Natural Sciences, Nursing and Midwifery, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Psychology, Religions, Theology and Ecumenics, Social Sciences and Philosophy, Social Work and Social Policy, and the Validated Courses
4. The Committee approved the Calendar Part 2 changes for 2012/13 for the Graduate Studies Office
5. The Committee approved the changes to the delivery of the M.Ed. Higher Education

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

Prof. Veronica Campbell

Date: 5th June 2012