

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held in College Boardroom in Trinity Business School
and online at 10am Thursday 23 February 2023

XX = Council relevance

Present (Ex officio):

Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies (*Chair*)

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:

Professor Laurent Muzellec, Trinity Business School

Professor Ivana Dusparic, School of Computer Science and Statistics

Professor Paula Quigley, School of Creative Arts

Professor Ioannis Polyzois, School of Dental Science

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 Ashley Clements, School of Histories & Humanities

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 Carlos Medina Martin, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

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 Jake Byrne, Academic Director, Tangent

Dr Geoffrey Bradley, Information Technology Services Representative

Dr Cormac Doran, Assistant Academic Secretary, Graduate Education, TT&L

Ms Ewa Sadowska Administrative Officer (Academic Affairs, TT&L)

Ms Sian Bradley, Executive Officer

In attendance for all items:

Ms Patricia Callaghan, Academic Secretary, Head of Trinity Teaching & Learning, (TT&L)

Mr Martin McAndrew, Postgraduate Student Support Officer, Senior Tutor's Office

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 David Finlay, School of Biochemistry & Immunology
Professor Stephen Connon, School of Chemistry
Professor Erna O'Connor, School of Social Work & Social Policy
Ms Leona Coady, Programme Director, Postgraduate Renewal Programme
Ms Siobhan Dunne, Sub Librarian for Teaching, Research and User Experience
Ms Breda Walls, Director of Student Services

In attendance for individual items:

Mr Declan Treanor, Director, Trinity Disability Service, for item GS/22-23/084
Ms Jennifer Pepper, Director, Academic Registry and Mr Peter Hynes, Head of Business Support and Planning, Academic Registry, for item GS/22-23/085
Ms Ewa Adach, Programme Analyst & Coordinator, PG Renewal Programme, for item GS/22-23/087

XX Section A

XX GS/22-23/081 Minutes of GSC of 26 January 2023

The minutes were approved as circulated.

XX GS/22-23/082 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. The Dean also noted that all GSC decisions recommended at the January meeting on Agenda A and B were approved by Council at their last meeting in February 2023. In addition to the Dean's memo, circulated in advance of the meeting, she made specific comments in relation to the following issues:

Agenda A:

- GS/22-23/032: Uplift in funding to PhD students. An uplift of €500 to all students funded under 1252, Ussher, Provost PhD awards, Grattan and Mitchell scholarships was paid in February, with a second uplift due in March to eligible students, in line with the uplifts from the funding agencies.
- GS/22-23/068 MSc in Regulatory Affairs for Medical Devices: The course proposal was approved by the last Council in February.
- GS/22-23/069 Top up PG Dip and MSc in Statistics and Data Science (online): The course was approved at the last sitting of Council in February. The Dean congratulated the course proposers and extended special thanks to DTLPs who reviewed the proposals and to Ewa Sadowska for her support throughout the course development and approval process.
- GS/22-23/070: Repeating Masters dissertations: The issue will be addressed at the next meeting in March. The Dean underlined that timing is critical if a Calendar change for 2023/24 is to be brought forward.

- GS/22-23/071: PG Open Evening. As in the previous year, the Dean will be attending for one hour slot related to research queries. She will be using School slides from two years before but will replace them should amended ones be submitted in advance of the Open Day.

Agenda B:

- GS/22-23/080: Recommencement of the MSc in Diagnostic Radiography from September 2023 - approved by the last Council.

XX GS/22-23/083 Update of PGT External Examiner process - Memo from Dr Cormac Doran, Assistant Academic Secretary - Graduate Education (TT&L)

The Dean invited Dr Cormac Doran, Assistant Academic Secretary - Graduate Education to speak to the circulated memorandum and slide presentation on the PGT External Examiner process. The Assistant Academic Secretary - Graduate Education proposed the following two changes:

- 1: There will be one annual call for all nominations issued by the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies in late February. The change streamlines the nomination process so that there is a clear deadline by which Schools must nominate examiners, hereby avoiding the situation where Schools may unexpectedly find that they do not have a properly approved examiner in place.
- 2: Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies will provide a template letter to Schools to communicate directly with newly appointed external examiners and issue a welcome pack. This change seeks to redress the balance in the communication with examiners by returning control of that to the Schools in line with practice for UG external examiners.

