

GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 10 December 2020

9:30 a.m. –12.15 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Present: Ms Lisa Buckley, Ms Isabelle Caulfield, Prof. Edel Conway, 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, Prof. Joseph Stokes (Chair), Dr Tim McCormac, Dr Sally Smith

Apologies: Prof. David Collings, Ms Christina O'Keeffe, Ms Jennifer Yore

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one late item under 13.2.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 29 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 29 October 2020 were approved. It was noted that formal minutes would be signed once on-campus activity resumes.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 29 October 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. item 9.27, 31 August 2020).

3.3 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR3 for a student in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health, for which clarification was required as to the anticipated thesis format, is complete (item 9.12).

3.4 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR3 for a student in the School of Policy and Practice, which was approved subject to a more detailed report being provided for section B(ii), is complete (item 9.13).

- 3.5 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR3 for a student in the School of Theology, Philosophy and Music, which was approved subject to a more detailed report being provided for sections B(i) and B(ii), is complete (item 9.14).
- 3.6 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR4 for a student in the School of Health and Science, DkIT, which was approved subject to the appointment of an alternative chairperson, is complete (item 10.19).
- 3.7 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR14 for a student in the School of Law and Government, for which confirmation was required that the PGR2 for year 3 was completed, is complete (item 12.1).
- 3.8 It was noted that a PGR4 form for a student in the School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, which was approved at the meeting of 31 August 2020, required subsequent follow-up when it was identified that the student had not reached the minimum 27 months part-time registration. It was noted that an early submission request was sought, but the student was not registered until recently, therefore the student is now within the minimum timeframe for submission. For that reason, the early submission request has not been included in the papers.

SECTION B: Policy and strategy issues

4. Graduate researcher development

4.1 GTE, Faculty of Engineering and Computing – Advanced Topics in Machine Learning

Not approved. A number of issues were noted in the module descriptor which requires further review by the Faculty. It was noted that detailed feedback has been sent to the Faculty through the Graduate Studies Office.

5. COVID-19: Continuity arrangements

- 5.1 The Chair informed the Board that a second COVID-19 relief call for research students will be issued by RIS in the new year. The Chair will consult with the Associate Deans for Research on the eligibility criteria for this subsequent call.
- 5.2 The Chair informed the Board that the Graduate Studies Office is continuing to coordinate online supports and training for PGR students. He highlighted recent wellbeing talks with Ms Caroline Mahon, Sports and Wellbeing and Dr Sinead Smyth, School of Psychology.
- 5.3 The Chair updated the Board on plans for the Tell it Straight competition which was postponed earlier this year due to the pandemic. Plans are underway for a virtual event to take place in 2021.

6. Research Student Appeals

It was noted that a research appeal considered on 3 November 2020, and subsequently approved by GRSB on 9 November 2020, has been noted at the meeting of Academic Council on 9 December 2020.

6.1 Guidance in respect of research student appeals

The Board considered revised text to the *Guidance in Respect of Research Students Appeals* regarding acceptable supporting documentation. It was agreed that the text requires further updating. The revised document will be brought to the January meeting of the GRSB.

SECTION C: Individual student issues

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

7.1 GRSB2020/A8/7.1, School of Biotechnology
Decision deferred. It was noted that further detail is required in sections B and C of the report.

7.2 GRSB2020/A8/7.2, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved

7.3 GRSB2020/A8/7.3, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved

7.4 GRSB2020/A8/7.4, School of Policy and Practice
Approved

7.5 GRSB2020/A8/7.5, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music
Approved

8 Appointment of internal and external examiners (PGR4)

8.1 GRSB2020/A8/8.1, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved

8.2 GRSB2020/A8/8.2, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved

8.3 GRSB2020/A8/8.3, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved

8.4 GRSB2020/A8/8.4, PhD, DCU Business School
Decision deferred. It was noted that further justification for the early submission request is required.

8.5 GRSB2020/A8/8.5, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved subject to the nomination of an alternative Chairperson to address the gender mix.

8.6 GRSB2020/A8/8.6, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Approved

8.7 GRSB2020/A8/8.7, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved. It was noted that this is a resubmission.

8.8 GRSB2020/A8/8.8, PhD, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health
Approved subject to the current form being used and updated signatures being provided.

8.9 GRSB2020/A8/8.9, PhD, STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies
Approved

8.10 GRSB2020/A8/8.10, PhD, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music
Approved

9. Notice of Intention to Reside/Carry out Research Abroad (PGR13)

9.1 GRSB2020/A8/9.1, DCU Business School
Approved

9.2 GRSB2020/A8/9.2, School of Computing
Approved

9.3 GRSB2020/A8/9.3, DCU Institute of Education
Approved

10. Request for Extension to Maximum Registration Period OR Re-admission to the Research Programme (PGR14)

10.1 GRSB2020/A8/10.1, MPhil, School of Law and Government
Approved

11. Application to Transfer/Advanced Entry to Postgraduate Research Programme (PGR15)

11.1 GRSB2020/A8/11.1, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved for entry into year 3.

12. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

12.1 GRSB2020/A8/12.1, DCU Institute of Education

Noted

13. Other Student Matters

13.1 GRSB2020/A8/13.1, Memo requesting Internal Transfer from PhD to Professional Doctorate in Elite Performance (Sport)

Approved

13.2 GRSB2020/A8/13.2, Memo requesting dual registration on MSc by Research and PhD programme

Approved.

14. Any other business

14.1 M. Coulter informed the Board, by way of information that some external examiners have fed back that the review of electronic theses due to COVID arrangements are taking significantly longer than reviewing hard-copies. It was agreed that this will be noted by the Chair when considering any communication to Chairpersons of *viva voce* examinations.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting

Thursday, 14 January 2020

at 9.30 a.m.

Zoom meeting