



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

XX = Item is of
significance to
Council

A meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee was held on 12 June 2019 at 10.30am in the TRISS seminar room.

Present: Professor Kevin Mitchell, Dean of Undergraduate Studies/Senior Lecturer (*Chair*)
Professor Aidan Seery, Senior Tutor
Professor Aine Kelly, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Science Education
Professor Michael Wycherley, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Professor Rachel Hoare, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Professor Elizabeth Nixon, School of Psychology
Professor Mark Hennessy, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Derek Nolan, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor Brendan O'Connell, School of English
Professor Philip Curry, School of Social Work and Social Policy
Professor Paul Eastham, School of Physics
Professor Breffni O'Rourke, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Ms Misha Fitzgibbon, Student Representative

Apologies: Professor Alan O'Connor, School of Engineering
Professor Kristian Myrseth, Trinity Business School
Professor Linda Hogan, School of Religion
Professor Valerie Smith, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Frank Wellmer, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor Paula Colavita, School of Chemistry
Professor Derek Sullivan, School of Dental Science
Professor Ailbhe O'Neill, School of Law
Professor Peter Crooks, School of Histories and Humanities
Professor Jonathan Dukes, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Ms Patricia Callaghan, Academic Secretary
Ms Aimee Connolly, Education Officer, Students' Union
Professor John Walsh, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Stephen Matterson, Director of TSM
Professor Nicholas Johnson, School of Creative Arts
Professor Vladimir Dotsenko, School of Mathematics
Professor Kevin O'Kelly, Dean of Students
Professor Stephen Minton, School of Education
Professor Joe Harbison, School of Medicine

In attendance: Ms Elaine Egan, Academic Affairs Office, Trinity Teaching & Learning; Ms Linda Darbey, Assistant Academic Secretary, Trinity Teaching & Learning; Professor Gemma Donnelly-Cox, Trinity Business School; Ms Breda Walls, Director of Student Services

USC/18-19/097 Minutes of the meeting of 21 May 2019

The minutes were approved.

USC/18-19/098 Matters arising

The following items were approved at the Council meeting of 29 May 2019:

USC/18-19/072 Council approved in principle changes to the regulations on absence from examinations without permission and non-satisfactory, subject to a detailed

mechanism being presented to Council at a subsequent meeting. The current regulations will remain in place for 2019/20.

- USC/18-19/088** i) The addition of political science as a Columbia major in the dual-degree programme in Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures.
- ii) A dual degree programme in Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology, in conjunction with Columbia University.
- USC/18-19/090** The contingency days for semesterised examinations (reassessment 2018/19, reassessment and assessment 2019/20).
- USC/18-19/091** The revised nomenclature of law degrees under the new programme architecture
- USC/18-19/093** Requests for derogations to the progression and awards regulations from the Schools of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Occupational Therapy, and Medicine.
- USC/18-19/096** 1) The two-year part-time mode of delivery for the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) validated Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance from September 2020.
- 2) A new optional module, Educational Disadvantage and Community Mentoring, in the Marino Institute of Education B.Sc. in Education Studies, year 2.
- 3) The additional degree destinations for the Trinity International Foundation programme.

USC/18-19/099 **Course developments**

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i) Proposal for a dual degree programme in Neuroscience in conjunction with Columbia University

A proposal for a dual degree programme in Neuroscience in conjunction with Columbia University from the School of Biochemistry and Immunology had been circulated. The Associate Director for Science Education spoke to this item. This programme would follow the same structure as previous dual degrees whereby students would spend the first two years in Trinity and the final two years in Columbia. The requirement for an additional 30 Trinity credits in the final two years would be met by a 10 credit literature review and a 20 credit capstone.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies commended the contribution to the programme from the School of Psychology.

In response to a question, it was noted that the programme would lead to a Moderatorship in Neuroscience in Trinity and a BA in Neuroscience and Behaviour in Columbia. In response to a question about potential timetabling clashes, with particular reference to language modules, it was noted that central timetabling was ongoing and that bespoke language modules would be offered to all students on Columbia dual degrees.

USC recommended the proposal to Council. It was noted that the CAO deadline had been missed but that the programme would be prepared to start marketing and recruiting immediately following Council consideration in September.