The memorandum further detailed planned operational adjustments to improve communication between External Examiners, Schools and the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies. These include a new email address solely for the submission of PGT annual reports, increased automation within the annual report form and changes from the central repository to a more streamlined system to host external examiner reports, using sharepoint in Microsoft 365. Upskilling workshops will be provided to staff involved in the External Examiner process.

The Dean thanked the Assistant Academic Secretary - Graduate Education for his presentation and a short discussion followed in which members supported the proposed changes. The School of Natural Sciences DTLP advised that comments from colleagues in his School were very positive. In response to his query, the Assistant Academic Secretary - Graduate Education explained that before the adjustments are rolled out feedback from School Managers, currently in progress, will have been completed. The Dean underlined that the intention is to progress with the roll out as soon as the consultation stage is finalised.

Decision GS/22-23/083: The committee recommended for Council approval the proposed changes as presented in the memorandum.

XX GS/22-23/084 Revised Trinity Reasonable Accommodation Policy - Declan Treanor, Director (Trinity Disability Service) to present

Declan Treanor, Director of Trinity Disability Service, welcomed by the Dean, explained that the

purpose of the Reasonable Accommodation Policy (RAP) and the associated Code of Practice (Appendix 1) is to provide a framework for arranging Reasonable Accommodations (RAs) for students with disabilities in Trinity.

Speaking to a slide presentation, the Director of Trinity Disability Service explained that no changes are proposed to the main policy set up in 2018 apart from a reference to the HEA Act 2022. There are no material changes to Appendix 1 – Code of Practice for students with disabilities apart from updating the disability language, ensuring gender neutrality, inserting web hyperlinks and updating RA procedures. An additional Appendix 2 has been included on “Guidelines for students and staff on the modification of examinations and assessment arrangement for students with disabilities.” The Director of Trinity Disability Service commented on an increasing number of students availing of Disability Service supports between 2011/12 and 2021/22, disability types, proportion of UG and PG students with disabilities in relation to total cohorts admitted, standard and non-standard RAs available to students, and the fundamental role of LENS reports as a basis for students’ application for support from the Trinity Disability Service.

The committee was asked to support the proposed changes to the policy and to assist in ensuring that staff in their Schools are fully aware of their responsibility to implement RAs. The third request, the Dean clarified, pertains more to her Office as it relates to the inclusion of additions in Calendar part 3 aligning the information on disability supports with the revised policy and guidelines. The Dean opened the floor for members’ comments. Members were happy to support the proposed changes with respect to the first two requests.

The School of Natural Sciences DTLP offered his comment on the LENS report in his School. He explained that UG LENS reports filter down smoothly to module coordinators in SITS but are causing difficulties at the PG level where they randomly filter through to the School DTLP, administrative staff or course coordinators rather than going down to module coordinators. There is therefore an impaired awareness of disability issues of individual PG students by module coordinators as they need to be separately contacted by course coordinators which takes time. While at the UG level RAs are of pre-set standard type, at the PG level they are mainly bespoke non-standard ones which require more effort and time to be worked out. The second issue raised was to do with the one year duration of most PG courses and the students’ perception that this leaves them with insufficient time to contact the Disability Service. Instead, they tend to discuss their disability needs directly with the postgraduate coordinators of their courses. The Director of Trinity Disability Service undertook to contact the AR in relation to the first concern as his understanding was that when the name of a module coordinator is linked to the module in SITS, irrespective of it being an UG or a PG module, the LENS report should automatically filter down to that name. In relation to the second issue his concern was about the introduction of local accommodations without consultation with his Service ignoring the policy stipulations which are both to protect staff and guide them in best practice on disability provisions. Once documentation is uploaded on the portal, the Disability Service staff are very responsive and can meet academics promptly directly dealing with disability needs of Masters students.

Action GS/22-23/084 (i): Members undertook to raise awareness in their Schools of the Trinity Reasonable Accommodation Policy and its provisions for reasonable accommodation

for PG students with disabilities.

Action GS/22-23/084 (ii): The Director of Trinity Disability Service to follow with the AR on the correct filtering through SITS of PG LENS reports directly to module coordinators.

Decision GS/22-23/084: The committee recommended for Council approval the proposed changes to the Trinity Reasonable Accommodation Policy as outlined in the memorandum.

