

## GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES BOARD

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### MINUTES

Thursday 17 June 2021

9:30 a.m. – 12:20 a.m.  
Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Ms Isabelle Caulfield, Prof. David Collings, Prof. Edel Conway, Dr Maura Coulter, Ms Karen Keating, Ms Rachel Keegan (Secretary), Dr Gillian Lake, Dr Pascal Landis, Prof Christine Loscher, Ms Niamh McMahon, Prof. Sharon O’Brien, Ms Christina O’Keeffe, Dr Sally Smith, Prof. Joseph Stokes (Chair) and Ms Jennifer Yore.

**Apologies:** Dr Tim Mc Cormac and Dr Jennifer McManis.

**In attendance:** Ms Grainne Curran

The Chair welcomed Prof Christine Loscher back to GRSB and welcomed Ms Niamh McMahon to her first meeting, who replaces Lisa Buckley while she is on leave.

### SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2021

The minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2021 were approved. It was noted that formal minutes would be signed once on-campus activity resumes.

#### 3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR4 form for a student in the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health, for which a decision was deferred pending confirmation that the external examiner meets the requirements as per regulation 10.2.9, is ongoing (item 3.4).

3.2 It was noted that follow up with respect to a PGR13 form for a student in the School of Computing, which was not approved due to insufficient information being provided on the form, is now complete (item 3.6) (original ref. 10.1, 8 April 2021).

- 3.3 It was noted that a PGR4 form for a student in the School of Inclusive and Special Education, which was not approved due to the external examiner not meeting the requirements as per academic regulation 10.2.9, is on the agenda (item 8.5) of today's meeting (item 8.6).
- 3.4 It was noted a PGR4 form for a student in the School of Physical Sciences, which was not approved due to the external examiner not meeting the requirements as per academic regulation 10.2.9, is on the agenda (item 8.8) of today's meeting (item 8.11).
- 3.5 It was noted that a PGR14 form for a student in the School of Theology, Philosophy and Music, which was not approved as the form was not completed by the Principal Supervisor, is on the agenda (item 9.7) of today's meeting (item 10.21).
- 3.6 It was noted that a PGR14 form for a student in the School of Law and Government, which was not approved as the form was not completed by the Principal Supervisor, is on the agenda (item 9.9) of today's meeting (item 10.22).

## **SECTION B: POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES**

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

The Chair advised members that the Tell it Straight 2020 competition, which was postponed due to the Pandemic, will take place on 24 June 2021. The Chair asked members to promote the online event in their Faculties.

#### **4.1 GTEs: Faculty of Engineering and Computing**

4.1.1 No code: Data Analysis for Advanced Manufacturing  
Approved

4.1.2 CA6009: Smointe Summer School (D-REAL CRT)  
Approved

4.1.3 EE6ML: Advanced Topics in Machine Learning  
Approved

**4.2 DCU Business School Pathway 2021-22**  
Noted

**4.3 DCU Institute of Education Pathway 2021-22**  
Noted. It was noted that relevant GS modules should be added to the pathway prior to publication.

**4.4 Faculty of Engineering and Computing Pathways 2021-22**  
It was noted that incomplete module codes will be updated once available.

4.4.1 School of Computing  
Noted

- 4.4.2 School of Electronic Engineering  
Noted
- 4.4.3 School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Noted. It was noted that the online research integrity module should be added to the pathway prior to publication.
- 4.4.4 Centre for Research Training – Artificial Intelligence  
Noted. It was noted that the online research integrity module should be added to the pathway prior to publication.
- 4.4.5 Centre for Research Training – Machine Learning  
Noted. It was noted that the online research integrity module should be added to the pathway prior to publication.
- 4.4.6 Centre for Research Training – Digitally-Enhanced Reality (D-Real)  
Noted. It was noted that the online research integrity module should be added to the pathway prior to publication.
- 4.4.7 Centre for Research Training – Advanced Metallic Systems  
Noted

#### **4.5 Faculty of Science and Health**

- 4.5.1 School of Biotechnology  
Noted
- 4.5.2 School of Chemical Sciences  
Noted
- 4.5.3 School of Health and Human Performance  
Noted
- 4.5.4 School of Mathematical Sciences  
Noted
- 4.5.5 School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health  
Noted
- 4.5.6 School of Physical Sciences  
Noted
- 4.5.7 School of Psychology  
Noted

#### **5. COVID-19 – continuity arrangements**

- 5.1 The Chair informed members of a recent communication received from the HEA, informing institutions of plans to close the HEA Covid-19 fund. The communication received indicates that

institutions will have until 14 July 2021 to allocate any remaining funds, prioritising research students who have projects ending in 2021.

It was noted that this is a significant decision by the HEA. It was noted that this decision will have implications for other students who have been impacted by Covid-19, but who have not had an opportunity to avail of additional funding to date.

It was noted that this issue will be discussed further at the next meeting of the IUA VP/Deans of Research Group.

- 5.2 The Chair noted DCU plans for a phased and incremental return to campus over the summer months. Arrangements for the return of research students will need to be managed locally, taking into account capacities and priority activities.

It was noted that existing arrangements for research students engaging with Registry will remain as per current guidelines until the end of September 2021.

It was noted that guidance on viva voce examinations will be revisiting in the coming weeks. It was noted that online examinations have afforded Schools the possibility of recruiting from a wider pool of external examiners and that this should be taken into consideration when reviewing the examination process.

## 6. **Non-attendance at Research Integrity Training**

It was noted that all first year research students are required to complete the online research integrity module on Loop. In previous years, non-completion of the module was communicated by the Graduates Studies Office to Heads of School. It is proposed that such notifications be communicated to the Principal Supervisors going forward. This change to the process was noted.

