

GRADUATE STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 2 July 2009

9.00-10.40 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor David Jacobson (Chair), Dr Françoise Blin,
Dr Pat Breerton, Dr Tony Cafolla, Ms Claudine Devereux,
Ms Hannah Dyas, Dr Gabriel Flynn, Ms Tanya Keogh,
Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Ms Patricia Moore,
Dr Mary Shine Thompson

Apologies: Dr Christine Loscher, Professor Gary Murphy, Dr Declan Raftery

SECTION A: Minutes and related issues

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of two additional submissions under Item 5, three additional submissions under Item 6 and two additional submissions under Item 7 and the deferral of Item 10 to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 14 May 2009

Confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** Noted that Professor Gary Murphy was progressing the revision of *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* and would, in due course, engage in further consultation with the Registry, with the working group set up in 2008 to discuss and agree the proposals for revision and with the GSB itself. Noted that the revision was being informed by the recently-published IUQB

National Guidelines of Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education (see Item 3.8 below). (Item 3.2)

- 3.2** Noted that registration of research students on taught modules, including retrospective registration where necessary, was nearing completion, that examination review meetings were being organised in Faculties to process the results from these modules and that preparations were being made for registration for taught modules in 2009/10. (Item 3.3)
- 3.3** Noted that Professor Murphy would discuss with Information Systems and Services ways in which online completion of forms might be encouraged, legal issues relating to digital signatures and support for online presentations by students undergoing examination in locations other than the university. (Items 3.5 and 3.10).
- 3.4** Noted that additional information in relation to two students had now been obtained from a School and that their confirmation on the PhD register had therefore been approved. (Item 3.6)
- 3.5** Noted that a student had appealed a decision not to confirm her on the PhD register, that the appeal had been upheld, that the student had been given permission to resubmit for examination by September 2009 and that a new supervisor had been appointed. (Item 3.8)
- 3.6** Noted that Professor Murphy had raised with relevant supervisors the fact that some students had submitted for transfer to the PhD register some considerable time after having initially registered for a Master's degree. (Item 4)
- 3.7** Noted that the PGR4 form (notification of intention to submit thesis for examination) was being revised and that the revisions would include (a) a request to specify in more detail than is currently required the reason(s) a nominated external examiner has been identified as being suitable and (b) the provision of an opportunity for the Head of School to confirm that the nominee has no associations with the university that are in contravention of regulations. (Item 6)
- 3.8** Noted that the revised IUQB *National Guidelines of Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education* had been launched (Professor Murphy having been a member of the IUQB expert panel), that they would shortly be available on line and that a limited number of hard copies would be made available to the university by the Graduate Research Office. (Item 9)
- 3.9** Noted that the meeting to agree the Quality Improvement Plan in respect of the recent quality review of postgraduate programmes was scheduled for 9 September 2009. (Item 11)

- 3.10** Noted that work to prepare for the use of the PAC application system by research applicants would begin in the Registry from late October 2009. (Item 12)
- 3.11** Noted that the Management Committee in St Patrick's College intended to discuss the possibility of using PAC for research applications to the College. (Item 12)
- 3.12** Noted that agreement had been reached on the fee liability for the Qualitative Research Summer School held in the School of Nursing in June 2009 and that discussions about the credit value to be attributed to it were ongoing. (Item 13)

SECTION B: Individual student issues

4. Applications for transfer to the PhD register

- 4.1 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/4.1, School of Biotechnology
Approved. Agreed none the less that Professor Murphy would be asked to request the School to explain the long interval between the initial registration on the Master's register and the transfer submission.
- 4.2 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/4.2, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved. Agreed none the less that Professor Murphy would be asked to request the School to explain the long interval between the initial registration on the Master's register and the transfer submission.
- 4.3 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/4.3, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 4.4 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/4.4, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 4.5 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/4.5, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 4.6 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/4.6, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved. Agreed none the less that Professor Murphy would be asked to request the School to explain the long interval between the initial registration on the Master's register and the transfer submission.

5. Applications for confirmation on the PhD register

- 5.1 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.1, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.

- 5.2 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.2, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 5.3 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.3, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.4 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.4, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.5 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.5, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 5.6 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.6, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 5.7 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.7, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 5.8 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.8, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 5.9 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.9, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 5.10 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.10, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 5.11 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.11, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 5.12 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.12, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 5.13 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/5.13, School of Communications
Approved.
- 5.14 Student ref. GSB/2009.A4/5.14, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.

Agreed that Dr Brereton would raise with the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies issues relating to the examination process for transfer to and confirmation on the PhD register.

Agreed that, for the examination process for transfer to and confirmation on the PhD register, an internal examiner could be identified who did not hold a PhD or a professorship him/herself if he/she had particular expertise in the research area and

provided a supporting mechanism was used (e.g. the identification of an additional examiner with a PhD or a professorship, from within or, if circumstances dictated it, from outside the university). In no circumstances, however, should an internal examiner without either a PhD or a professorship be appointed at the final examination stage. Noted that these issues would need to be factored into the ongoing work to revise *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* (see Item 3.1 above).

Agreed that it was most important to encourage students to take measures to improve their academic writing skills where this was necessary, that the availability of relevant taught modules should be highlighted to them and that other supporting mechanisms should be provided also as appropriate. Agreed that this issue would be raised at meetings of the Faculty Research Committees as soon as possible.

