**GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**
Minutes of the meeting held in College Boardroom in Trinity Business School
and online at 10am on Thursday 26 January 2023

**XX = Council relevance**

***Present (Ex officio):***
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*)

*Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:*
Professor David Finlay, School of Biochemistry & Immunology
Professor Laurent Muzellec, Trinity Business School
Professor Stephen Connon, School of Chemistry
Professor Ivana Dusparic, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Paula Quigley, School of Creative Arts
Professor Noel Ó Murchadha, School of Education
Professor Sarah McCormack, School of Engineering
Professor Bernice Murphy, School of English
Professor Russell McLaughlin, School of Genetics & Microbiology
Professor Jennifer Edmond, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor David Prendergast, School of Law
Professor Kathleen McTiernan, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Professor Stefan Sint, School of Mathematics
Professor Catherine Darker, School of Medicine
Professor Cian O'Callaghan, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Mary Hughes, School of Nursing & Midwifery
Professor Hongzhou Zhang, School of Physics
Professor Frédérique Vallieres, School of Psychology
Professor Gillian Wylie, School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies
Professor Tara Mitchell, School of Social Sciences & Philosophy
Professor Erna O'Connor, School of Social Work & Social Policy
Professor Jake Byrne, Academic Director, Tangent

Dr Geoffrey Bradley, Information Technology Services Representative
Ms Siobhan Dunne, Sub Librarian for Teaching, Research and User Experience
Dr Cormac Doran, Assistant Academic Secretary, Graduate Education, TT&L
Ms Ewa Sadowska Administrative Officer (Academic Affairs, TT&L)

*In attendance for all items:*
Ms Patricia Callaghan, Academic Secretary, Head of Trinity Teaching & Learning, (TT&L)
Ms Breda Walls, Director of Student Services
Mr Martin McAndrew, Postgraduate Student Support Officer, Senior Tutor's Office
Ms Leona Coady, Programme Director, Postgraduate Renewal Programme
Rhiannon Carey Bates (Academic Affairs) administrative support

Temporary stand in for Dean of Research:
Professor Brian Broderick, Associate Dean of Research, for all items.

*Not in attendance – Vacant:*
Graduate Students' Union President
Graduate Students' Union Vice-President
Director of Internationalisation, Trinity Global

*Apologies:*
Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, Dean of Research
Professor Ashley Clements, School of Histories & Humanities
Professor Carlos Medina Martin, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Ioannis Polyzois, School of Dental Science

Temporary stands in for Graduate Students' Union President and Vice-President:
Ms Gabrielle Fullam, TCDSU President
Ms Zöe Cummins, TCDSU Education Officer

In attendance for individual items:
Professors Tom Melvin and Richard Reilly, School of Medicine, for item GS/22-23/068
Prof. Simon Wilson, School of Computer Science and Statistics, for item GS/22-23/069
Dr Ríonnagh Sheridan, Programme Coordinator and Analyst, PG Renewal Programme, for item GS/22-23/070 and GS/22-23/077
Ms Beibhinn Coman, Director of Marketing, Trinity Global, for item GS/22-23/071
Ms Fedelma McNamara, Executive Director (ASD), for item GS/22-23/072
Prof. Rachel McLoughlin, PG Renewal WP#2 Lead, Postgraduate Research Student Activities, for item GS/22-23/075 and GS/22-23/076
Prof. Richard Reilly, PG Renewal WP #1 Co-Lead for item GS/22-23/077

The Dean welcomed all to the first meeting in the new year 2023 and noted apologies. She offered a warm welcome to new and returning members to the committee.

**XX    Section A**

**XX    GS/22-23/066 Minutes of GSC of 8 December 2022**
The minutes were approved as circulated.

**XX    GS/22-23/067 Matters arising**
The Dean advised members that all actions from the previous meeting had been attended to. Actions with more specific updates provided by the Dean are referred to below. She also noted that all GSC decisions recommended at the December meeting on Agenda A and B were approved by the last Council in January 2023.

