Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting held in College Boardroom in Trinity Business School
at 10am on Thursday 25 January 2024

XX = Council relevance

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

Directors of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) as follows:
Professor Rachel Mc Loughlin, School of Biochemistry & Immunology
Professor Wladislaw Rivkin, Trinity Business School
Professor Ivana Dusparic, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Jennifer O'Meara, 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 Jane Suzanne Carroll, School of English
Professor Russell McLaughlin, School of Genetics & Microbiology
Professor Martine Cuypers, 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 Micha Ruhl, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Brian Keogh, School of Nursing & Midwifery
Professor Cathal Cadogan, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Graham Cross, School of Physics
Professor Lorraine Swords, School of Psychology
Professor Etain Tannam, 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

Ms Siobhan Dunne, Sub Librarian for Teaching, Research and User Experience

Mr Martin McAndrew, Postgraduate Student Support Officer, Senior Tutor's Office
Ms Breda Walls, Director of Student Services
Ms Ewa Sadowska, Administrative Officer (Academic Affairs, TT&L)

In attendance for all items:
Ms Leona Coady, Programme Director, Postgraduate Renewal Programme
Ms Frances Leogue, IT support Administrative Officer, Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies

In attendance for Postgraduate Renewal Items:
Dr Rionnagh Sheridan, Programme Analyst and Coordinator (PG Renewal)

Postgraduate representatives – attendance for all items:
Ms Almudena Moreno Borrallo

Not in attendance – Vacant:
Graduate Students' Union President
Graduate Students' Union Vice-President

Apologies:
Professor Stephen Connon, School of Chemistry
Ms Patricia Callaghan, Academic Secretary (TT&L)
Dr Cormac Doran, Assistant Academic Secretary, Graduate Education (TT&L)
Dr Geoffrey Bradley, Information Technology Services
Mr Rory O'Sullivan, Postgraduate representative
Ewa Adach, Programme Analyst and Coordinator (PG Renewal)

In attendance for individual items:
Prof. John Gallagher, School of Engineering for item GS/23-24/083
Prof. Carmel O'Sullivan, School of Education for item GS/23-24/084
Ms Leticia Peralta, Quality Projects Officer and Ms Roisin Smith, Quality Officer (Quality Office) for item GS/23-24/085

The Dean welcomed three new members, Prof. Jennifer O'Meara (School of Creative Arts), Prof. Jane Suzanne Carroll (School of English) and Prof. Lorraine Swords (School of Psychology) to the Graduate Studies Committee and all members introduced themselves.

XX   **Section A**

XX   **GS/23-24/081 Minutes of GSC of 7 December 2023**
The minutes were approved as circulated.

XX   **GS/23-24/082 Matters Arising**
The Dean advised members that all Actions from the December meeting had been completed or attended to. She also noted that all Decisions from the previous meeting on Agenda A and B were approved by the last Council on the 17th January. Most Matters Arising were closed off and covered in the Dean's memorandum circulated in advance of the meeting.

In addition, the Dean drew members' attention to the following:

Re Action GS/23-24/049 (v): In relation to the draft External Examiner's self-declaration template circulated for review in advance of the meeting, members were satisfied that it was seeking

necessary information to address the Schools' selection criteria prior to the nomination being submitted to the Dean for approval on the understanding that the Schools have signed off that they have asked the External Examiner candidate the relevant questions. Should the Schools have queries in relation to defining the appropriateness of "recent" collaborations of the nominated candidates possibly representing conflict of interest, these should be submitted to the Dean for clarification prior to officially seeking the candidate's nomination.

> **Action GS/23-24/082 (i):** Schools to consult locally and confirm with the Dean within the week that the draft External Examiner's self-declaration template is appropriate for use.
> **Action GS/23-24/082 (ii):** The Dean to circulate via DTLPs and School Managers the final External Examiner's self-declaration template to Schools for local use.

Re Action GS/23-24/059: Extensive revisions of the the Research Supervision (RS) Award application form, based on members' responses, have been completed and student feedback and advice from the Data Protection Office (DPO) are sought to finalise the form for submission to Council (without returning to the GSC for consideration).

> **Action GS/23-24/082 (iii):** Feedback from DPO and students to be sought on the revised RS Award application form.

Re Action GS/23-24/069 (iv): A new working group (WG) was set up by the School of Engineering DTLP with two DTLPs to start exploring a new Industrial PhD format. The WG is planning to get feedback from Trinity Innovation interfacing with academics and industry partners such as Intel on possible approach to the issue.

