GRADUATE STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 5 May 2011

9.00-11.00 a.m. in A204

Present:	Professor Gary Murphy (Chair), Dr Dermot Brabazon, Dr Pat Brereton, Professor John Costello, Ms Claudine Devereux, Dr Gabriel Flynn, Dr Bernadette Flanagan, Dr Christine Loscher, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Dr Ciarán Mac Murchaidh, Ms Patricia Moore, Dr Anne Morrissey, Professor Colm O'Gorman
Apologies:	Ms Gillian Barry, Dr Françoise Blin, Ms Hannah Dyas, Dr Declan Raftery

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1.   Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of three additional submissions under Item 11 and the renumbering of Item 11.1 as Item 11.4.

2.   Minutes of the meeting of 3 March 2011

The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3.   Matters arising from the minutes

3.1   <u>Noted</u> that any issues that may arise with regard to the operation of the PAC system for research student applications should be raised with the Chair or with the Registry. (Item 3.1)

3.2   Noted that a regulation about the unacceptability of the use of commercial thesis proofreading/editing services would be inserted into the revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*. The wording of the reference to contract cheating in the University's Code of Discipline is such that it is clear that research students are included. (Item 3.2)

3.3   Noted that the issue of making 2.5-credit modules available as part of Graduate Training Elements would be discussed at a future meeting of the GSB. (Item 3.3)

3.4   Noted that the new Graduate Training Elements for 2011/12 had been approved electronically with respect to three Faculties and that approval of those from the Faculty of Science and Health would be undertaken shortly. Noted that the approval of Graduate Training Elements from other institutions would be factored into the inter-institutional agreements currently being drawn up under the auspices of the IUA Fourth Level Network. (Item 3.4)

3.5   Noted, with regard to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between St Patrick's College and Dundalk Institute of Technology, that DKIT was awaiting sign-off from HETAC on the proposed collaboration. Noted that the fact that the Chair is now a member of the HETAC panel on approval mechanisms for doctoral awards in Institutes of Technology would be helpful when collaborative ventures such as this one were being considered. (Item 3.5)

3.6   Noted that a School was in the process of identifying an alternative external examiner for a student. (Item 3.7)

3.7   Noted that the revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* had been approved by Academic Council at its meeting of 13 April 2011 subject to final comments from Council members. A small number of such comments have been submitted, and the Chair is in discussion with those who submitted them with a view to clarifying all issues and queries and then being in a position to confirm to Council that the regulations are approved. As noted by Council, the regulations are to be deemed to be implemented on a pilot basis in 2011/12, with any issues or difficulties being noted and factored into ongoing review. To this end, the Chair requested that the regulations feature on the first meeting of each Faculty Research Committee of 2011/12 and that the supervisory panels mentioned in the regulations be discussed at these meetings, as required. Noted that, when the PGR2 (annual progress report) form is being revised, provision will be made for the listing on it of the members of the supervisory panel. (Item 3.9)

3.8   Noted that the issue of credit attribution for attendance at a Summer School was under consideration within a School. (Item 3.10)

3.9   <u>Noted</u> that a call for applications for the Daniel O'Hare Scholarships would be made in due course.   (Item 3.11)

3.10   <u>Noted</u> that the issue of registration of Oscail research students would be considered by the University in due course. (Item 3.12)

3.11   <u>Noted</u> that discussions about a possible transfer student were ongoing in a School. (Item 3.17)

3.12   <u>Noted</u> that clarification of a sentence in two PGR3 (application for transfer to, or confirmation on, the PhD register) forms had been received, and the applications had been approved. (Items 4.7 and 4.8)

3.13   <u>Noted</u> that the desirability of timely submission of PGR3 forms had been mentioned to a supervisor by the Chair. (Item 4)

3.14   <u>Noted</u> that additional information had been submitted about a nominated external examiner, and the nominee had been approved. (Item 5.10)

3.15   <u>Noted</u> that, by means of Chair's action, an alternative internal examiner for a student had been approved. (Item 5.13)

3.16   <u>Noted</u> that Executive had reviewed the proposals on Higher Doctorates and had advised (a) that the minimum period of employment in the University prior to a candidate's being considered for the award of Higher Doctorate should be eight years rather than five, and (b) that the role originally envisaged for the Head of School should be undertaken by the Dean of Faculty. The Chair will notify further progress to the GSB. (Item 9)

3.17   <u>Noted</u> that SALIS currently offers a module in academic English for native speakers of other languages. <u>Noted</u> that the practice of taking Chair's action to approve exceptional admission for applicants whose native language is not English and who have not yet fulfilled the University's entry requirements in terms of English language competence would continue, but that the Chair would monitor it, the issue would be discussed again at a future meeting of the GSB, and consideration would be given to a cut-off date for each relevant student by which requirements would have to be met. <u>Noted</u> too that the Chair would raise with the Deputy President/Registrar, Professor Anne Scott, the general issue of provision of English-language support for non-native speakers. (See also Item 9 below.) (Item 10.3)

3.18   Agreed that the Chair would approach NAIRTL with a view to discussing the adoption by the University, and the linked colleges, of the NAIRTL supervisory training programme. (Item 10.4)

3.19   Noted that take-up of some Graduate Training Elements (e.g. in the area of commercialisation of research, where the module had been discontinued) had been disappointing. Agreed that the support of Principal Investigators was essential if students were to take up such modules successfully. (Item 10.5)

3.20   Noted that, by means of Chair's action in April 2011, permission had been granted to a PhD candidate to write her thesis in French.

