

GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Wednesday 16 April 2015

9.00 – 11.10 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor Lisa Looney (Chair), Ms Gillian Barry, Professor Liam Barry, Ms Lisa Buckley, Dr Gabriel Flynn, Dr Patricia Flynn, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Ms Rachel Keegan, Dr Tim McCormac, Dr Caroline McMullan, Professor Colm O’Gorman, Dr Mary Rose Sweeney, Dr Ana Terrés, Professor Kevin Rafter, Mr Ronan Tobin

Apologies: Mr Brian Harman, Dr Mary Ivers, Dr Blanaid White

The Chair opened the meeting thanking Ms. L. Buckley and colleagues in Registry for their work in organising the large numbers of PGR3 and PGR4 forms for today’s meeting. She noted that Dr B. White has re-joined Graduate Research Studies Board (GRSB) as a co-opted member.

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted, subject to the following:

- Item 4.1 was deferred until the next meeting of GRSB

The addition of three items under AOB:

- Update on individual panel member project
- ‘Tell it Straight’ event
- Annual Postgraduate Conference in Humanities and Education

2. Minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2015

The minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2015 were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 5 March 2015

- 3.1** It was noted that feedback on the DkIT Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research, offered in an advisory capacity, and relating to minor points of difference and wording, had been provided to colleagues in DkIT. It was indicated by Dr T. MacCormac that the suggested amendments would be considered at the first meeting of DkIT Graduate Research Studies Board. It was further noted that Dr R. O'Connor had agreed to be the DCU representative on DkIT's GRSB (Item 8).
- 3.2** It was noted that the proposed Joint Award Agreement with the Military University of Technology (MUT) had been finalised following clarification on the legal issue with the Chief Operating Officer. The Chair noted her thanks to Ms. G. Barry and colleagues in Registry for their assistance in this matter (Item 3.3).
- 3.3** It was noted that the PGR4 form would be amended from 2015-2016, with an insertion requesting Heads of School to provide a justification for the appointment of examiners where it is anticipated travel costs would be particularly high. It was confirmed that this matter would be dealt with by Registry in due course and was deemed completed (Item 3.2).
- 3.4** It was noted that resolution of Course Builder issues (university wide agreed descriptors for GTE modules) was awaiting the introduction of a new version of Course Builder in 2015 (Item 3.4).
- 3.5** It was noted that support from the Graduate Studies Office and the Teaching Enhancement Unit in terms of implementing GTE cross-cutting themes was a matter for ongoing discussion (Item 3.5).
- 3.6** It was noted that a broader initiative across the university on training in research integrity is ongoing (Item 3.6).
- 3.7** It was noted that information provided for a student (School of Communications) as an attachment to the PGR3 form but which should be incorporated into the form was being followed up by Registry (Item 3.7, originally raised 8 Sept 2015 meeting item 9.16).

- 3.8** It was noted that the PGR3 form (School of Nursing and Human Sciences) where a more detailed report was requested is ongoing (Item 3.8, item originally raised at 11 December meeting as Item 10.12).
- 3.9** It was noted that work is ongoing in relation to the proposal for the E-portfolio for Research Students (Item 3.10).
- 3.10** It was noted that the correction to an abstract attached to the PGR4 Form for a student in the School of Chemical Sciences is not yet complete (Item 3.11, Item 11.2, 21 Jan 2015).
- 3.11** It was noted that the Quality Assurance of GTE modules (not accredited under programmes) document had been published on the DCU website (Item 3.1).
- 3.12** It was noted that the '*Agreement for supervision of DCU registered research students by principal supervisors in MDI*' had been agreed and signed.
- 3.13** It was noted that a PGR14 form (Ref GRSB/A2/11.2.2) for the School of Biotechnology had been approved by Chair's action on 18 March 2015.
- 3.14** It was noted that the suggested change to the title of NS5055 Qualitative Research Methods, to distinguish it from other modules with similar titles had been made (Item 4.1).
- 3.15** It was noted that for a School of Communications' PGR3 form, it had been confirmed that an oral examination had taken place (Item 8.7)
- 3.16** It was noted that a more detailed report had been provided with respect to a PGR3 form submitted by the School of Health and Human Performance (Item 8.8)
- 3.17** It was noted that a more detailed report had been provided with respect to a PGR3 form submitted by the School of Health and Human Performance (Item 8.9).
- 3.18** It was noted that a PGR3 form for the School of Law and Government which had not been approved has been resubmitted (Item 8.10, agenda item 9.13).
- 3.19** It was noted that the School of Electronic Engineering had been advised that a panel member cannot be the Chair for the *Viva Voce* (Item 9.4).
- 3.20** It was noted that discussions on the suite of Academic Writing modules (GS608, GS609 and GS610) was ongoing.