> Agenda A:
> •GS/22-23/022 Postgraduate course proposals: School-based business case: After a

forthcoming meeting with Faculty Deans an updated proposal will come to GSC.
•GS/22-23/031 Student representation: Representation from the Student Union at the meeting has been agreed to ensure continuity across the meetings.
•GS/22-23/032 (ii) Any Other Business: A one off uplift of €500 to SFI/IRC funded students was issued before Christmas. SFI/IRC are due to increase student funding in 2023/24. It is planned that internal College awardees funded through the 1252, Ussher or Provost PhD awards will soon receive an uplift.
•GS/22-23/041 Blackboard Access for External Examiners: The website is being updated.
•GS/22-23/053 and 054: Neither proposal has yet gone to Council as external reports are still to come in.
• GS/22-23/056: Council approved immediate recalibration of Duolingo scores.
• GS/22-23/059 (ii): The Dean extended thanks to all who submitted additional examples of academic misconduct.

Agenda B:
• GS/22-23/061: Changes to format of the Higher Doctorate corpus submitted to the Library: The recommended changes were brought to the last Council via the GSC December minutes but it is intended to make a stand alone submission to the February Council.
• GS/22-23/062: Cessation of MSc in Clinical Supervision from 2023/24 –approved by the last Council
• GS/22-23/063: Revised English language requirements in 4 MPhil courses in Centre for Language and Communication Studies from 2023/24 admissions – approved by the last Council.

XX **GS/22-23/068: New course proposal (HCI 3): MSc in Regulatory Affairs for Medical Devices – Prof. Tom Melvin (School of Medicine) to present and Prof. Richard Reilly to attend**
The Dean welcomed Profs Tom Melvin and Richard Reilly, from the School of Medicine to the meeting. She introduced their new course proposal for an MSc in Regulatory Affairs for Medical Devices, funded under HCI Pillar 3. It is a one year course of 90 ECTS (MSc) with an exit Postgraduate Diploma award after completion of 60 ECTS due to commence in September 2023. The proposed course has secured HCI 3 funding until the end of March 2025. The MSc is intended for biomedical engineering and medical device professionals who may have already gained some experience of medical devices or regulatory affairs but who wish to increase their knowledge and acquire expertise suitable for being nominated as a Person Responsible for Regulatory Compliance (PRRC) required by Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 745/2017.

Prior to the meeting, Profs David Prendergast and Russell Mc Laughlin had been invited by the Dean to carry out a close reading of the proposal to advise members of its merits. At the meeting both readers were satisfied that the proposed new course meets the requirements to be recommended to Council by the GSC. They drew members attention to the comprehensive quality of the document outlining exceptional professional and academic calibre of the course. However, they shared a concern that as the regulatory requirement does not require a candidate to obtain a Masters award to quality for the PRRC role, the business case presented might have been too optimistic. It may happen that after an initial spike in demand resulting from the

appearance of the new course on the market some levelling off in the market interest could be anticipated.

A few additional queries were raised by the readers and the Dean, and Prof. Melvin clarified as follows:

(i)  Re possible professional accreditation: such accreditation is not required yet, but it is anticipated to be required going forward within 5 to 10 years and the high professional quality of the course will stand it in good stead when this takes place.

(ii)  Re Trinity's positioning within the market where most medical devices industry resides in the West of Ireland with local professional courses catering for its regulatory needs: the value-added quality of Trinity's proposed course teaching students above and beyond the minimal level for the PRRC role should make it a highly desirable qualification across the whole country.

(iii)  Re there being too heavy a reliance on essays as a form of assessment in some of the modules given the challenges Artificial Intelligence (AI) is posing with this specific type of assessment: with the advent of Chat GPT, the proposer has been thinking about this new challenge and will introduce some risk mitigation measures such as -Setting topics for which there is little metadata available for an AI algorithm to be able to generate an automated text. One of the challenges for medical device regulations generally is that there is little information available publicly regarding the regulatory documents used in the system. This is not good from a public policy perspective, but it paradoxically helps avoid the algorithms. In general, for the assignment topics, students will be assessed on how they apply regulatory principles to specific challenges and by selecting the challenges carefully, the risk can be managed.
-A second mitigation to be introduced will be to require students to present their work in a brief presentation followed by questions from the teaching staff to ensure that the student has prepared the materials submitted. It is intended to provide feedback via an online and in-person meeting for essays and projects.