6. Appointment of external examiners

- 6.1 Professor Andrew Chesterman, University of Helsinki
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.1, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 6.2 Professor Piotr Kuhiwczak, University of Warwick
Professor Andrew Chesterman, University of Helsinki
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.2, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 6.3 Dr Doug Arnold, University of Essex
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.3, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.4 Dr Andreas Dür, University College Dublin
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.4, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 6.5 Dr Hussam Jouhara, Brunel University
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.5, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.6 Dr Sabeth Verpoorte, University of Groningen
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.6, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.7 Professor Fergal O'Brien, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.7, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

- 6.8 Professor Michael Kong, Loughborough University
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.8, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.9 Dr Charlie Cullen, Dublin Institute of Technology
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.9, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.10 Professor Mark Rainforth, University of Sheffield
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.10, PhD, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.11 Professor Stephen M Fields, Georgetown University
Dr John McDade, Heythrop College, University of London
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.11, PhD, School of Theology, Mater Dei
Institute of Education
Approved. Noted with approval that the layout of the PGR4 form in use by
Mater Dei Institute was particularly clear, and agreed that this layout would
be studied by the Registry with a view to determining the extent to which it
might be suitable for adaptation for general use. This will be done in the
context of the revision of the PGR4 form generally (see Item 3.7 above).
- 6.12 Dr Jean Andrews, University of Nottingham
Dr Maria de la Cinta Ramblado-Minero, University of Limerick
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.12, PhD, School of Applied Language and
Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 6.13 Professor Deborah Chambers, Newcastle University
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.13, PhD, School of Communications
Approved.
- 6.14 Professor Dermot Kenny, Beaumont Hospital/RCSI
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.14, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Decision deferred pending discussion with the School.
- 6.15 Dr Robert Crouch, University of Southampton
Professor Martin Johnson, University of Salford
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.15, PhD, School of Nursing
Approved.
- 6.16 Professor A L Ellermeijer, AMSTEL Institute, University of Amsterdam
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.16, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.17 Dr Theo Tryfonas, University of Bristol
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.17, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.18 Professor Paul Gatenholm, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.18, PhD, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.

- 6.19 Professor Tibor Czigany, Budapest University of Technology and Economics
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.19, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.20 Professor Robert Heimann, Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.20, PhD, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.21 Dr Liam Chambers, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.21, PhD, History Department, St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 6.22 Mr Paul Blackie, Athlone Institute of Technology
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.22, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.23 Professor Liliana Verestiuc, Gr T Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.23, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.24 Professor David Rowland, The Open University
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.24, DMusPerf, Royal Irish Academy of Music
Approved. Noted that the student had completed the doctoral programme in less than the minimum time period and that the RIAM had confirmed that all necessary elements of the programme had been completed. Concern was expressed at the fact that permission for accelerated completion had not been sought from the university in advance. Agreed that Professor Murphy would be asked to convey this concern to the RIAM, emphasising the need to ensure equity of treatment of students and the importance of requesting in advance permission for accelerated completion should the issue arise at a future date. Noted that, if successful at examination, the student in question, and the students completing the Doctorate in Education in St Patrick's College, would be the first to graduate from the university with professional doctorates. Noted that all other students currently on the DMusPerf programme intended to complete it in the standard time period. Noted with approval that regulations and procedures relating to the university's professional doctoral programmes had evolved significantly over the past few years.

- 6.25 Mr John Alderman, Tyndall National Institute, University College Cork
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.25, MEng, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.26 Dr Paul Verhaege, Ghent University
Professor Dawn Freshwater, University of Leeds
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.26, PhD, School of Nursing
Approved.
- 6.27 Professor Michaela Amering, Medical University of Vienna
Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/6.27, PhD, School of Nursing
Approved.

7. Requests for changes to supervisory arrangements

- 7.1 Student ref. GSB/2009/AF/7.1, School of Applied Language and
Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 7.2 Student ref. GSB/2009/AF/7.2, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 7.3 Student ref. GSB/2009/AF/7.3, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing
Engineering
Approved. Agreed, however, that clarification would be sought as to the
accuracy of the information provided on the form about the award sought.
- 7.4 Student ref. GSB/2009/AF/7.4, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 7.5 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/7.5, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 7.6 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/7.6, School of Biotechnology
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.
- 7.7 Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/7.7, School of Law and Government
Decision deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.

Agreed that the R103 form (change of supervisory arrangements) would be revised,
with particular reference to the importance of (a) specifying that the reason for the
proposed change should not be supplied by the student and (b) ensuring that each
contribution made on the form is clearly attributable to the staff member
concerned.

8. Other student issues**8.1 Request for re-admission to complete Master's research programme**

Student ref. GSB/2009/A4/8,1, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved, on an exceptional basis and subject to completion within one year of the date of re-registration.

8.2 Request to complete taught doctorate in less than minimum time period

See Item 6.24 above.

SECTION C: Policy and strategy issues**9. Academic dress for taught doctoral graduands**

Noted that the President had advised that, at the November 2009 graduation ceremonies which would involve the graduation from the university of the first holders of professional doctorates (see Item 6.24 above), the academic dress to be worn by these graduands should be identical to that worn by PhD graduands.

10. Classification of research Master's programmes

Deferred to the 10 September 2009 meeting of the GSB.

11. Any other business

Noted that the date of the next meeting of the GSB had been changed from 3 September to 10 September 2009.

Date of next meeting:

**Thursday 10 September 2009
9.00 a.m. in A204**

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____