SECTION B: POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES

4. Proposed Graduate Training Elements

4.1 Laboratory Tutoring, GS607

This item was deferred.

5. Incorporation and Graduate Research

Dr G. Flynn and Dr P. Flynn reported on the activity taking place in relation to Incorporation as follows:

- Fee and scholarship information has been compiled and provided to all stakeholders
- Postgraduate regulations have been aligned as closely as possible for all institutions
- The subgroup of the Student Experience Working Group has been working to ensure that the research admissions process for entry 2015 is ready
- Planning is now underway for the transfer of continuing research students from 2016.

6. Changes to Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis

The Chair briefed Board members on the proposed changes to the Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis. There was a brief discussion on the proposed change to paragraph 8.2.1, and the decision made at the GRSB meeting of 21 January 2015 was re-considered in the light of further feedback at School and Faculty level. It was agreed that it would be made clear in the regulations that the independent panel member is not permitted to be involved in the confirmation or transfer exam stage, or act as Chair of the *viva voce* examination.

All other proposed changes were agreed. Board members were asked to revert with any further feedback on the regulations to the Chair over the coming week in advance of submission to University Standards Committee and subsequently to Academic Council, for approval.

7. Supervisor sign off of thesis

The Chair introduced this item, indicating that the request to introduce the sign-off by the supervisor of the thesis had been raised informally by the Faculty of Science of Health. It was noted that there had been a number of occasions in the recent past when supervisors had not been happy for their students to submit their theses, however the students had submitted. Having researched practice in other institutions, it was found that there are a variety of practices, with some institutions having a sign-off requirement and a student right to appeal, and others, confirming the right of the student to submit.

Following a brief discussion it was suggested that some changes around the timeframe for the submission of the PGR4 form might be explored. The Chair suggested that should the Associate Dean for Research for the Faculty of Science and Health wish the issue to be given further consideration, she could bring a proposal in this regard to GRSB.

8. Joint Award Agreement with Maynooth University (3U)

The Chair outlined that the proposal to develop a joint research award with Maynooth University had arisen in the context of the 3U relationship and the two existing taught joint Masters' programmes. The proposal for a joint research award agreement had arisen from a specific request where joint funding has been secured. It was also anticipated that the requirement for such agreements with our strategic partner would increase and there was a need to have an agreed generic template in place, to apply on a case-by-case basis.

The Chair noted that the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Registrar) had agreed that the proposal met the bar of strategic significance set by the university policy, that no additional due diligence is required for MU and that the proposal could move forward to the drafting of an agreement. Given that there was pressure from the funding agency, the Chair had also already engaged with Maynooth University (MU) and an outline proposal had been discussed. Subject to the finer details being worked out, it has been agreed that two versions of a generic agreement would be put in place, one for DCU as administrative lead and another for MU as administrative lead and the student would also register in both institutions.

In the discussion which ensued the following items were raised:

- How the rotation of the administrative lead is managed is important to ensure that the process functions well
- A process around the inter-institutional sharing of data needs to be explored

- It was noted that the distribution of overhead, where relevant, although not under the remit of GRSB, should be addressed.

As there was a requirement from the funding agency to start the project, it was agreed that the student in question could register as a DCU student and a joint award agreement, to be further refined and considered by GRSB at its next meeting, could be applied subsequently.

SECTION C: Individual student issues

9. Applications for transfer to the PhD Register or confirmation on the PhD Register

- 9.1 GRSB2015/A3/9.1, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 9.2 GRSB2015/A3/9.2, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 9.3 GRSB2015/A3/9.3, DCU Business School
Approved.
- 9.4 GRSB2015/A3/9.4, DCU Business School
Approved.
- 9.5 GRSB2015/A3/9.5, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 9.6 GRSB2015/A3/9.6, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 9.7 GRSB2015/A3/9.7, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 9.8 GRSB2015/A3/9.8, School of Communications
Approved.
- 9.9 GRSB2015/A3/9.9, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 9.10 GRSB2015/A3/9.10, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.

- 9.11 GRSB2015/A3/9.11, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 9.12 GRSB2015/A3/9.12, School of Health & Human Performance
Approved.
- 9.13 GRSB2015/A3/9.13, School of Law & Government
Approved.
- 9.14 GRSB2015/A3/9.14, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

It was noted that some of the applications above were far outside of the twenty-one month time limit for transfer onto the PhD register. It was agreed that a more proactive approach to ensure that the regulations in this regard are applied is appropriate, now that it has been in place for some time. The Chair indicated that she will liaise with Registry in this regard with a view to a stricter enforcement of the regulation.