(iv)  Re there being insufficient engagement with industry and no placements currently available: such engagement is planned to be enhanced going forward; there are some industry links on modules shared with the School of Engineering, and it is hoped that industry placements can also be secured in time. Confirmation of these placements was not sought until some certainty about course approval was obtained.

The Dean thanked both readers for their internal reports and Profs Tom Melvin and Richard Reilly for attending the meeting. The committee recommended the course proposal for Council approval. Given that the proposal has already been positively externally reviewed it will be submitted as is to the February Council.

> **Decision GS/22-23/068:** The committee recommended the course proposal for Council approval.

**XX**  **GS/22-23/069: New course proposal (extension): Statistics and Data Science Online (Top-up Pg Dip & MSc) – Prof. Simon Wilson (School of Computer Science and Statistics) to present**

The Dean welcomed Prof. Simon Wilson from the School of Computer Science. She introduced his new Masters Top-up in Statistics and Data Science (online), incorporating a new Pg. Dip. Top-up in Statistics and Data Science (online) from 2024/25 and retaining the Pg. Cert. (online) with a change of its title from Statistics to Statistics and Data Science (from 2023/24). HCI 3 funding will continue in 2023/24 and partly in 2024/25 until the end of March 2025. Students who complete the stand-alone Postgraduate Certificate in Statistics Online in 2021/22 and 2022/23 are permitted to progress to the new Postgraduate Diploma Top up in Statistics and Data Science Online by re-joining directly Year 2 to commence in 2024/25. The online Postgraduate Certificate in Statistics has been the first course to be delivered entirely online within the School this addressing an objective of its latest strategic plan to be more active in this area.

Prior to the meeting, Profs Hongzhou Zhang and Noel Ó Murchadha had been invited by the Dean to carry out a close reading of the proposal to advise members of its merits. At the meeting both readers were satisfied that the proposed course expansion meets the requirements to be recommended to Council by the GSC. They drew members attention to a number of features of the expanded course such as

(i) The expansion is timely as it addresses an increasing demand for data science expertise especially amongst PGR students, to whom it is free of charge, in many Science-based Schools in College.

(ii) It is pedagogically sound and well thought through.

(iii) Its online delivery format needs to be monitored to ensure that online students jell into a cohesive community of learners thereby enhancing their student experience of the course.

In a discussion which followed Prof. Wilson clarified a number of queries:

(i) Re the course financial sustainability: the first year the Postgraduate Certificate in Statistics was offered online witnessed a 30% increase in the number of internal Trinity PGR students and it is hoped that the proposed expansion will allow the course to similarly grow its international student numbers.

(ii) Re the entry into the Postgraduate Diploma course – given that it is a framework-based course applicants have to be admitted to it via the Pg. Cert. in year 1 which is *de facto* the first year of the Pg. Dip. course. In order to increase marketing attractiveness of the expanded course each of its constituent component courses such as Pg. Cert., Pg. Dip. Top up and Masters Top up, leading to respective attainment awards needs to be advertised separately to increase their visibility, broaden out the appeal of the course, and to enhance its marketing advantages to be translated into increased student numbers.

The Dean thanked both readers for their internal reports and Prof. Simon Wilson for attending the meeting. The committee recommended the course proposal for Council approval. Given that the proposal has not been externally reviewed yet it will be submitted to a future Council when a report becomes available.

> **Decision GS/22-23/069:** The committee recommended the course proposal for Council approval subject to external review.

**XX    GS/22-23/070: Updated proposal on MSc dissertation regulations – Memo from the Dean of Graduate Studies;** Dr Ríonnagh Sheridan, Programme Coordinator and Analyst, PG Renewal Programme attended online

The Dean referred members to the circulated memorandum on the proposal to amend the Calendar regulation in respect of failed dissertations on PGT courses. She asked members to share their view on whether any limitations should be placed on who can be offered a second opportunity and what timeline should be available to those submitting again.

In the discussion which followed the following comments were shared:

(i)     The Dean emphasized that making changes to existing regulations requires very careful consideration of the resource implications of supervision of Masters dissertations, as well as the need to calibrate student expectations. Any change needs to be compatible with administrative systems and resources.