XX GS/22-23/085 Academic Registry Annual Report for 2021/22 – Jennifer Pepper, Director and Peter Hynes, Head of Business Support and Planning (Academic Registry) to present

The Dean welcomed Ms Jennifer Pepper, Director of Academic Registry and Mr Peter Hynes, Head of Business Support and Planning in Academic Registry to speak to the Academic Registry Annual Report 2021/22 circulated in advance of the meeting. The Report presents core activities of the AR in addition to the extraordinary and additional activities undertaken in the year. Ms Pepper spoke to a slide presentation which presented an overview of the AR activities in 2021/22, the academic year still under the shadow of the Covid pandemic, including key statistics on applications and admissions, registration numbers, student finance, student cases, assessment and progression including examination sittings and graduations. The four KPI's for which the Academic Registry has sole responsibility to deliver were comfortably within target

The Dean thanked the Director of Academic Registry for her update. The Dean underlined that the Academic Registry team engaged with the Postgraduate Renewal Programme across all work packages and provided meaningful data enabling her to make the latest submission to the Board seeking changes to the funding for PGR students by waiving postgraduate fee differential and setting up a living stipend on centrally funded internal College Awards. The Dean also acknowledged with appreciation the extensive support the AR provides for various academic activities across College.

The Academic Secretary sought clarification with respect to enhancements of the IT system. The Head of Business Support and Planning in Academic Registry explained that such enhancements are continuous developments rather than once-off periodic improvements. The system is never static and becomes updated as a result of on-going academic activities such as policy stipulations, committee decisions, student surveys or repeated queries resulting in bringing about multiple iterative changes during the year some of which are on a larger scale than others. Enhancements to remove stumbling blocks to users are regularly identified for improvement.

The Dean reflected with satisfaction on the rise of PG applications in 2021/22 but noticed that the challenge is to convert the applications into registrations without losing the candidates. The conversion rate is unfortunately much lower than the application rate. The Dean noted with concern the lower steady state in STEM in the past number of years and some decline also affecting Health Sciences. The steady state in relation to PG student cases is around 2,300 for a PG cohort of over four thousand students while it is only around 4,000 cases for an UG cohort which is three times larger. The PG statistics reflects a number of impactful factors which the University should examine. PG students are in a different stage in life, they are a more diverse cohort incorporating a bigger proportion of international students. The PG team working on student cases is very small and yet they have to deal with disproportionately numerous cases.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery DTLP underlined the phenomenal improvements in the working of the AR over the last year, and on behalf of members expressed appreciation for the hard work of the AR staff asking that the acknowledgement be fed back to the AR team.

The Dean thanked both AR representatives for their presentation at the meeting.

Action GS/22-23/085: The Director of Academic Registry suggested that any specific questions could be emailed to her, and she would respond to such individual queries directly.

XX GS/22-23/086 PG Renewal: update by Ms Leona Coady, PG Renewal Programme Director; Dean of Graduate Studies to present

The Dean started off by reminding members that they would need to address a particular financial item before the end of the term namely the teaching and learning support costs to Schools and the plan to manage the direct payment of those from the coming September. She advised that she will reach out to Schools to gather information on the issue shortly.

Subsequently, the Dean gave a brief overview of recent PG Renewal developments illustrated on the circulated monthly slide. She noted that the School Committee Road Shows are being continued and outstanding visits are being scheduled with the Schools. The supervision guidelines were approved by the last Council. The Dean referred to the roles and responsibilities for students' development of multi-dimensional skillset championed by the QQI, and pondered who, other than only the supervisor, might need to be involved in assisting students in its development without breaking the current system under the weight of the exercise. That WP is also looking at thesis committee guidelines and learning supports for PGR students intending to bring proposals to the forthcoming meetings. The Triple I and Curriculum WP are focusing on the research component of the PGT programmes. There will be a paper on appeals from the Student/Staff Experience WP. The Staff WP is working on benchmarking best practice for conflict management in supervision. Within the Student Lifecycle WP, the AR will be implementing the recent financial changes made by Board to the funding for PGR students by waiving postgraduate fee differential and setting up a living stipend for PGR students on centrally funded internal College Awards.