> **Action GS/23-24/082 (iv):** Renewed request to members to consider joining the WG on Industrial PhD by contacting the School of Engineering DTLP directly.

Re Action GS/23-24/070: Two DTLPs advised the Dean that their Schools were interested in creating a generic Category 2 Module for students in a wide range of disciplines similar to the "Preparing, publishing, and promoting a scientific paper" module proposed by the School of Medicine and approved by Council on the 17th January 2024.

> **Action GS/23-24/082 (v):** The Dean to set up a working group to design a generic module proposal to be considered by the Graduate Studies Committee at a future meeting.
> **Action GS/23-24/082 (vi):** Renewed request to members to advertise locally in Schools an opportunity to join the working group by contacting the Dean directly.

XX **GS/23-24/083 E3 Course Proposal: MSc in Climate Adaptation Engineering – Prof. John Gallagher (School of Engineering) to present**
The Dean welcomed Prof. John Gallagher, a prospective Course Director and introduced his new one-year full-time Masters course of 90 ECTS in Climate Adaptation Engineering to be delivered under the aegis of the E3 initiative, which stands for Engineering, Environment and Emerging Technology. This E3-based proposal involves partnership-based delivery of new and existing modules between the Schools of Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Computer Science and Statistics. The engineering-led course aims to equip graduates with the technical and practical skills to deliver balanced infrastructure solutions that achieve climate resilience through the lens of engineering,

natural sciences, and data science. The course will join the existing E3 suite of Masters in Smart and Sustainable Cities (led by the School of Natural Sciences) and in Sustainability and Statistics (led by the School of Computer Science and Statistics). Prof. Gallagher noted very positive market research carried out in preparation for the course proposal and referred to a unique industry partnership on the 30 ECTS collaborative industry-led research project which will strengthen industry ties and might provide graduates with access to climate adaptation job opportunities.

In a discussion which ensued the following comments were made:
(i) **Action GS/23-24/083 (i):** The proposed Course Director to restore the 'Generative Artificial Intelligence & Academic Integrity' hyperlink on page 15 linked to the Centre for Academic Practice resource on Artificial Intelligence.

Action GS/23-24/083 (ii): The Dean to follow on with the issue via the Academic Integrity Group.

(ii) As it is expected that most dissertation projects will be carried out with external partners, a query arose as to how the quality of companies, projects and local supervisors will be pre-assessed. Prof. Gallagher explained that the School will use its extensive experience accumulated on the Senior Sophister research capstone projects carried out with industry partners over many years. In addition, the School has already held discussions with a professional body of Engineers Ireland accrediting taught programmes. A portfolio of industrial partners is currently being put together, and annual meetings will be held with them to ensure that standards are maintained throughout the duration of the course delivery. Every student will also have an allocated academic supervisor to ensure the academic quality of their research dissertations. The Dean suggested that WP#1 is commencing work under the PG Renewal on the supervision of dissertations and will link in with Prof. Gallagher on the issue of navigating supervision of externally based projects to protect the student, the academic integrity, the process, the workload, and the responsibility of the university.

Action GS/23-24/083 (iii): WP#1 Programme Analyst and Coordinator to liaise with Prof. Gallagher around the issue of maintaining academic quality on the dissertation projects conducted with external partners.

(iii) **Action GS/23-24/083 (iv):** Prof. Gallagher to correct Module Coordinator of the "Introduction to Machine Learning" (CS7000) to Prof. Giovanni di Liberto.

(iv) A concern was raised as to whether incoming students might have sufficient technical skills to cope with the demands of the "Introduction to Machine Learning" Module which might exceed students' general science background. Prof. Gallagher explained that when scoping shared modules for inclusion in the new course, it was noted that the module is question was already delivered on a Masters based in the School of Natural Sciences and requires a non-technical admissions background; this will be made clear in the information to be available to potential applicants.

The Dean concluded by thanking Prof. Gallagher for his course proposal and members for their feedback; the committee endorsed the proposal for Council approval.

> **Decision GS/23-24/083:** The committee endorsed the E3 MSc course proposal in Climate Adaptation Engineering for Council approval subject to changes recommended at the meeting and external reviewer's feedback.