(ii)    International students required to take a supplemental assessment may face visa restrictions if they are not registered as full-time students. For some international students therefore, the only option to complete the Masters programme may be to essentially follow existing regulations: request permission to repeat the course in full with all the associated fee and living expenses.

(iii)   In some Schools students who fail taught modules have to repeat them during the summer and may not proceed to the dissertation stage until the pass the whole taught component; in such circumstances students have to leave with a postgraduate diploma exit award. It is therefore difficult to see any timeline which could permit a dissertation repeat period on the existing course year;

(iv)    Currently, there is a variety of practice on Masters courses: on some students have to pass all taught exams on the first sitting to proceed to dissertation while on others, students start working on their dissertations early on in the course well in advance of the exams;

(v)     In some School, especially STEM Schools, staff expressed concern in terms of additional staff capacity and time needed to supervise repeated dissertations and suggested that some boundaries should be put in place to identify those eligible for such a repeat;

(vi)    A question arose whether UG regulations for repeating of the Cap Stone might be helpful as an example how to approach regulations to repeat the Masters dissertation;

(vii)   There was emphasis on the need for students to pass the whole taught component before being allowed to repeat a failed dissertation;

(viii)  In Schools with industry placements repeat students would not be likely to secure a repeat placement; in those Schools where Masters research is carried out in wet labs, repeat students might not be allowed back into the lab; course directors of placement- and wet-lab-based research rely on good will and cooperation of academic staff to let Masters students into their projects and resistance is anticipated towards re-admitting failing students to repeat their dissertation; clear and workable boundaries will have to be put around the issue of who is eligible to repeat a failed dissertation;

(ix)    Boundaries for eligibility to repeat a failed dissertation should ensure that they do not

set repeating students up for a second failure;

(x)      It was suggested that students might have to be within the range of 40-49 (or 30-39, where the pass mark is 40%) to be entitled to a repeat of their dissertation;

(xi)      Experience shows that at vivas failing students are rarely in a position to defend their underperforming dissertation to make it pass;

The Dean summed up the discussion by noting that the majority of members appear to have been clearly in favour of setting in place some boundaries as to eligibility to repeat a failing dissertation. She emphasised the complexity of the issue and that it merits a further discussion amongst academics in Schools. She has asked DTLPs to seek out their colleagues' views and email them to her within the next two weeks to map out what boundaries would work in individual Schools. The next step would then be to streamline the responses into dominant priorities and work them out as College-wide regulations.

> **Decision GS/22-23/070:** DTLPs to consults with colleagues in their Schools within 2 weeks and email feedback to the Dean to identify preferred boundaries for repeat dissertations; preferred trends to be presented at the next GSC.

**XX**      **GS/22-23/071: Postgraduate Open Day 2023 – Ms Beibhinn Coman (Director of Marketing, Trinity Global) to present**

The Dean welcomed Ms Beibhinn Coman to the meeting and referred members to the circulated memorandum, which proposed that the Trinity Postgraduate Open Day online only event be held on Tuesday 28 March 2023 from 5-7pm to attract full-time and part-time applicants. Ms Coman noted that the decision to hold the evening event online was based on archival data for registered students in September 2022 who had registered their interest in the Postgraduate Open Day the previous year.

Ms Coman requested the following support from Schools for the 2023 Postgraduate Open Day:
- A minimum of one academic representative per School available for 30 minutes via MS Teams video Q&A. Ideally a student or second staff members should attend if more applicant traffic is anticipated.
- Slide per School for the PGR presentation.
- Opportunity to update School course videos by Friday 10th March (optional).

In a short discussion which followed members shared the following views:

(i)      The proposed day scheduled towards the end of March for the Open Day 2023 is too late as in some Schools recruitment would have commenced well prior to the date. The Director of Marketing noted that the date has been modelled on the example of the previous year. She undertook to send out a poll to seek responses from Schools about the most convenient earlier date to push the 2024 Open Day forward. The approach was supported by the Dean who suggested that the next year's day can be decided on in advance of the arrival of the data.

