

GRADUATE STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 8 September 2011

9.00-11.00 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor Gary Murphy (Chair), Dr Dermot Brabazon, Dr Pat Breton, Professor John Costello, Ms Claudine Devereux, Dr Tracy Dixon, Dr Bernadette Flanagan, Dr Gabriel Flynn, Dr Christine Loscher, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Dr Ciarán Mac Murchaidh, Dr Anne Morrissey, Professor Colm O’Gorman, Dr Ana Terres

Apologies: Ms Gillian Barry, Dr Françoise Blin, Ms Hannah Dyas, Ms Patricia Moore

In attendance: Dr Lisa Looney

The Chair welcomed Dr Lisa Looney, who attended the meeting in her capacity as incoming Dean of Graduate Studies, and wished her every success in her new post. He also welcomed Dr Tracy Dixon and Dr Ana Terres to their first meeting of the Graduate Studies Board. He expressed appreciation to Dr Françoise Blin and Dr Declan Raftery, whose terms of office as GSB members had come to an end, for their very significant contributions to the work of the GSB since its inception. He congratulated Professor Costello on his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Health.

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of two additional submissions under Item 4 and one additional submission under Item 5, the inclusion of a new Item 6 as ‘Requests for changes to supervisory arrangements’ the consequent renumbering of Items 6-10 inclusive as Items 7-11 inclusive, and the inclusion of two additional submissions under [new] Item 7 and two submissions under [new] Item 8.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 5 May 2011

The minutes, which had been confirmed electronically on 23 August 2011, were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** Noted that the revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* would be on the agendas of the Faculty Research Committee meetings in the course of 2011/12 so that they could be monitored for fitness of purpose. (Item 3.1)
- 3.2** Noted that discussions would take place at a future meeting of the GSB with respect to 2.5-credit modules as Graduate Training Elements as well as a number of related issues. (Item 3.2)
- 3.3** Noted that the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the University, St Patrick's College and Dundalk Institute of Technology in respect of a joint doctoral programme would shortly be submitted for the consideration of relevant parties, including HETAC. (Item 3.4)
- 3.4** Noted that an issue relating to the identification and approval of internal and external examiners for a student had been resolved, and the examiners had been approved. (Item 3.5)
- 3.5** Noted that the PGR2 (annual progress report) form was in the process of being revised, and that the new version would include provision for the listing of the members of the supervisory panel. (Item 3.6)
- 3.6** Noted that the credits attaching to a Summer School had been integrated into the academic structures in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. (Item 3.7)
- 3.7** Noted that the quality of the recent applications for the Daniel O'Hare Scholarships had been high, that the recipients had been selected and that they would shortly be notified of their success. (Item 3.8)
- 3.8** Noted that discussions about a possible transfer student were ongoing in a School. (Item 3.9)
- 3.9** Noted that the proposal on English-language requirements was under discussion in the Faculty Research Committee and would be further discussed by the GSB at its meeting of 3 November 2011. Noted also that discussions were in progress about

- the supports available for students whose native language is not English and that a future meeting of the GSB would consider the issues pertaining to the small number of students admitted without having met the University's English-language requirements. (Items 3.11 and 10)
- 3.10** Noted that supervisory training sessions, under the auspices of NAIRTL, would be held in the University in January and April 2012. However, such sessions will continue to be institution-specific and, in the case of DCU, will continue to be organised through Training and Development in the Human Resources Department. (Item 3.12)
- 3.11** Noted that discussions with two Schools in respect of requests for confirmation of students on the PhD register had taken place satisfactorily, and the requests had been deemed approved. (Items 4.10 and 4.13)
- 3.12** Noted that a School had been requested not to refer to 'external examiner' on forms in contexts in which the individual concerned is, *de facto*, an internal examiner though not employed by DCU. (Items 4.15 and 4.16)
- 3.13** Noted that internal examiners for students had been identified in a School, and the requests for confirmation on the PhD register had been deemed approved. (Items 4.20 and 4.21)
- 3.14** Noted that an internal examiner for a student had been identified in a School, and the request for transfer to the PhD register had been deemed approved. (Item 4.22)
- 3.15** Noted that a PGR4 (notification of intention to submit thesis for examination) form had been signed by a Head of School, and the approval process thereby deemed complete. (Item 5.12)
- 3.16** Noted that a satisfactory *curriculum vitae* for a nominated external examiner had been provided, and the nomination thereby deemed approved. (Item 5.14)
- 3.17** Noted that issues relating to the future PhD examination of a student had been mentioned to the Head of School by the Chair. (Item 5.17)
- 3.18** A request to submit a thesis for examination, and to approve the external examiner, was approved on the basis of the unusual and exceptional circumstances which pertain to the case. (Item 5.25)
- 3.19** Noted that arrangements were in place with respect to the new MSc in Bioinnovation and that students would shortly register. (Item 9)