XX **GS/23-24/084 Course Proposal (approval in principle): Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters in Theatre Spaces (Theatre in Social, Participatory Art, Community and Educational Contexts)- Prof. Carmel O'Sullivan (School of Education Head) to present**

The Dean welcomed Prof. Carmel O'Sullivan, School of Education Head, and introduced the Joint Masters course proposal of 120 ECTS in Theatre Spaces (Theatre in Social, Participatory Art, Community and Educational Contexts) under Erasmus Mundus scheme targeting the call deadline of the 15th February 2024. The proposal is very innovative as it is the first-ever European Joint Masters Programme in the field of applied theatre and drama. It is a cooperative project of three universities from Norway i.e., Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Høgskulen på Vestlandet, HVL), Ireland i.e., Trinity College Dublin, and Hungary, i.e., Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church. Zurich University of the Arts will join the consortium as an associated partner. In order to be eligible to apply for the Erasmus Mundus funding, all partners must have received approval to participate in the Masters course from their own institutions. Should the application be successful, the programme will commence in September 2025 with Trinity's contribution to teaching commencing from 2026/27; the course will run for a period of 6 student intakes. Should funding not be granted, the course will not proceed.

The Dean emphasised that what the committee is asked to endorse is not a course proposal as traditionally considered but an "approval in principle" for the School of Education to proceed to apply to the Erasmus Mundus scheme on the collaborative course. "Approval in principle" is given on the understanding that, should the application be successful, it would be unreasonable for GSC to subsequently decide not to support the full course proposal. Much will remain to be worked out in terms of finalizing the course proposal in a short period of time, should the application be successful. That final proposal will also have to incorporate an inter-institutional framework clarifying regulatory and financial matters to be still agreed between the consortium partners.

The programme is developed in an under-represented field, responding to both a local and international gap in the area of applied theatre and arts education. It aligns with the existing MEd in Drama and Theatre in Education strand without the need to develop any new modules. Trinity's responsibility will cover the Masters dissertation module, currently offered in a hybrid format, and will allow students to participate in the MEd practical Summer School. Erasmus Mundus students would take the existing dissertation module in Trinity having been equally divided across the three HEI partners for supervision. No additional staffing is required and no additional costs to the School have been identified. The target recruitment number is 18 EU fully funded students with a maximum of 22 allowing for up to 4 self-funded applicants. The programme includes at least three mandatory physical mobilities for all recruited students. Non-educational partners with specific expertise and interest in the professional domains, such as theatres, schools, prisons, care homes and social arenas will also take part in the programme, offering practice and fieldwork opportunities for students.

In a discussion which ensued the following comments were made:
i)   The Dean raised an issue of the course complying with Trinity's sustainability strategy given a significant mobility component required of its participating students, mostly targeted from the Global South, and having to travel at least between three international institutions compounded by visa challenges.
ii)   In Trinity, the advantages of the proposed course will lie in creating a more diverse student cohort on the MEd programme (currently dominated by applicants from one geographical region) and enhanced staff mobility through international collaborations. The mission of the course targeting under-represented groups is laudable.
iii)   The Dean underlined that there is no financial sign off on the proposal by the Faculty Dean as a number of financial issues remain unresolved, but the Faculty Dean supports the content of the proposal.

iv) Ethics approval – as Trinity is taking the lead on dissertations it will also be responsible for oversight of ethics approval of student research conducted in the other HEIs, where that is relevant. The School of Education already has experience of working with vulnerable groups such as prisoners. However, given that the dissertation module only lasts 6 months, students will most likely conduct desk-based research. Should ethics approval still be needed for any particular project such approval will in the first instance, come through Trinity, although additional ethical approval will likely be required at the location of data collection.

v) It is problematic to only have tuition fee funding set at an EU fee level even though the ambition is to recruit students from the Global South. The issue will be further considered by the Faculty Dean should the Erasmus Mundus funding be secured.

vi) As this is a great initiative, the proposers should not be discouraged even if the Erasmus Mundus funding is not secured the first time round and should considered reapplying in the years ahead.

vii) Given the way Hungary has gone in terms of its policies around immigration, mobility and human rights, there might be a high risk that the planned student mobility might become vulnerable to political actions outside the control of the participating university. The European Commission has already removed its links with three universities in Hungary. Should the situation worsen, the Hungarian partner will be replaced by the currently associated Swiss University.

