

## GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES BOARD

---

### MINUTES

Thursday 14 January 2021

9:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.  
Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Ms Lisa Buckley, Ms Isabelle Caulfield, Prof. David Collings, Dr Maura Coulter, Prof. Turlough Downes, Ms Karen Keating, Ms Rachel Keegan (Secretary), Dr Gillian Lake, Dr Pascal Landais, Dr Jennifer McManus, Prof. Sharon O'Brien, Dr Sally Smith, Prof Joseph Stokes (Chair), Ms Jennifer Yore

**Apologies:** Prof. Edel Conway, Dr Tim McCormac, Ms Christina O'Keeffe

### SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2020 were approved. It was noted that formal minutes would be signed once on-campus activity resumes.

#### 3. Matters arising from the minutes of 10 December 2020

3.1 It was noted that work on guidelines on recital performance and related capacity building is ongoing (item 3.1).

3.2 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR14 for a student in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health, which was approved subject to the form being completed by the supervisor, is ongoing (item 3.6) (original ref. 9.27, 31 August 2020).

3.3 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR4 for a student in DCU Business School, for which a decision was deferred pending further justification for the early submission request, is ongoing (item 8.4).

3.4 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR4 for a student in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health, which was approved subject to the current form being used and updated signatures being provided, is complete (item 8.8).

- 3.5 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR4 for a student in the School of Health and Human Performance, which was approved subject to the nomination of an alternative chairperson to address the gender mix, is complete (item 8.5).
- 3.6 It was noted that the revised guidance in respect of research student appeals in on the agenda (item 6) of today's meeting (item 6.1).
- 3.7 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR4 for a student in the School of Biotechnology, for which a decision was deferred pending further detail being provided in sections B and C, is complete (item 7.1).

## **SECTION B: Policy and strategy issues**

### **4. Graduate researcher development**

The Chair informed the GRSB that the module code for GS604 – Research Ethics has been changed to TP602 to reflect the school of delivery. Students who registered for GS604 have had their registration records amended accordingly. The Chair informed the GRSB that the previous module code is listed in a number of the school pathways and these would require updating for 2021-22.

### **5. COVID-19: Continuity arrangements**

- 5.1 The Chair informed the GRSB that an email will be issued to all research students shortly advising them of the implications of the return to level 5 restrictions. Students have already been advised that campus access will only be facilitated where access to specialist facilities is required. The planned email will provide further details including the approval process for campus access. It was noted that most buildings are now set up with swipe access and students may need to liaise with Estates before attending campus.

- 5.2 A number of long-term issues arising from COVID-19 restrictions were highlighted by Prof. Downes including issues with lab capacity due to competing demands from new and later-stage students. Issues relating to research involving athletes were also highlighted.

It was noted that several issues may have knock-on effects beyond the pandemic. It was agreed that these should be identified now so that they may be addressed as appropriate. It was agreed that the Chair would convene a meeting with the relevant stakeholders including the ADRs to consider these in advance of the next meeting of the GRSB.

### **6. Guidance in respect of research student appeals**

The revised guidance document was considered by the GRSB. A small number of amendments were considered and it was agreed that the updated guidance would be published on the OVPAA webpage once these have been incorporated.

It was noted that the academic regulations will require updating to more accurately reflect the research appeal process. These amendments will be applied to the 2021-22 academic regulations and will be reviewed by the GRSB at the April meeting.

## **SECTION C: Individual student issues**

### **7. Applications for transfer to the PhD Register or confirmation on the PhD Register (PGR3)**

- 7.1 GRSB2021/A1/7.1, School of Biotechnology  
Approved
- 7.2 GRSB2021/A1/7.2, School of Language, Literacy and Early Childhood Education  
Approved
- 7.3 GRSB2021/A1/7.3, School of Policy and Practice  
Approved
- 7.4 GRSB2021/A1/7.4, School of Language, Literacy and Early Childhood Education  
Noted. Approved by Chairs Action on 14 December 2020.

### **8. Appointment of internal and external examiners (PGR4)**

- 8.1 GRSB2021/A1/8.1, MSc, School of Physical Science  
Approved
- 8.2 GRSB2021/A1/8.2, PhD, School of Science and Health, DkIT  
Approved

### **9. Any other business**

- 9.1 Clarification was sought as to the approval process and requirements for GTE modules. It was agreed that the documentation outlining the process would be shared with the ADRs after the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of next meeting**

Thursday, 25 February 2021

at 9.30 a.m.

Zoom meeting