The Dean contextualised the Board's recent two financial decisions with respect to PGR student award schemes against the Provost's vision of a "good" university. She referred to two books on the idea of the "good" university which inspired the Provost. A "good" university is characterised by the values of being democratic, creative, sustainable, engaged, truthful and resting on solid social commitments and operating within a finite ecological ceiling. The Dean guided members to consider the new awards through the lens of the "good" university characteristics.

With respect to the waiving of postgraduate fee differential, the Dean noted that this applies only to students recruited through Science Foundation Ireland, Irish Research Council and Health Research Board awards. The fee waiver represents a significant shift in College policy. For many years, researchers and Schools have struggled to bridge the gap between what funding agencies pay towards PhD fees and the actual fee that is charged at a College level. As a result, decisions about

specific students might have rested heavily on considerations of affordability to the School, rather than being driven by student eligibility. The fee waiver will be introduced on a pilot basis from September 2023 for only new entrants, EU and Non-EU fee bands, and it will not come at a cost of the BPA income to Schools. The Dean offered to receive suggestions from members on possible expansion of the initiative without promising that the suggestions will be submitted anytime soon for consideration by the College Board.

The Dean explained that the pilot will aim to evidence that the fee waiver will effectively remove barriers to recruitment of the most able PGR applicants and will increase the diversity of the research student body. A matrix will need to be set up to measure the effectiveness of the fee waiver to satisfy the Board that its fee changes have been effective, and the initiative needs to be rolled out. Members will be asked to come up with the data to substantiate the roll out argument.

In terms of three internal College research awards (the Ussher, the '1252' Postgraduate Research Studentships and the Provost PhD awards), the Dean noted that none of the schemes had to date offered a stipend that kept pace with the cost of living in Ireland and as a result, many PGR students have faced financial pressures. A proposal to consolidate the three schemes into one and increase its associated stipend to €25,000, with effect from September 2023, approved by the College Board will apply only to new students recruited to the new, consolidated scheme, but to all students continuing on the PhD register on any of the three internal College schemes for the remaining years of their award entitlement. PGR students who will benefit from this stipend uplift represent a small proportion (less than 15%) of the overall cohort of research students in College. As a result of providing a living stipend, the current number of awards numbering 70 new awards per annum across the three schemes (i.e., ca. 280 awards at any one time) cannot be maintained. One new Trinity "living stipend" award of €25,000 to cover four years of PhD study and not contingent on doing additional teaching within the School has been secured per School each year. It is anticipated there will also be around twenty others to be disbursed across all Schools. The Dean asked members for ideas as to how these additional twenty awards can be distributed against the vision of the "good" university.

The Dean opened the floor for discussion and the following suggestions on possible handling the new awards have been made:

- (i) They could be opened to part-time applicants as they never get access to research awards because they cannot study full-time
- (ii) They could be limited to academics who are getting their first PhD students; they could support early career academic staff to provide them with an opportunity to supervise as it is harder for them to win the grants
- (iii) They could be available to UG graduates who are asylum-seekers and participants in the University of Sanctuary as currently there are no scholarships for PG students in the scheme
- (iv) They can be opened to students with dependents
- (v) They can be opened to TAP-originating students
- (vi) They can be earmarked for specific communities including ethnic diversities, Travellers, people of colour, LGBT applicants, and on LGBT-related research topics by general applicants with aptitude but who would not have normally access to the research