The Dean concluded by proposing that the committee endorse the current proposal to proceed towards applying for the Erasmus Mundus funding on the understanding that the Graduate Studies Committee is not endorsing the current version of the proposal and its curriculum - this position is to be clearly communicated to the partners by Prof. O'Sullivan. Further discussions of various aspects of the proposal will be required once the Erasmus Mundus funding is secured.

> **Decision GS/23-24/084:** The committee endorsed the current proposal to be submitted for the Erasmus Mundus funding on the understanding that this is not an approval of the actual proposal and its curriculum, and the concerns of the committee and their position is to be clearly communicated to the partners by Prof. O'Sullivan

XX   GS/23-24/085 Revised new External Examiner Nomination Process - Ms Leticia Peralta, Quality Projects Officer, to present; Ms Roisin Smith, Quality Officer (Quality Office) to attend

The Dean introduced Ms Leticia Peralta, Quality Projects Officer, and Ms Roisin Smith, Quality Officer. Members were reminded that new and revised External Examiner (EE) policies, respectively for Taught and Research Programmes, were approved by Council in June 2023 (CL/22-23/236.1) on foot of an earlier review of External Examiner Policy, Processes and Support (CL/22-23/007). In February 2023, Graduate Studies Committee (GS/22-23/083) considered a new online process for submission of PGT External Examiner Reports using functionality in Microsoft 365 (SharePoint, MS Teams and Power Automate). The Quality Office and the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies have since worked to expand the functionality available in Microsoft 365 to automate the External Examiner Nomination Process. User testing was conducted in mid-January with Directors of Teaching and Learning Postgraduate in five Schools (Creative Arts; Histories and Humanities; LSCS, Engineering and TBS) who found the new process very helpful and intuitive. It was noted that users would need to download Teams for the programme to work; Teams can also be opened in a browser.

The Quality Projects Officer led members through the online External Examiner Nomination and Approval process underlining its benefits to Schools in terms of shorter submission time and a central online SharePoint storage of UG and PGT EE nominations enabling live tracking of approvals. Go-live for the Nominations call for PGT External Examiners is the 22nd of February 2024. Schools would need to respond within three weeks i.e., by the 14th of March 2024, to ensure submissions are available for noting by Council at the meeting on the 30th of April 2024. Queries re PGT

nominations should be submitted to a designated email account pgt-externs@tcd.ie. Members were invited to consider and endorse the Guidelines (Appendix 1) and the Process Map (Appendix 2). As these will also go before USC later in January, approval in principle was sought from the committee allowing for any changes sought by the USC to be incorporated into the version going to Council.

In a discussion which ensued the following comments were made:

i)   A question arose whether Schools could be copied EE reports submitted via the new system – There should be no need to do so as, with the exception of the School of Mathematics, School Managers and DTLPs have access to the Central Quality folder which stores all EE reports. In addition, the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies keeps copies of all PGT EE reports while the Quality Office has all UG EE reports. There should be no need to email EEs seeking their past reports as all reports should now be stored in the central repository.

ii)   EE nominations will also be stored in the central repository which should efficiently act as a database for Schools to easily extract information on EEs eligibility for nomination.

iii)   An email prompt is sent out to designated recipients in the School to let them know that an approval notification has been issued via Teams.

iv)   Having agreed that they are willing to act, EEs submit their CV to the School for approval which is subsequently submitted into the system by the School. The Quality Office is currently exploring whether in future, EEs may be in a position to upload their own CVs.

v)   The Quality Officer noted that the circulated Memorandum has a link to the MS Form used for the EE Nomination Process for Taught Programmes.

Action GS/23-24/085: The Quality Officer is to circulate to Schools the MS Form used for the EE Nomination Process for Taught Programmes.

vi)   Schools have three weeks to submit their nominations after the call opens but if a delay should occur the system will still accept the delayed nomination as long as it comes in before the consolidated list goes to Council on the 30th April - otherwise it will have to be included in the next year's consolidated list. The Dean of Graduate Studies is the approver and Council notes the approved nominations.

The Dean summed up the discussion by concluding that the committee endorsed the Guidelines (Appendix 1) and the Process Map (Appendix 2).

Decision GS/23-24/085: The committee endorsed the Guidelines (Appendix 1) and the Process Map (Appendix 2) for new External Examiner Nomination process for Council consideration.