Decision USC/18-19/099i USC recommended the dual degree programme in Neuroscience in conjunction with Columbia University for Council approval

XX ii) Proposal for a dual degree programme in Geoscience, in conjunction with Columbia University

A proposal for a dual degree programme in Geoscience in conjunction with Columbia University, from the School of Natural Sciences had been circulated. The Director of Teaching and Learning in the School presented the proposal.

The Director noted that the Geography and Geoscience (TR062) entry stream came about as part of the reorganisation of the Science entry process. He advised that the programme is part of the E3 development and that it would involve appointments of two chairs in both geography and geology.

In response to a question, it was noted that the second year module 'Changing Worlds' would be counted as a social sciences module by Columbia University.

USC recommended the proposal for Council approval.

Decision USC/18-19/099ii USC recommended the dual degree programme in Geoscience in conjunction with Columbia University for Council approval

USC/18-19/100 Calendar changes 2019/20

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Sections from the Calendar 2019/20 relating to General Regulations, Trinity Joint Honors and Foundation and Non-Foundation Scholarships had been circulated. A memorandum from the Director of Academic Registry, dated June 11 2019, had also been circulated and directed member's attention to the changes that had been made to the General Regulations since they had last been circulated to the committee.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies highlighted a proposed change to the General Regulations by the Academic Registry relating to the date by which students must complete registration, after which they will be made withdrawn. It was proposed that the date be brought forward from October 30 (week 8 of teaching term) to October 1 (week 4 of teaching term). He noted that this proposal was based on insurance implications for unregistered students and that unregistered students may not have access to all College services, including the Library.

It was noted in the discussion that students who have an outstanding application to SUSI are allowed to register in good faith with the understanding that outstanding issues will be resolved as soon as possible.

Ms Elaine Egan, Academic Affairs, spoke to the Trinity Joint Honors entry. She noted that the entry contained details of permitted subject combinations and a note to refer to the General Regulations and Information section. It was anticipated that the Joint Honors entry in future years would contain more extensive details as the programme progressed. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted that he was meeting with the TSM/TJH Director to discuss the mechanism around how students will decide which pathways to take.

It was noted that the circulated Foundation and Non-Foundation Scholarships section was the most up to date version that had been received. The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies noted that in 2019/20, the Scholarship process would follow the current regulations for most programmes but that the process will need to change in subsequent years in light of the new programme architecture. The ADUSE noted that

Science programmes had already changed their Scholarship regulations whereby most streams had decided to examine only in the core modules.

USC/18-19/101 Any other business

- Under matters arising, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies updated the committee on the requirement for students on dual degree programmes with Columbia University to achieve an additional 60 Trinity credits in the final two years. As this had proven difficult for the programmes to manage and for the students to achieve, following consultation with the relevant programmes, the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies had sought Council approval to reduce this to 30 credits (20 for a joint capstone project, and 10 additional credits). Council had approved this proposal.
- In response to a query, it was confirmed that transcripts would be centrally generated. Currently this facility is only available to staff of the Academic Registry but the next phase would be to make this facility available to students.

A member had a query regarding the issuing of a transcript for a specific visiting student and the Director of Student Services agreed to follow up with him following the meeting.

USC/18-19/102 Items for noting

USC noted the following items:

1. Minutes of the Widening Participation Group, 14 May 2019.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies advised that the Academic Registry was carrying out work to ensure that data on different categories of students would be captured more fully than it has been to date. He noted the usefulness of the Widening Participation Group meetings both for high-level admissions strategies and for issues that will affect certain cohorts of students.

2. Submission Deadline – Undergraduate Course Proposals, memorandum from the Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies, dated 30 May 2019.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies drew the committee's attention to the proposed dates and highlighted the importance of submitting course proposals in a timely manner. He advised that a first draft of proposals for courses to commence in September 2021 must be submitted to Academic Affairs, Trinity Teaching and Learning, by the end of Michaelmas term 2020. In order to ensure proper consideration of course proposals, courses that had sent in late proposals would not be able to commence until September 2022.

3. Dates for meetings of USC in 2019/20.

The Senior Lecturer/Dean of Undergraduate Studies thanked members for their hard work throughout the year, and extended his well wishes to outgoing members.