10. Appointment of external examiners

- 10.1 GRSB2015/A3/10.1, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Dr Judy Wakabayashi, Kent State University, USA
Approved.
- 10.2 GRSB2015/A3/10.2, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Dr Patricia Kennon, Maynooth University
Approved.
- 10.3 GRSB2015/A3/10.3, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Professor Bríona NicDhiarmada, DeBartolo, Notre Dame University, USA
Approved.
- 10.4 GRSB2015/A3/10.4, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Dr Niall Ó Ciosáin, NUI Galway
Approved
Dr Benjamin Dwyer, Middlesex University
Not approved, on the grounds of insufficient evidence of publications.
- 10.5 GRSB2015/A3/10.5, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Professor Diana Williams, University of Liverpool
Approved

- 10.6 GRSB2015/A3/10.6, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Professor Joaquim Cabral, University of Lisbon
Approved
- 10.7 GRSB2015/A3/10.7, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Professor Michael E Lyons, Trinity College Dublin
Approved
- 10.8 GRSB2015/A3/10.8, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Request to submit thesis before minimum period stipulated in *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees*, Approved.
Professor Gary Walsh, University of Limerick
Approved. It was queried if a second external examiner should be appointed for this candidate taking into account the fact that the candidate had been a member of DCU staff until very recently. (See also note under 10.9)
- 10.9 GRSB2015/A3/10.9, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Professor Tewfik Soulimane, University of Limerick
Approved. It was noted that the submission of the forms numbered 10.8 and 10.9 contravened Postgraduate Regulations, 10.2.6, where both external examiners are from the same school in the same university, and in line with the regulations the university could not appoint both in this instance. As it was not clear which candidate was most close to submitting, it was agreed that only one of the approved external examiners could be appointed, with the School providing guidance as to which.
- 10.10 GRSB2015/A3/10.10, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Dr Sharon Glynn, NUI Galway
Approved
- 10.11 GRSB2015/A3/10.11, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Dr Lisa Connolly, Queen's University Belfast
Approved
- 10.12 GRSB2015/A3/10.12, DBA, DCU Business School
Professor Ilfryn Price, Sheffield Hallam University
Approved
- 10.13 GRSB2015/A3/10.13, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
Dr Dara Fitzpatrick, University College Cork
Approved

- 10.14 GRSB2015/A3/10.14, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Dr Alan O’Riordan, Tyndall National Institute, University College Cork
Approved
- 10.15 GRSB2015/A3/10.15, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Professor Stefan Bon, University of Warwick
Approved. Noted that both this nominated external examiner and the external examiner nominated under 10.2 are from the same school in the same institution, not normally allowed under the regulations. However, a strong academic case was made and accepted for both of these external examiners.
- 10.16 GRSB2015/A3/10.16, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Professor Paul Worsfold, Plymouth University
Approved
- 10.17 GRSB2015/A3/10.17, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Professor Sebastien Lecommandoux, University of Bordeaux
Approved
- 10.18 GRSB2015/A3/10.18, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Dr Remzi Becer, Queen Mary University of London
Approved
- 10.19 GRSB2015/A3/10.19, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Dr Ritu Katakya, Durham University
Approved
- 10.20 GRSB2015/A3/10.20, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Professor Patrick Unwin, University of Warwick
Approved. (*Please see note under 10.15*)
- 10.21 GRSB2015/A3/10.21, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Dr Paul Kavanagh, NUI Galway
Approved
- 10.22 GRSB2015/A3/10.22, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Professor Cristina Nerin, University of Zaragoza, Spain
Approved
- 10.23 GRSB2015/A3/10.23, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Dr Chryssostomos Chatgililoglu, Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (INN)
Approved

- 10.24 GRSB2015/A3/10.24, PhD, School of Communications
Professor Martin Conboy, University of Sheffield
Approved
- 10.25 GRSB2015/A3/10.25, MA, School of Communications
Professor Guy Starkey, University of Sunderland
Approved
- 10.26 GRSB2015/A3/10.26, EdD, School of Education Studies
Dr Anne Marie Brady, Trinity College Dublin
Approved
Dr Maura Dowling, NUI Galway
Approved
- 10.27 GRSB2015/A3/10.27, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering
Dr Niall McMahon, Airsynergy
Not Approved, on the grounds of insufficient evidence of publications.
- 10.28 GRSB2015/A3/10.28, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Dr Benoit Huet, Eurecom, France
Approved
- 10.29 GRSB2015/A3/10.29, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Professor Zhili Sun, University of Surrey
Approved
- 10.30 GRSB2015/A3/10.30, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Professor Henry Rice, Trinity College Dublin
Approved
- 10.31 GRSB2015/A3/10.31, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Dr Maria Teresa Linaza Saldana, Vicomtech, Spain
Approved
- 10.32 GRSB2015/A3/10.32, PhD, School of Health & Human Performance
Dr Bret Goodpaster, Translational Research Institute for Metabolism & Diabetes,
USA
Approved
- 10.33 GRSB2015/A3/10.33, PhD, School of Health & Human Performance
Professor Jo Salmon, Deakin University, Australia
Approved. School to be asked if there is an alternative examiner in closer
proximity.