XX   GS/23-24/086 PGR monthly update (January) – Ms Leona Coady, PG Renewal Programme Director, to present
Ms Leona Coady, PG Renewal Programme Director, gave a brief overview of PG Renewal key achievements listed on the monthly slide for January. She referred to the Council approval of the Horizon 1 Report on the 17th January, and the celebration event hosted that afternoon showcasing the achievement of the programme. Council also approved the Horizon 2 plan and all other GSC recommendations endorsed by the committee in December. WP#1 will be bringing a proposal on eligibility criteria for dissertation supervision to the next meeting. Two business analysts have been appointed to support WP#3 on the integration of current administrative PGR processes into SITS. The PG Renewal Programme Director also highlighted planned key deliverables of Horizon 2.

XX   GS/23-24/087 PGR: Internal Awards: Trinity Research Doctorate Awards (2024/25): Student of Sanctuary - Dean of Graduate Studies (Programme Sponsor) to update

The Dean advised that the ringfenced Sanctuary award is one of fifty-two Trinity Research Doctorate Awards to be offered for 2024/25 and that it was approved by the last Council. An allocation of a doctoral award specifically to support a student of Sanctuary represents an important step in bringing to reality a vision that all students, regardless of economic circumstances, have an opportunity to carry out research in Trinity. The successful awardee will start their PhD programme with all tuition fees covered for four years together with a stipend of €25,000 per annum. The Dean also announced that a further Sanctuary award has been secured by a donation, to support a Sanctuary student with research in AHSS. In response to a query, she advised the committee that individuals in Gaza who are not currently within the international protection system are not eligible to apply.

XX **GS/23-24/088 PGR: Curriculum: Cyclical Reviews: Stage Gate Approval for completion of Define Stage (Programme's Way of Working Approach) – Memorandum from Prof. Richard Reilly, Work Package #1 (Postgraduate Taught), Co-Lead Prof. Ashley Clements, Work Package #1 (Postgraduate Taught), Co-Lead; Dr Rionnagh Sheridan, Programme Analyst and Coordinator, to present**
The Dean invited Dr Rionnagh Sheridan, PG Renewal Programme Analyst and Coordinator, to speak to the circulated memorandum outlining a development, as part of Work Package 1, of a new cyclical quality review process for major postgraduate taught (PGT) programmes. The Dean explained that the presentation aimed to demonstrate the implementation of the new Ways of Working scheme endorsed in December.

Dr Sheridan referred to feedback collected from Schools in Semester 1 under the Voice of the Community exercise and indicated that further rounds of engagements with staff and students will follow. She noted that the need for the proposed review comes from the limitations of currently fragmented QA reviews of PGT programmes across Schools. There is no alignment in administrative processes posing local operational challenges and leading to excessive demands on staff time and effort. An opportunity to share expert knowledge and good practices is disrupted as supports and resources are unevenly distributed. In particular supportive digital infrastructure is under-utilized. The new Cyclical Review aims therefore to embed a culture of continuous QA enhancement with guided supports and streamlined reporting mechanisms via improved digital infrastructure which should also improve the student experience and enable academic staff to share good practice across College. The Cyclical Review process as a pivot underpinning the culture of continuous PGT quality enhancement in Trinity will be developed and piloted within Horizon 2 in 2023/24 and 2024/25 with a view to being implemented in 2025/26 and transitioned out of PG Renewal in 2026/27.

In a discussion which ensued the following comments were made:
i)   Student feedback on modules as a vital QA component is normally collected at the end of the module delivery but it is more problematic to gather it at the end of the programme. Student surveys currently attract a low response rate. It will need to be considered how to enhance the student engagement and whether surveys should be re-imagined in terms of alternative methods used to gather that feedback.
ii)   In order to facilitate implementing the proposed Cyclical Review additional resources might be needed in Schools. Once the design is approved in principle, a Development stage will follow within the Ways of Working where practical implications including additional resources will be identified for the new review process to become implemented and sustained. Initial implementation will be on a pilot basis.
iii)   Clarity was sought whether the proposed Cyclical Review is intended as a light touch or root and branch one. The Dean clarified that the aim is not to create an additional burden for Schools and to avoid duplicating current QA effort while making the information retrieval easier with as much enhanced digital supports as possible. Essential data points should be stored and retrievable from the system.

iv)   A concern was raised that expectations might be created amongst staff and students that any deficiencies identified as a result of the Cyclical Review will be addressed. The PG Renewal Programme Analyst and Coordinator noted that there are some risks that might have to be carried on individual PGT programmes as not all risks even if escalated can be addressed (i.e., the lack of adequate teaching spaces). Deficiencies can be called out, but solutions may not be there to address them.

v)   Externally accredited courses are currently exempt from the proposed Cyclical Review as the accreditation documentation is deemed to be a sufficient substitute for Trinity in lieu of the periodic review as the QA process is carried out on behalf of Trinity by an external professional organisation.