3.21   Noted that, by means of Chair's action in April 2011, an external examiner, Professor Hugh Kehr of the Technische Universität München, had been approved for a PhD candidate in Dublin City University Business School.

3.22   Noted that, by means of Chair's action in April 2011, a replacement external examiner, Professor Ernest Mathijs of the University of British Columbia, had been approved for a PhD candidate in the School of Communications

3.23   A change of internal examiner in SALIS was noted.

SECTION B: INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ISSUES

4.   Applications for transfer to the PhD register or confirmation on the PhD register

   4.1   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.1, School of Applied Language and
          Intercultural Studies
          Approved.
   4.2   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.2, School of Applied Language and
          Intercultural Studies
          Approved.
   4.3   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.3, School of Applied Language and
          Intercultural Studies
          Approved.
   4.4   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.4, School of Applied Language and
          Intercultural Studies
          Approved.
   4.5   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.5, School of Biotechnology
          Approved.

4.6   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.6, School of Biotechnology
        Approved.
4.7   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.7, School of Biotechnology
        Approved.
4.8   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.8, School of Biotechnology
        Approved.
4.9   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.9, School of Biotechnology
        Approved.
4.10   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.10, School of Chemical Sciences
        Approved.
4.11   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.11, School of Chemical Sciences
        Approved.
4.12   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.12, School of Chemical Sciences
        Approved.
4.13   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.13, School of Communications
        Approved.
4.14   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.14, School of Communications
        Approved.
4.15   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.15, School of Computing
        Approved.
4.16   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.16, School of Nursing
        Approved. Agreed that the Chair would request the School not to make
        changes to the format of the online form and not to refer to the additional
        examiner as an 'external' examiner.
4.17   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.17, School of Physical Sciences
        Approved.
4.18   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/4.18, School of Physical Sciences
        Approved.

5.   Appointment of external examiners

5.1   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.1, PhD, School of Biotechnology
        Dr David Clarke, University College Cork
        Approved.
5.2   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology
        Professor Kay Ohlendieck, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
        Approved subject to receipt of information about the nature and extent of
        the nominee's experience of examining research candidates.
5.3   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.3, PhD, School of Biotechnology
        Professor Sarah De Saeger, Ghent University
        Approved subject to receipt of information about the nature and extent of
        the nominee's experience of examining research candidates.

5.4   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.4, PhD, School of Biotechnology
        Dr Timothy Curtis, Queen's University Belfast
        Approved.
5.5   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.5, PhD, Dublin City University Business
        School
        Professor Elizabeth Chell, Kingston University
        Approved.
5.6   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.6, PhD, Dublin City University Business
        School
        Professor Allan Macpherson, De Montfort University
        Approved.
5.7   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.7, PhD, Dublin City University Business
        School
        Professor John Bessant, University of Exeter
        Approved.
        Dr Paul Ryan, National University of Ireland, Galway
        Approved.
5.8   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.8, MBS, Dublin City University Business
        School
        Ms Evelyne L Coles, University of Leeds
        Approved.
5.9   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.9, PhD, Dublin City University Business
        School
        Professor Thomas Lawton, EMLYON Business School, France
        Approved.
5.10   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.10, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Dr Alan Ryder, National University of Ireland, Galway
        Approved.
5.11   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.11, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Professor Syuzanna Harutyunyan, University of Groningen
        Approved.
5.12   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.12, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Dr Tim McCormac, Dundalk Institute of Technology
        Approved.
5.13   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.13, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Dr Olaf Schmidt, University College Dublin
        Approved.
5.14   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.14, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Dr Tom O'Dwyer, University of Limerick
        Approved.
5.15   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.15, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Dr Brendan Keely, University of York
        Approved.

5.16   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.16, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Professor John O'Donoghue, University of Limerick
        Approved.

5.17   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.17, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Dr Fawaz Aldabbagh, National University of Ireland, Galway
        Approved.

5.18   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.18, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
        Dr Leon Barron, King's College London
        Decision deferred pending receipt of further information.

5.19   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.19, PhD, School of Communications
        Professor Martin Lister, University of the West of England
        Approved.

5.20   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.20, PhD, School of Computing
        Dr Andreas Enge, Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en
        Automatique, Bordeaux
        Approved.