## SECTION C: INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ISSUES

- 7.1 GRSB2021/A5/7.1, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved
- 7.2 GRSB2021/A5/7.2, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved
- 7.3 GRSB2021/A5/7.3, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved
- 7.4 GRSB2021/A5/7.4, School of Communications  
Approved
- 7.5 GRSB2021/A5/7.5, School of Communications  
Approved

- 7.6 GRSB2021/A5/7.6, DkIT  
Approved
- 7.7 GRSB2021/A5/7.7, DkIT  
Approved
- 7.8 GRSB2021/A5/7.8, DkIT  
Approved
- 7.9 GRSB2021/A5/7.9, School of Electronic Engineering  
Not Approved. It was noted that the Internal Examiner is also the Internal Panel Member and has previously been involved in the Annual Review Process. It was noted that a new examination will be required with an alternative examiner.
- 7.10 GRSB2021/A5/7.10, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved
- 7.11 GRSB2021/A5/7.11, School of Inclusive and Special Education  
Approved
- 7.12 GRSB2021/A5/7.12, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved. It was noted that the student may have undergone an unsuccessful transfer examination process in 2020. Any previous PGR3 form should be presented to GRSB for completeness.
- 7.13 GRSB2021/A5/7.13, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved
- 7.14 GRSB2021/A5/7.14, School of Policy and Practice  
Approved
- 7.15 GRSB2021/A5/7.15, School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies  
Approved
- 7.16 GRSB2021/A5/7.16, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music  
Approved
- 7.17 GRSB2021/A5/7.17, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music  
Approved
- 7.18 GRSB2021/A5/7.18, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music  
Approved
- 8. Appointment of internal and external examiners (PGR4)**
- 8.1 GRSB2021/A5/8.1, MPhil, DCU Business School  
Approved. It was noted that the Internal Examiner should undertake the necessary examiner training provided by the Graduate Studies Office.

- 8.2 GRSB2021/A5/8.2, PhD, DCU Business School  
Approved
- 8.3 GRSB2021/A5/8.3, PhD, School of Communications  
Approved
- 8.4 GRSB2021/A5/8.4, PhD, Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaeilge  
Approved
- 8.5 GRSB2021/A5/8.5, PhD, School of Inclusive and Special Education  
Approved
- 8.6 GRSB2021/A5/8.6, PhD, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health  
Approved
- 8.7 GRSB2021/A5/8.7, DPsych, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health  
Not approved. It was noted that the External Examiner does not meet the requirements as per regulations 10.2.9.
- 8.8 GRSB2021/A5/8.8, MSc, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved
- 8.9 GRSB2021/A5/8.9, DMusPerf, Royal Irish Academy of Music  
Approved
- 8.10 GRSB2021/A5/8.10, 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 regulations 10.2.9.
- 8.11 GRSB2021/A5/8.11, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved by Chairs Action on 27 May 2021.
- 8.12 GRSB2021/A5/8.12, PhD, School of Health and Science, DkIT  
Approved
- 8.13 GRSB2021/A5/8.13, PhD, School of Health and Science, DkIT  
Approved
- 8.14 GRSB2021/A5/8.14, PhD, School of Engineering, DkIT  
Approved
- 8.15 GRSB2021/A5/8.15, PhD, School of Informatics and Creative Arts, DkIT  
Approved subject to receipt of the student's signature on the form.
- 8.16 GRSB2021/A5/8.16, Phd, School of Health and Science, DkIT  
Approved
- 8.17 GRSB2021/A5/8.17, MA, School of Informatics and Creative Arts, DkIT  
Approved

- 8.18 GRSB2021/A5/8.18, PhD, School of Health and Science, DkIT  
Approved
- 8.19 GRSB2021/A5/8.19, PhD, School of Informatics and Creative Arts, DkIT  
Approved
- 8.20 GRSB2021/A5/8.20, PhD, School of Health and Science, DkIT  
Approved
- 8.21 GRSB2021/A5/8.21, PhD, School of Health and Science, DkIT  
Approved
- 8.22 GRSB2021/A5/8.22, PhD, School of Health and Science, DkIT  
Withdrawn
- 8.23 GRSB2021/A5/8.23, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved
- 8.24 GRSB2021/A5/8.24, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved

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

- 9.1 GRSB2021/A5/9.1, DCU Business School  
Approved
- 9.2 GRSB2021/A5/9.2, DCU Business School  
Approved
- 9.3 GRSB2021/A5/9.3, School of Communications  
Approved
- 9.4 GRSB2021/A5/9.4, School of Communications  
Approved
- 9.5 GRSB2021/A5/9.5, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved
- 9.6 GRSB2021/A5/9.6, School of English  
Approved
- 9.7 GRSB2021/A5/9.7, School of Law and Government  
Approved
- 9.8 GRSB2021/A5/9.8, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy and Community Health  
Approved
- 9.9 GRSB2021/A5/9.9, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music  
Approved

- 9.10 GRSB2021/A5/9.10, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music  
Approved
- 9.11 GRSB2021/A5/9.11, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music  
Approved
- 9.12 GRSB2021/A5/9.12, Royal Irish Academy of Music  
Approved. It was noted that the registration period will not be extended beyond the 2021-22 academic year.

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

- 10.1 GRSB2021/A5/10.1, DCU Business School  
Approved
- 10.2 GRSB2021/A5/10.2, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music  
Approved
- 10.3 GRSB2021/A5/10.3, School of STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies  
Not approved. It was noted that the candidate's previous programme is more closely aligned to the DCU EdD programme. It was suggested the EdD may be a more practical, favourable route given work to date and expected completion timelines.

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

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

**Date of next meeting**

Monday 30 August 2021  
at 9.30 a.m.  
Zoom meeting