The Dean thanked the PG Renewal Programme Analyst and Coordinator for her presentation and members for their participation in the discussion.

XX   GS/23-24/089 Any Other Business – Dean of Graduate Studies to update
(i)   School Level PGR awards: The Dean has confirmed that every School has one award to allocate. She will shortly circulate a reminder and a form to Schools gathering information on the nomination criteria and the number of candidates. No change in the award status is planned for the foreseeable future – any changes will be flagged at least a year in advance. Schools can start advertising the award on their websites. Schools should check if candidates applying for the PhD with them wish to be considered for a PGR award. The recruitment outcome will need to be notified to the Dean by the 1st July.

> **Action GS/23-24/089 (i):** The Dean will shortly circulate a reminder email and a form to Schools gathering information on the nomination criteria and the number of candidates.

(ii)   VLE update: In discussing progress in identification of requirements for a new VLE, an emerging priority relates to the desire to integrate administrative processes into SITS. It was noted that some parts of SITS functionality are exceptionally "unwieldy" from the end-user perspective. The Dean clarified that some of the "clunkiness" is inherent in the way SITS has been set up but some results from sub-optimal inter-operability of add on systems. As part of the current review of the VLE requirements it is intended to ensure that whatever new system will be in place it will interconnect smoothly with other systems in College. There is no scope to change the SITS architecture, but its functionality could possibly be somewhat enhanced. The Director of Student Services clarified that SITS is coming to the end of its life, and therefore investment into it is limited. Replacement of SITS is part of a broader discussion on resourcing impending digital developments. The Director of Student Services invited members to liaise with her directly to check whether the issues troubling users might still be somehow fixed in the meantime.

> **Action GS/23-24/089 (ii):** Members experiencing issues with SITS functionality to directly contact the Director of Student Services

(iii)   PG Open Day Spring 2024: The Dean advised that the Director of Marketing in Trinity Global has been reviewing the merit of organizing an online PG Open Day in the Spring of 2024. Feedback from Schools underlined the significant amount of work required of Schools to participate for very limited returns. DTLPs were asked to reflect on the recruitment implications should it be decided not to organise an open day in 2024. The Director of Marketing in Trinity Global will attend the next meeting of GSC.

(iv)   Going Digital, Staying Human: Opportunities and Challenges of AI for Education. The Dean reminded members of the upcoming event on the 22nd February in the Trinity Long Room Hub with

the Provost and the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer in conversation on the AI subject with Dr Paul J. LeBlanc. The event will also be livestreamed and can be attended online.

(v) **IUA meeting:** The Dean updated members on the January IUA meeting and undertook to circulate the IUA-developed position paper on the PhD researchers' concerns to do with stipend level, maternity and sick leave entitlements, student versus employee status, reform of the visa regime and burden of health insurance costs. It will be an agenda item for discussion at the next GSC meeting.

> **Action GS/23-24/089 (v):** The Dean to circulate the review report and the IUA statement.

(vi) **Academic Integrity:** The Dean acknowledged that academics have been engaging with the new process around academic integrity and was seeking feedback on any issues emerging around the process and documentation that need addressing. These would need to be resolved before the end of year assessment cycle takes place in Semester 2. The Dean noted a personal observation that the cumulative score does not appear to be capturing the severity levels as expected despite the testing during the summer. It was noted that the rubric is not adapted to the context of research students, and a separate approach might need to be developed. In the meantime, any academic integrity breaches specific to PGR students may need to be dealt with outside of the system.

> **Action GS/23-24/089 (vi):** Members were asked to provide written feedback into the academic integrity inbox and volunteer for further input on the system's functionality for PGR students.