5.21   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.21, PhD, School of Computing
        Dr Ernest Teniente, University Politècnica de Catalunya
        Approved subject to receipt of satisfactory details about the nominee's
        publications.

5.22   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.22, PhD, School of Computing
        Dr Alvaro AA Fernandes, University of Manchester
        Approved.

5.23   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.23, PhD, School of Computing
        Dr Angela Bonifati, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy
        Approved subject to receipt of information about the nature and extent of
        the nominee's experience of examining research candidates.

5.24   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.24, PhD, School of Computing
        Professor Jaap Kaandorp, University of Amsterdam
        Approved.

5.25   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.25, PhD, School of Computing
        Dr Sami Bhiri, Digital Enterprise Research Centre, National University of
        Ireland, Galway
        Approved.

5.26   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.26, PhD, School of Education Studies
        Dr Tom Andrews, University College Cork
        Approved.

5.27   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.27, PhD, School of Education Studies
        Dr Josephine Boland, National University of Ireland, Galway
        Approved.

5.28   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.28, PhD, School of Health and Human
        Performance
        Dr Melissa Parker, University of Northern Colorado

Approved.

5.29   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.29, PhD, School of Law and Government
        Professor Tom Lodge, University of Limerick
        Approved.

5.30   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.30, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
        Dr Juan Antonio Valiente Kroon, Queen Mary, University of London
        Approved.

5.31   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.31, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
        Professor Ferenc Hartung, University of Pannonia, Hungary
        Approved.

5.32   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.32, PhD, School of Nursing
        Dr Paul Browne, St James's Hospital
        Approved.

5.33   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.33, MSc, School of Nursing
        Professor José Closs, University of Leeds
        Approved.

5.34   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.34, MSc, School of Nursing
        Dr Valerie Richardson, University College Dublin
        Approved.

5.35   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.35, MSc, School of Physical Sciences
        Professor Niamh Moran, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
        Approved.

5.36   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.36, MA, All Hallows College
        Professor John Archer, University of Central Lancashire
        Approved.

Agreed to change the last section on the pro-forma *curriculum vitae* of the nominee so that it includes three tick-boxes which should be filled, as appropriate, to indicate whether or not the nominee has previously supervised research students, co-supervised research students, or examined research students.

6.   Requests for changes to supervisory arrangements

6.1   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/6.1, School of Communications
       Approved.

6.2   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/6.2, School of Communications
       Approved.

6.3   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/6.3, School of Communications
       Approved.

6.4   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/6.4, School of Computing
       Approved.

6.5   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/6.5, School of Computing
       Approved.

6.6   Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/6.6, NICB and School of Nursing
       Approved.

7.   Other student issues

None.

SECTION C: POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES

8.   Proposed Graduate Training Elements

None.

9.   Proposal to change the minimum English-language entry requirements for students who are native speakers of other languages

9.1   <u>Agreed</u> that the issues relating to standard of English of native speakers of other languages could be very problematic, involving the need to balance a commitment to student well-being with the need to maintain academic standards, as well as consideration of social factors such as the tendency of students from the same language groups to socialise together.

9.2   <u>Agreed</u> that the Chair would discuss the issues with Ms Gillian Barry, would request the Deputy President/Registrar, Professor Anne Scott, to include a relevant item on the agenda of the 26 May 2011 meeting of the University Standards Committee, and would also put a relevant item on the agenda of the June 2011 meeting of the IUA Fourth Level Network.

(See also Item 3.17 above.)

10.   Proposed changes to the PGR3 form (application for Transfer to the PhD Register or Confirmation on the PhD Register)

<u>Agreed</u> that the form did not need to be changed and that, in a case where a student exits with a Master's degree following examination for transfer to, or confirmation on, the PhD register, this fact should be recorded on the PGR2 (annual progress report) and PGR4 (notification of intention to submit thesis for examination) forms.

11.   Any other business

11.1   <u>Agreed</u> that the maximum number of supervisors a student should have is normally three, but that it would not be necessary to put a reference to this into the revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* because any further queries in respect of this matter could be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

11.2   <u>Noted</u> that the Chair had taken up the new position of Dean of Graduate Studies and would remain in it until his term of office came to an end later in 2011. In his new capacity, the Chair reports to the Deputy President/Registrar, Professor Anne Scott.

11.3   <u>Noted</u> that Ms Tanya Keogh had left the GSB because she has taken up a different role within the University and no longer works in the Graduate Research Office. On behalf of the GSB, the Chair expressed appreciation to Ms Keogh for her contribution to its work.

11.4   <u>Noted</u> that the meeting of 30 June 2011 would be followed by a social event to mark the fact that it will be the last meeting to be chaired by the inaugural Chair of the GSB, Professor Murphy, and to wish Professor Murphy well in his future endeavours.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 30 June 2011
9.00 a.m. in A204

Signed: _____   Date: _____
       Chair