

GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 8 April 2021

9:30 a.m. – 12:20 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

Present: Ms Lisa Buckley, Ms Isabelle Caulfield, Prof. David Collings, Dr Maura Coulter, Prof. Turlough Downes, Ms Rachel Keegan (Secretary), Dr Gillian Lake, Dr Pascal Landais, Dr Jennifer McManis, Prof. Sharon O'Brien, Ms Christina O'Keeffe, Prof. Joseph Stokes (Chair)

Apologies Prof. Edel Conway, Ms Karen Keating, Dr Tim McCormac, Dr Sally Smith, Ms Jennifer Yore

In attendance: Ms Grainne Curran

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 25 February 2021

The minutes of the meeting of 25 February 2021 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 3.2) (original ref. 9.27, 31 August 2020).

3.3 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR4 for a student in the School of English, for which a decision was deferred pending clarification that the full supervisory panel is in support of the early submission, is complete (item 9.15).

3.4 It was noted that the revised guidance on research student annual leave entitlements is on the agenda (item 6) of today's meeting (item 7).

SECTION B: Policy and strategy issues

4. Graduate researcher development

There were no items for consideration.

5. COVID-19: Continuity arrangements

The Chair updated the GRSB on the second HEA cost extension scheme for PGR students. 40 applications were received for the call and payments will be processed shortly. It is expected that further calls will follow. The Chair informed the GRSB that feedback has been sent to the HEA regarding the exclusion of part-time research students from the scheme.

The Chair advised the GRSB that he is continuing to meet with the ADRs to consider the longer-term implications of the pandemic for research students.

6. Research student annual leave entitlement

The revised guidance for annual leave entitlement was approved. It was noted that this guidance would be published on the GSO website and included in the next *Graduate Research Guide*.

It was noted that there are currently no arrangements for sick pay and that national guidance around this would be useful.

7. Updates to Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2021-2022

The updates to the *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2021-2022* were considered by the GRSB. The Chair thanked Registry colleagues for their work on this. The following revisions were considered:

1.1.3: inclusion of the award of DProfElite – Doctor of Elite Performance (Sport);

4.1: references to PAC replaced with ‘student application portal’;

8.3: modified text to provide clarity on the role of GRSB in approving/noting members of the examination panel (updates also reflected in 10.3.2 and 10.3.4);

8.5.2, 8.6.1 and 8.6.3: text updated to clarify that unsuccessful candidates will be formally notified of the outcome following the relevant FABRD meeting so that they may engage in the appeals process where relevant;

9.1.5: updated to include the maximum word limit for a professional doctorate thesis;

9.3.2: updated to confirm when the period for restricted access of a thesis commences;

9.4.4: addition of the Irish translation of the thesis declaration;

11.4.4 and 11.5.1: updated to clarify responsibility for communicating the details of corrections following a *viva voce* examination;

11.5.1: updated to provide clarity on the submission of the examination form (PGR6) to Registry;

13.3.3. updated based on GRSBs review of the appeals documentation in January 2021 to clarify the type of documentation that is deemed acceptable for purposes of an appeal.

The GRSB also considered proposed additional text for section 10.1 which would provide clarity on the requirements for examiner training. It was agreed that the draft text would be circulated after the meeting for input by members.

It was noted that the Chair has sought input on the accuracy of the Irish translation of the thesis declaration.

The regulations for 2021-22 were approved subject to confirmation of the accuracy of the Irish translation of the thesis declaration, and the inclusion of the additional text in section 10.1.

SECTION C: Individual student issues

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

8.1 GRSB2021/A3/8.1, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved

8.2 GRSB2021/A3/8.2, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved

8.3 GRSB2021/A3/8.3, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved

8.4 GRSB2021/A3/8.4, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved

8.5 GRSB2021/A3/8.5, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved subject to confirmation of the thesis format.

8.6 GRSB2021/A3/8.6, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved subject to the removal of the reference to "I" in section B of the report.

8.7 GRSB2021/A3/8.7, School of Law and Government
Approved

8.8 GRSB2021/A3/8.8, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved

- 8.9 GRSB2021/A3/8.9, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved
- 8.10 GRSB2021/A3/8.10, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health
Not Approved. It was noted that the report should be completed jointly by the principal supervisor and internal examiner.
- 8.11 GRSB2021/A3/8.11, School of Physical Sciences
Not Approved. It was noted that the report should be completed jointly by the principal supervisor and internal examiner.
- 8.12 GRSB2021/A3/8.12, School of Health and Science, DkIT
Approved