- 10.34 GRSB2015/A3/10.34, PhD, School of Health & Human Performance
Professor Eric Wallace, University of Ulster
Approved
- 10.35 GRSB2014/A3/10.35, MA, School of Law & Government
Dr Andrea Ryan, University of Limerick
Approved
- 10.36 GRSB2015/A3/10.36, PhD, School of Law & Government
Professor Andrew Keay, University of Leeds
Approved
- 10.37 GRSB2015/A3/10.37, PhD, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Professor Steve Bull, University of Newcastle
Approved
- 10.38 GRSB2015/A3/10.38, PhD, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Dr Peter Tiernan, University of Limerick
Approved
- 10.39 GRSB2015/A3/10.39, PhD, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Professor Mohamed Gamal Aboelmaged, Al Ghurair University, Dubai
Approved
- 10.40 GRSB2015/A3/10.40, PhD, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Dr Aoife Foley, Queen's University Belfast
Approved
- 10.41 GRSB2015/A3/10.41, PhD, School of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering
Professor George Liberopoulos, University of Thessaly, Greece
Approved
- 10.42 GRSB2015/A3/10.42, PhD, School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Dr Carol Murphy, Maynooth University
Approved
- 10.43 GRSB2015/A3/10.43, MSc, School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Dr Laurence Taggart, University of Ulster
Approved
- 10.44 GRSB2015/A3/10.44, PhD, School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Dr Stephanie Swales, University of Dallas
Approved

- 10.45 GRSB2015/A3/10.45, PhD, School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Professor Lucy Hederman, Trinity College Dublin
Approved
- 10.46 GRSB2015/A3/10.46, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Dr Paul Dawson, Queen's University Belfast
Approved
- 10.47 GRSB2015/A3/10.47, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Professor Sibel Erduran, University of Limerick
Approved
- 10.48 GRSB2015/A3/10.48, MSc, School of Physical Sciences
Professor Malini Olivo, NUI Galway
Approved
- 10.49 GRSB2015/A3/10.49, MSc, School of Physical Sciences
Dr Tara Dalton, University of Limerick
Approved
- 10.50 GRSB2015/A3/10.50. This application was withdrawn.
- 10.51 GRSB2015/A3/10.51, PhD, Department of English, SPD
Dr Pádraic Whyte, Trinity College Dublin
Approved
- 10.52 GRSB2015/a3/10.52, PhD, Department of English, SPD
Professor Neil Murphy, Nanyang University, Singapore
Approved
- 10.53 GRSB2015/A3/10.53, PhD, Department of English, SPD
Professor Lyn Innes, University of Kent
Approved
- 10.54 GRSB2015/A3/10.54, PhD, Department of History, SPD
Dr Laurence Marley, NUI Galway
Approved
- 10.55 GRSB2015/A3/10.55, MA, School of Humanities, MDI
Professor Thomas Hennessey, Canterbury Christ Church University
Approved

10.56 GRSB2015/A3/10.56, MA, All Hallows College
Professor Stan Chu Ilo, DePaul University, USA
Approved, subject to clarification of established links with the university.

10.57 GRSB2015/A3/10.57, MA, All Hallows College
Dr Eamon Maher, IT Tallaght
Approved

11. Other student issues

11.1 Recognition of Prior Learning, Application to MA by Research

11.1.1 GRSB2015/A3/11.1.1, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies.

This application was withdrawn.

11.2 Request for Extension to Maximum Registration Period OR Re-admission to the Research Programme

11.2.1 GRSB2015/A3/11.2.1, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved

11.2.2 GRSB2015/A3/11.2.2, PhD, School of Nursing & Human Sciences
Approved

12. Any other business

12.1 Update on individual panel member project

Ms. L. Buckley indicated that the project to confirm and update the titles and roles of all panel members on the ITS system was nearing completion, and thereafter only an annual exercise for incoming students will be required.

12.2 ‘Tell it Straight’ Competition

The Chair reminded Board members that the ‘Tell it Straight’ competition would be held on 29 April 2015 with the introduction for the first time of a separate first year competition. There were entrants from across the university and linked colleges and a finalist from St. Patrick’s College. She asked members to encourage staff and students to attend the event.

12.3 Annual Postgraduate Conference in Humanities and Education

Dr P Flynn also reminded members that the Fifth Annual Postgraduate Conference in Humanities and Education, hosted by DCU, would be held on 8 May 2015.

End

Date of next meeting:

Thursday, 21 May 2015 9.00 a.m. in A204

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____