(ii)      A member commented that the proposed evening slot might be too late for applicants from Asia. The Director of Marketing responded that there is already a significant interest from that location and that Trinity is attempting to attract interest

from the United States, Europe and Ireland and hence an evening slot has been chosen. There will be recordings made on the day subsequently available online which can be accessed by applicants from Asia.

The Dean summed up the discussion by noting that the format, date and asks advanced by the Director of Marketing have been approved to proceed.

> **Decision GS/22-23/071:** The format, date and asks advanced by the Director of Marketing have been approved.

In conclusion, the Director of Marketing referred members to her Marketing Update memo circulated under Agenda Item 9(i) in reference to the Trinity Postgraduate Renewal Project as part of Work Package #3. She advised that all course pages on www.tcd.ie/courses/postgraduate are being re-written under agreed new headings using content from the main courses' website and Schools course pages. The revised content will be circulated to all Schools in March 2023 as part of the annual admissions rollover content update email. All postgraduate course content will be circulated to be reviewed and to be returned by 31st May 2023. Further detailed communication in relation to the issue will be forthcoming to GSC in due course.

XX      **GS/22-23/072: Admissions Strategy – Memo from Dean of Graduate Studies; Ms Fedelma McNamara (Executive Director – ASD) to attend**
The Dean welcomed Ms Fedelma McNamara, Executive Director (ASD). The Dean referred members to the circulated memorandum on the Admissions Strategy incorporating extracts from the memorandum submitted by the Vice Provost to Council in November 2022. She asked members to consider the question of how the Trinity of the future can be imagined and what student body make-up it should have. Developing a clear vision for the Trinity's future look should lead to a development of a corresponding strategy to avail of new opportunities and address new challenges. The Executive Director referred to the invitation to consultation meetings in February, recently circulated in College outlining the rationale for the first stage of consultation and questions to be explored in the consultation process. The Graduate Studies Committee is part of that consultation and members have been asked for their views on two over-arching questions:
1. Which areas i.e., UG, PGT or PGR would Schools wish to grow going forward?
2. What is Schools' ambition around the types of courses they might offer?

In a short discussion which followed members shared their views as follows:
(i)      The School of Medicine has been recently trying to rationalize their current suite of 27 PGT courses wondering whether it reached a saturation point and should concentrate on the consolidation rather than further growth. The only clear need for growth the School has identified is in the area of Macro Credentials (MCs) but they cannot tap into it as they are not part of the current pilot. The School has identified a huge market of professionals in need of immediate up-skilling via MCs and would wish the pilot project to conclude and new Schools being allowed to avail of MCs as a new teaching format.
(ii)     It is important to view a vision for the future within the context of realistic expectations for student space and staff resources that would be required in

response to increased numbers of PG and UG students. Some Schools, to which the School of English belongs, currently experience shortage of desks for PGR students and there are other barriers to growth to address such as insufficient funding for PGR students.

(iii) An issue of insufficient financial returns for Schools for growing PGT programmes has been identified. PGT suites require a lot of effort to develop and run but bring limited financial benefits to Schools for their efforts. There could be new areas to set up new courses in but there is limited appetite to develop new programmes.

(iv) The only essential area for future growth is to do with PGR student numbers as Trinity's academic reputation is based on its research standing. However, insufficient funding for research students and research projects is an obstacle for growth. It appears that the SFI and IRC are going to merge in the near future which might bring increased financial opportunities for growth in the PGR area. Even at the expense of reduced project funding it would be worth co-funding PGR stipends to recruit more students and from more diversified social backgrounds to tap into all talented candidates.

(v) It should be possible to increase PGR student numbers by offering different PhD thesis formats.

(vi) It might be prudent to offer fewer PGT courses but attract higher quality of students.

The Dean summed up the discussion by noting that the dominant voice was that Trinity of the future should develop its PGR area. She noticed that the issue has only been touched upon at the meeting and would need to be returned to at a future date for a proper discussion.

> **Action GS/22-23/072:** The topic of Trinity's vision for the future to be discussed at a future meeting.