XX **Section B for Noting and Approval**

XX **GS/23-24/090 Changes to the MCh in line with the MD degree from 2024/25 – Memorandum from Prof. Catherine Darker (School of Medicine DTLP)**
The Doctor of Medicine (MD) revised format was approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in November 2019 (GS/19-20/341) but the Master of Surgery (MCh) degree programme which is similar to the MD but related to the specialism of Master of Surgery, was inadvertently omitted from the original application regarding changes to the MD programme. The School of Medicine seeks an approval for the same changes that were applied to the MD programme to be applied to the MCh effective from 2024/25, with the MCh Calendar III entry for 2024/25 to be amended.

The committee noted and endorsed the request from the School of Medicine for realigning its MCh programme with that of the revised MD from 2024/25.

> **Decision GS/23-24/090 :** The committee recommended for Council approval the realignment of MCh programme with the revised MD programme in the School of Medicine from 2024/25.

XX **GS/23-24/091 Suspension of MSc in Community Health for 2024/25 – Request from Prof. Brian Keogh (School of Nursing & Midwifery DTLP)**
The committee noted and endorsed the request from the School of Nursing and Midwifery for suspension of their MSc in Community Health for 2024/25.

> **Decision GS/23-24/091 :** The committee recommended for Council approval suspension of MSc in Community Health for 2024/25.

XX   GS/23-24/092 Waiving requirements for English language proficiency for nurses registered with Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland subject to specific conditions from 2024/25 admissions – Memorandum from Prof. Brian Keogh (School of Nursing & Midwifery DTLP)

The Dean called out the School of Nursing and Midwifery's request for permission to waive current requirements for English language proficiency for applicants seeking admissions from 2024/25 whose first language is not English but who meet the conditions that they are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) based on their IELTS score and provide evidence of continued engagement in a high intensity English language environment. The basic ask from the School is that for registered NMBI applicants who are seeking access to a PG Programme, evidence is accepted that the NMBI requirements in IELTS have been met – given that they exceed Trinity's own English language requirements.

The committee noted and endorsed the request to commence from the 2024/25 cohort.

> **Decision GS/23-24/092 :** The committee recommended for Council approval the waiver of English language proficiency requirement for applicants seeking admission from 2024/25 currently registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) and working in in a high intensity English language environment.

XX   GS/23-24/093 New framework-based admissions routes effective from 2024 cohort to be added to the existing MSc in Midwifery Practice and Leadership - Memorandum from Prof. Brian Keogh (School of Nursing & Midwifery DTLP)

The Dean called out that the School of Nursing and Midwifery seeks to introduce a 3 year part-time framework structure while retaining the 1 year full-time and 2 year part-time traditional structure on the existing Masters in Midwifery Practice and Leadership and its Programme Learning Outcomes. Applicants will enter via the Postgraduate Certificate course (30 ECTS) in year 1, and on its successful completion can either choose to exit with the award or continue to the Postgraduate Diploma Top-up (30 ECTS) in year 2. On successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma students may choose to exit with the award or continue to the MSc Top-up of further 30 ECTS in year 3. Students who opt to exit the programme with either a Postgraduate Certificate or a Postgraduate Diploma award, may choose to re-enter the programme to complete the relevant Top-up course but must successfully complete the MSc top up course within five years of finishing the Postgraduate Certificate. Students will be required to rescind earlier awards on successfully completing the Postgraduate Diploma Top up or MSc Top-up course. Retained are the two current main awards of MSc (St) Master in Science (Studies) of 90 ECTS and Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery Practice and Leadership of 60 ECTS while a new minor award of Postgraduate Certificate in Midwifery Practice and Leadership of 30 ECTS is introduced for completion of the new Postgraduate Certificate course.

The committee noted and endorsed a new framework-based part-time structure which is to commence from the 2024 cohort.

> **Decision GS/23-24/093:** The committee recommended for Council approval an addition of a new framework-based part-time structure over 3 years to commence from the 2024 cohort to be added to the existing Masters in Midwifery Practice and Leadership.

XX   Section C for Noting

XX   GS/23-24/094 Draft Minutes of the Royal Irish Academy of Music Associated College Degrees Committee (RIAM ACDC) of 8th November 2023

The RIAM ACDC draft minutes of the 8th November 2023 were circulated to members.

XX   GS/23-24/095 Draft Minutes of the Marino Institute of Education Associated College Degrees Committee (MIE ACDC) of 6ᵗʰ December 2023
The MIE ACDC draft minutes of the 6ᵗʰ December 2023 were circulated to members.

The Dean thanked all the committee members. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12.05pm.

Prof. Martine Smith   Date: 25 January 2024