- register
- (vii) Areas in non-disciplinary specific thematic research could be identified and brought together, which might be split between STEM and the Humanities, but could create new collaborations between students working across Schools; a multi-disciplinary panel could be set up to look to the strengths in applications to enable independent collaborative research which does not demarcate the science project from the humanities one
 - (viii) The Trinity awards were historically bottom up rather than top down which allowed independent researchers to come up with their own ideas. This approach could be compatible with the idea that as part of the selection process applicants without their supervisors could be expected to propose projects which would address either the ecological or social foundation issues thus satisfying the broad goals of the new “good university” award scheme. As there are relatively few bottom up awards they should be preserved.
 - (ix) A CHARM-EU-related PGR award might induce other European partner universities to set up comparable award thus expanding a research base for the collaborative programme
 - (x) Schools should be asked to identify barriers to funding certain types of research projects which might be supported by the new scheme
 - (xi) The new scheme could be used flexibly for matching up funds in the same way as the 1252 left over years were used
 - (xii) The scheme could be used to encourage interdisciplinary research between a Trinity PI teaming up with a counterpart from outside University.
 - (xiii) It is important not to overtly constrain the area of the new awards as some suggestions proposed may have inbuilt biases towards the kinds of networks and research that Schools carry out. There are other ceilings in addition to the ecological and social. There can be some research projects in the environmental humanities but by its very nature the ecological ceiling finds its home more within the School of Natural Sciences than in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies potentially limiting the latter’s access to the new scheme. Schools could be asked to recruit to projects addressing some kind of aspect of the social floor. Projects can address broader social issues such as crisis of democracy or digital transition.
 - (xiv) Historically under-represented groups should be facilitated towards PhD research, but the scheme should be linked to provisions on the UG and Masters pathway. The School of Education has long struggled to recruit to the PhD register a member of a Travelling community historically under-represented at earlier education stages.
 - (xv) The PI model in the area of Sciences does not unfortunately attract the best applicants. Best applicants with original ideas for research do not tend to apply for a top down award which designates an already existing project. Top bright applicants come with their own imaginative field-changing perspective. Some Schools might be therefore in favour of a bottom up approach where a thematic area has been identified but the student identifies their own research project in the area.

The Dean thanked members for their suggestions and concluded by stating that a diversity of the approaches would be safeguarded in the new award scheme.

XX GS/22-23/087 PG Renewal: Revised PhD supervision agreement - Memo and discussion document from Prof. Rachel McLoughlin (WP#2 Lead, PG Research Student Activities) and Ms Ewa Adach, Programme Analyst & Coordinator; Dean of Graduate Studies to present

The Dean noted that on 8 February 2023, Council approved in principle the introduction of a Supervisor – Research Student Agreement on a pilot basis for the academic year 2023-24. The pilot will test what aspects of the agreement work and which do not. It is hoped that if the pilot works, it will be adopted voluntarily across College as it will be of enormous benefit to both the supervisor and the student. Council also approved the recommendations on English language guidelines.

The School of Natural Sciences DTLP passed on his colleagues' concerns that it is not clear what can be done when 'the student is not doing what was agreed upon.' The Dean noted that students have also sought clarification on the supports available to them when 'the supervisor is not doing what was agreed upon.' She suggested that such information should be provided upfront by advising in both instances that the complaining parties should contact the School DTLP in the first instance. The Dean's view was that such complaints might not be that frequent when the agreement becomes activated, and therefore she anticipates few such complaints the following year when the pilot will take place. She hopes that the agreement, although not intended as mandatory, will be widely adopted across all Schools on a voluntary basis having proved its usefulness in practice. There is no intention that parties to the agreement have to go through every single item listed but it is expected that they address the four areas.

The Dean invited Ms Ewa Adach, Programme Analyst & Coordinator, to speak to a slide illustrating the updates introduced to the last version of the agreement. The Programme Analyst & Coordinator noted that following consultation with the representatives of postgraduate student community, several new revisions have been suggested, which are highlighted in the circulated agreement iteration. The discussion document contains feedback provided by GSC members. It is hoped to identify additional volunteers for the pilot to engage and those interested can email Ewa Adach for further details.

A discussion followed, and the below comments were expressed:

- (i) The agreement was discussed in the School of Medicine and was considered helpful by explicitly articulating the implicit. A strong opposition was voiced however against the requirement to physically sign the agreement which was perceived as a move towards a contractual document. The agreement should be seen instead as a code of good practice. However, there are still a number of volunteers from the School who would like to participate in the pilot.
- (ii) The Dean's view was that having the student to sign the agreement should be the most effective way of making them stick to the commitments undertaken. Signing indicates that the student takes the agreement seriously and is an important trust building aspect of the agreement for the student as much as for the supervisor.
- (iii) Other members expressed the view against signing the agreement which they took as a sign of over-regulation. The agreement should be limited to a code of good practice setting out the expectations for both the student and the supervisor rather than a box ticking exercise. There are no sanctions stipulated for the student when things break down in the relationship with the supervisor.