XX **GS/22-23/073: PhD thesis format – Memo from Prof. Noel Ó Murchadha (School of Education, DTLP)**
The Dean referred members to the circulated memorandum from Prof. Noel Ó Murchadha from the School of Education. The School is seeking approval for a new integrated thesis format of the School's structured PhD Programme. The proposed addition would allow students to include published or submitted papers in their thesis. The integrated format would stand alongside, and would be available in addition to, the traditional monograph structure. Within the integrated format, the research papers would be integrated into the body of the thesis as chapters. The thesis would be bookended by an introduction and conclusion and would also include a methodology chapter. The Dean asked members for their views but since no comments were forthcoming, she concluded that the proposal had members' support.

> **Decision GS/22-23/073:** PhD thesis format from the School of Education integrating published or submitted papers in PhD thesis has been recommended for Council approval.

XX **GS/22-23/074: PG Renewal update – Ms Leona Coady, PG Renewal Progamme Director (i) PG Renewal Programme Work Package#3 (marketing update) – Memo from Ms Beibhinn Coman**

**(Director of Marketing, Trinity Global)**

The circulated memorandum from Ms Beibhinn Coman, Director of Marketing, Trinity Global, which refers to the Trinity Postgraduate Renewal Project – Work Package #3 (Marketing Update) was already raised by the Director of Marketing under Agenda Item 6.

Due to time constrains, a monthly PG Renewal update normally delivered by the Ms Leona Coady, PG Renewal Progamme Director has not taken place although the monthly slide has been circulated in advance of the meeting.

**XX**   **GS/22-23/075: PG Renewal: PhD supervision guidelines – Memo and discussion document from Prof. Rachel McLoughlin (WP#2 Lead, Postgraduate Research Student Activities) to attend**
The Dean welcomed Prof. Rachel McLoughlin (WP#2 Lead, Postgraduate Research Student Activities) and invited her to speak to the circulated memorandum on proposed revisions to the Supervision of Research Students Best Practice Guide. Prof. McLoughlin underlined that the proposed changes to the Guide aimed at enhancing it and welcomed comments from members on additional improvements to the guidelines.

> **Action GS/22-23/075** Members to email Prof. McLoughlin their suggestions how to further improve the Guide.

**XX**   **GS/22-23/076: PG Renewal: PhD supervision agreement - Memo and discussion document from Prof. Rachel McLoughlin (WP#2 Lead, PG Research Student Activities) to attend**
Prof. Rachel McLoughlin, the WP#2 Lead, PG Research Student Activities, noted that the proposed PhD supervision agreement has been developed after a clear need for one was identified the previous year. The proposed agreement is broken down in four parts which aim to capture the wholeness of the PGR experience in College opened to enhancement within the supervisor-student relationship. There was a very brief discussion in which members expressed their willingness to pilot the agreement in their Schools in 2023/24. A suggestion was put forward that the agreement should be considered with thesis committees and that the agreement should be part of the first meeting discussion with the PGR student.

There was a clearly articulated view that the language in some places of the agreement should be adjusted to reduce the burden of responsibility it places on the supervisor and to bring more responsibility for their action onto the university and the student. It was agreed that members should email Prof. McLoughlin within the next two days their comments as to how to improve the agreement before it becomes submitted to Council.

> **Action GS/22-23/076** Members to email Prof. McLoughlin their suggestions how to improve the agreement within the next two days.

**XX**   **GS/22-23/077: PG Renewal: Review of English language admission requirements - Memo and discussion document from Profs. Ashley Clements and Richard Reilly (WP #1 Co-Leads); Prof. Richard Reilly to attend;** Dr Ríonnagh Sheridan, Programme Coordinator and Analyst, PG Renewal Programme attended online

The Dean welcomed Prof. Richard Reilly, a Co-Lead on the PG Renewal WP#1. Prof. Reilly spoke to a slide presentation based on the circulated memorandum taken as read. He noted that his WP's task was review English Language (EL) Requirements for PG programmes, including capacity to link to student trajectory. He listed the findings of that review that called for significant changes such as: an introduction of a new and flexible system of EL entry requirements; clear communication of revised EL entry requirements alongside a data cleaning exercise to eliminate contradictory information in various College locations including online publications; regular review of the EL requirements to ensure fitness for purpose into the future; and provision of enhanced EL supports by conducting a data analysis exercise to understand the relationship between EL proficiency and academic attainment in Trinity and by expanding supports to students aimed at deepening their language skills throughout their whole course of study.