9. Appointment of internal and external examiners (PGR4)

- 9.1 GRSB2021/A3/9.1, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved
- 9.2 GRSB2021/A3/9.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved
- 9.3 GRSB2021/A3/9.3, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved
- 9.4 GRSB2021/A3/9.4, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved
- 9.5 GRSB2021/A3/9.5, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Decision Deferred. It was noted that the candidate is/was a member of staff, therefore, an additional external examiner is required.
- 9.6 GRSB2021/A3/9.6, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved subject to a non-disclosure agreement being provided.
- 9.7 GRSB2021/A3/9.7, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved
- 9.8 GRSB2021/A3/9.8, MA, School of Communications
Approved
- 9.9 GRSB2021/A3/9.9, PhD, School of Communications
Approved
- 9.10 GRSB2021/A3/9.10, PhD, School of Computing
Approved
- 9.11 GRSB2021/A3/9.11, MSc, School of Computing
Approved

- 9.12 GRSB2021/A3/9.12, PhD, School of Computing
Approved
- 9.13 GRSB2021/A3/9.13, PhD, School of Computing
Approved
- 9.14 GRSB2021/A3/9.14, PhD, School of Informatics and Creative Arts, DkIT
Approved
- 9.15 GRSB2021/A3/9.15, PhD, School of Informatics and Creative Arts, DkIT
Approved
- 9.16 GRSB2021/A3/9.16, PhD, School of Creative Arts, Media and Music, DkIT
Approved
- 9.17 GRSB2021/A3/9.17, PhD, School of Informatics and Creative Arts, DkIT
Approved
- 9.18 GRSB2021/A3/9.18, PhD, School of Health and Science, DkIT
Approved. It was noted that no suitably qualified internal examiner was identified, therefore, two external examiners are being appointed.
- 9.19 GRSB2021/A3/9.19, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved
- 9.20 GRSB2021/A3/9.20, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved
- 9.21 GRSB2021/A3/9.21, PhD, School of English
Approved
- 9.22 GRSB2021/A3/9.22, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 9.23 GRSB2021/A3/9.23, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 9.24 GRSB2021/A3/9.24, MSc, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved subject to confirmation that the candidate is not/was not a member of staff.
- 9.25 GRSB2021/A3/9.25, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 9.26 GRSB2021/A3/9.26, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 9.27 GRSB2021/A3/9.27, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 9.28 GRSB2021/A3/9.28, PhD, School of History and Geography
Approved

- 9.29 GRSB2021/A3/9.29, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Approved
- 9.30 GRSB2021/A3/9.30, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Approved
- 9.31 GRSB2021/A3/9.31, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Approved. It was noted that the Internal Examiner should arrange to undertake the examiner training.
- 9.32 GRSB2021/A3/9.32, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Approved
- 9.33 GRSB2021/A3/9.33, PhD, School of Law and Government
Decision deferred. It was noted that an alternative examination panel may be submitted for consideration, following clarification of the availability of examiner training.
- 9.34 GRSB2021/A3/9.34, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved
- 9.35 GRSB2021/A3/9.35, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved
- 9.36 GRSB2021/A3/9.36, MSc, School of Mathematical Science
Approved
- 9.37 GRSB2021/A3/9.37, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved
- 9.38 GRSB2021/A3/9.38, DPsych, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy & Community Health
Approved
- 9.39 GRSB2021/A3/9.39, DPsych, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy & Community Health
Approved
- 9.40 GRSB2021/A3/9.40, DPsych, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy & Community Health
Decision deferring pending confirmation that the external examiner meets the requirements as per academic regulation 10.2.9, or the nomination of an alternative external examiner.
- 9.41 GRSB2021/A3/9.41, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved
- 9.42 GRSB2021/A3/9.42, PhD, School of Policy and Practice
Approved subject to receipt of the student signature on the form.
- 9.43 GRSB2021/A3/9.43, PhD, School of Policy and Practice
Approved
- 9.44 GRSB2021/A3/9.44, PhD, School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies
Approved

- 9.45 GRSB2021/A3/9.45, MA, School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies
Approved
- 9.46 GRSB2021/A3/9.46, PhD, School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies
Not approved. It was noted that the external examiner does not meet the requirements as per academic regulation 10.2.9 and 10.2.10.
- 9.47 GRSB2021/A3/9.47, PhD, School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies
Approved
- 9.48 GRSB2021/A3/9.48, PhD, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music
Approved

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

- 10.1 GRSB2021/A3/10.1, School of Computing
Not approved. It was noted that further information is required for a number of aspects including the role of the named external academic in the supervision of the candidate, the length of time being requested and information on how any ethical considerations are being addressed.

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

- 11.1 GRSB2021/A3/11.1, PhD, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music
Approved
- 11.2 GRSB2021/A3/11.2, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved

12. Any other Business

There was no other business.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date of next meeting

Thursday, 13 May 2021

at 9.30 a.m.

Zoom meeting