- (iv) Having recognized the value of the agreement as a best practice document, the School of Natural Sciences DTLP reported on some of the negatives articulated by his colleagues. The agreement appears to “fall between the stools” outlining good practice on the one hand but on the other due to the requirement of signing it and the high level of prescription and of responsibility placed on the supervisor it causes a lot of anxiety for the academics. There is no clarity what the procedure is when the relationship breaks down. Signing makes it look like a legally binding document but there is no process whereby there is a formal set of appeal steps distinct from the Dignity and Respect Policy when a breach in the student-supervisor relationship occurs. Responsibilities are put on the supervisor which are normally deemed out of their purview like students’ health and safety training. Members agreed that language in relation to the supervisor’s responsibility should be reviewed and more nuanced.
- (v) Some members were very much in favour of signing the agreement whereby the signatories show they take it seriously and make a commitment to stick to their undertaking. Signing is important from the student’s perspective. The agreement states clearly that it is not a contract, and that it is not binding and hence putting a signature on the agreement indicates that understanding on the part of the signing parties.
- (vi) The proposed wording of calling PGR students “researchers” may be taken to indicate that the students are employees of Trinity especially by international students who hold such status in some countries like Germany. It is therefore essential to avoid this ambiguity by retaining instead the designation of PGR students in the agreement. This suggestion was supported by members and the Dean.

The Dean thanked members for their comments. She concluded the discussion by underlining that she was still of the view that signing the agreement should be an integral part of the process. The student who has signed a non-plagiarism undertaking but subsequently committed an act of plagiarism can be taken to task that he did it intentionally as he was aware of the act he undertook not to commit. The same applies to signing the supervisor agreement: the act of signing places that much more responsibility on the student to stick to the stipulations and to make them aware of what the mutual expectations will involve. The signature indicates that the expectations are taken as reasonable. The language more that the intent might be a cause of current concerns, and the Dean undertook to review it. For the pilot the agreement will be signed.

Action GS/22-23/087: Volunteers for piloting the PhD supervision agreement should contact Ewa Adach directly.

XX GS/22-23/088 Academic Integrity Working Group 2022/23 – update from Dean Graduate Studies

The Dean advised that the “Responding to and Managing Academic Misconduct” sub-group she chairs has not met for some time but that there will be an academic integrity survey of staff and students going out over the next couple of weeks. Together with the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies the Dean issued a number of communications and received back some feedback to identify the next critical steps. The next key one will be to differentiate plagiarism from the use of ChatGPT which is not classical plagiarism and what this means for the processes in Trinity.

XX GS/22-23/089 Any Other Business

(i) LERU Summer School

The Dean reminded members that high quality applications were being sought from postgraduate research students in their final years of study to represent Trinity at LERU Summer School in July 2023 in Heidelberg. Seven applications have come in but the scheme is still open. The Dean will reach out to members shortly to seek volunteers to assist in evaluating the applications.

(ii) Supervision Workshop on 10 March 2023

A half-day in person seminar on research supervision will be held on March the 10th. The speakers are both local and external, places are limited but still available. The Dean advised that the workshop will be especially useful to new academics to network around the issue of supervision.

(iii) National review of PhD conditions and supports

The Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, announced the national review of PhD conditions and supports and has appointed reviewers who have recently begun their work. Trinity has not yet had an invitation to formally engage with them, and neither has the IUA but the report is still expected to be delivered by the end of March. Trinity will be championing the living stipend.

XX Section B for noting and approval

XX GS/22-23/090 Suspension of Theory, History, Practice (THP) strand of the MPhil in Film Studies for 2023/24 - Memo from Prof. Ruth Barton (Head of Department of Film)

The Dean referred members to the request from Prof. Ruth Barton, Head of Department of Film, to suspend the Theory, History, Practice strand of the MPhil in Film Studies for one year (2023/24) and to reopen it for applications in November 2023 for the academic year 2024/25, pending resolution of staffing issues resulting from the application by the Course Director for one semester Research Leave in 2023/24. The rationale for this request is to reduce the teaching and administrative load in the department, while maintaining the same intake of MPhil students overall (20-24).

Decision GS/22-23/090: The committee recommended for Council approval the suspension of the Theory, History, Practice strand of the MPhil in Film Studies for one year (2023/24).

XX Section C for noting

XX GS/22-23/091 Minutes of the Royal Irish Academy of Music Associated College Degrees Committee (RIAM ACDC) of 25th October 2022

The minutes of 25 October of Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) Associated Colleges Degrees Committee were circulated to members.

The Dean thanked all the committee members. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11.50am.

Prof. Martine Smith

Date: 23 February 2023