Due to the time constraints, a discussion which ensued was only preliminary, but members supported the recommendations and proposed further in depth consultations also with additional stakeholders such as Postgraduate Advisory Service and IT Services (to assist with data gathering). Additional comments noted whether it might be useful to test applicants' EL discipline-specific technical abilities in addition to the general EL competence and whether EL competence of PGR students should be at a higher level upon entry. The DTLP from the School of Biochemistry and Immunology noted that in his School, PG students find it difficult to understand the Irish accent which dominates amongst the English-speaking academic staff there. He suggested that Irish accent-based podcasts should be uploaded amongst the marketing materials to prepare applicants for the accent in advance of their arrival to Trinity.

> **Decision GS/22-23/077** Members recommended to Council the recommendations on English language supports and guidelines prepared by PG Renewal WP#1.

XX     **GS/22-23/078: Academic Integrity Working Group 2022/23 – Prof. Kevin Kelly (School of Engineering DUTL) to update**
The Dean of Graduate Studies invited Prof. Kevin Kelly from the School of Engineering to speak on the item noting that he had recently delivered a similar presentation at the Undergraduate Studies Committee. She noted that since last November Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools have been freely available. They generate texts that go undetected by plagiarism software which is particularly of concern in relation to the essay assessment format dominant in many PGT modules. Prof. Kelly's presentation aims to increase members' understanding of the AI-related assessment risks.

Prof. Kelly underlined that the topic is all over the media and the focus of intense discussion in all Universities. He demonstrated examples of AI-generated type of plagiarism across a broad range of disciplines ranging from Business, French to Physiology, Physics and Maths. He offered some short-term, medium term, and long-term solutions to combat the AI-generated academic misconduct. He outlined how to carry out a risk audit, stating this could initiate dialogue within Schools.

A discussion ensued and members shared a view that the issue should initially be approached on the College level to arrive at board recommendations before they can be implemented by individual academics. Some members stated that the AI technology could be harnessed for a practical pedagogical use and incorporated into assessments. There was little enthusiasm for re-

considering the format of summative assessment to include oral examinations instead of the currently dominant written ones. The Dean underlined, and Members agreed, that this was a pressing matter as Semester 2 assessments need detailed review if there is to be confidence in decisions at the end of the semester. Integrity of Trinity's awards was ultimately at stake. The Dean of Graduate Studies stated that the issue raises serious questions as to how not only Trinity's assessments but also its degree awards can be safeguarded. She advised that a circular email will go out shortly to invite academic staff to review the assessment format by the 17 February. The Dean suggested that it is important that all academics carry out a comprehensive audit of the AI risk of assessment integrity across each of their programmes.

> **Action GS/22-23/078** Members to raise awareness of the AI-related risk in their Schools and complete a comprehensive audit of the AI risk of assessment integrity across each of their programmes

**XX    GS/22-23/079: Any Other Business**
(i) update on LERU & "in person" meeting format by Dean of Graduate Studies
(ii)(*The Research Factor* – A  Competition – Memo from the Dean of Graduate Studies

There issues were not raised due to the time constrains.

**XX    Section B for noting and approval**

**XX    GS/22-23/080: Recommencing of MSc Diagnostic Radiography for admission from September 2023 – Memo from Prof. Catherine Darker (School of Medicine DTLP)**
The MSc in Diagnostic Radiography commenced in September 2019.  In 2020, the programme was approved by CORU as a professional training degree for diagnostic radiography in Ireland.  Delays in recruitment led to the course being suspended due to insufficient staffing levels. Interviews were recently held for the Assistant Professor in Diagnostic Radiography and a successful candidate was appointed on 1$^{st}$ December 2022 which makes it possible to manage year 1 and year 2 of the programme concurrently. Permission to reopen the course for an intake in September 2023 is being sought and positive recommendation was extended to Council by the GSC.

> **Decision GS/22-23/080**: The committee recommended to Council recommencement of the MSc in Diagnostic Radiography from September 2023.

**XX    Section C for noting**
None.

The Dean thanked all the committee members. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12.30pm.

Prof. Martine Smith                                                          26 January 2023