- 3.20** Noted that the views of the GSB, in respect of the recording of oral examinations for transfer to/confirmation on the PhD register, would be supplemented by additional information from the School of Computing prior to being submitted for the consideration of other officers and committees in the University. (Item 12.1)
- 3.21** Noted that the Complaints Review Committee had met and that it would reconvene by the end of September 2011 to agree its final recommendation prior to sending this to the appropriate University officers. (Item 12.2)
- 3.22** Noted that a change of internal examiner and supervisor in respect of a student had been approved by Chair's action on 8 July 2011.
- 3.23** Noted that confirmation of a student on the PhD register had been approved by Chair's action on 8 July 2011.
- 3.24** Noted that a nominated external examiner had been approved by Chair's action on 8 July 2011.
- 3.25** Noted that a nominated external examiner had been approved by Chair's action on 29 July 2011.

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/A5/4.1, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 4.2 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.2, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 4.3 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.3, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.
- 4.4 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.4, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.
- 4.5 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.5, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.
- 4.6 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.6, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.
- 4.7 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.7, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.

- 4.8 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.8, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 4.9 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.9, School of Computing
Approved subject to the correction of the references to the student's name on the form.
- 4.10 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.10, School of Computing
Approved.
- 4.11 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.11, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 4.12 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.12, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 4.13 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.13, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 4.14 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.14, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 4.15 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.15, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 4.16 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.16, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 4.17 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.17, School of Law and Government
Not approved. Agreed that the School should be requested to resubmit the form with an appropriate level of detail included. Concern was expressed at the reference to the amount of time being spent by the student on research.
- 4.18 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.18, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 4.19 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.19, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 4.20 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.20, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 4.21 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.21, School of Nursing
Approved.
- 4.22 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.22, School of Nursing
Approved.
- 4.23 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.23, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 4.24 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.24, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 4.25 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/4.25, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

5. Appointment of external examiners

- 5.1 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.1, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Dr J Anthony Byrne, University of Ulster
Approved.
- 5.2 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Dr Marian Kane, National University of Ireland, Galway
Approved.
- 5.3 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.3, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Dr Erwin Reisner, University of Cambridge
Approved.
- 5.4 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.4, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Professor Albert Schenning, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
Approved.
- 5.5 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.5, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Dr J A Gareth Williams, Durham University
Approved.
- 5.6 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.6, PhD, School of Communications
Dr Caroline Bassett, University of Sussex
Approved.
- 5.7 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.7, PhD, School of Computing
Dr Fred Cummins, University College Dublin
Approved.
- 5.8 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.8, PhD, School of Computing
Dr Conor McBride, University of Strathclyde
Approved.
- 5.9 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.9, PhD, School of Computing
Dr Hendrik Eshuis, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
Approved.
- 5.10 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.10, PhD, School of Computing
Dr R Benjamin Knapp, CASALA, Dundalk Institute of Technology
Approved.
- 5.11 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.11, EdD, School of Education Studies
Dr Paul Conway, University College Cork
Approved.
- 5.12 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.12, MA, School of Education Studies
Dr Elaine Keane, National University of Ireland, Galway
Approved.
- 5.13 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.13, MA, School of Education Studies
Mr Seán Griffin, St Nicholas Montessori College
Approved.

- 5.14 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.14, EdD, School of Education Studies
Dr Richard Boyle, Institute of Public Administration
Approved.
- 5.15 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.15, EdD, School of Education Studies
Dr Anne Lodge, Church of Ireland College of Education
Approved subject to clarification that the nominee will not thereby exceed the appropriate number of appointments.
- 5.16 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.16, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Professor Joseph A Paradiso, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Approved with respect to the nominated external examiner, subject to Professor Dermot Diamond's name being included in the list of supervisors. However, the student has not yet met the University's English-language requirements. As these requirements are already under discussion in the Faculty Research Committees (see Item 3.9 above), the student's eligibility to proceed to examination may be further considered in the light of the outcome of the discussions.
- 5.17 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.17, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Dr Robert Manning, Tyndall National Institute, University College Cork
Approved subject to the removal of the word 'lecturer' at 'nature of current post' in Section B of the form.
- 5.18 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.18, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Professor Paul Rees, Swansea University
Approved.
- 5.19 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.19, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Professor Tony Pridmore, University of Nottingham
Approved.
- 5.20 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.20, MSc, School of Health and Human Performance
Professor Sam Zizzi, West Virginia University
Approved.
- 5.21 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.21, MSc, School of Health and Human Performance
Dr Fiona Chambers, University College Cork
Approved.
- 5.22 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.22, MSc, School of Health and Human Performance
Dr Eamonn Delahunt, University College Dublin
Approved.
- 5.23 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.23, MSc, School of Health and Human Performance
Dr Eamonn Delahunt, University College Dublin
Approved.

- 5.24 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.24, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Dr Syed Hasan, Sheffield Hallam University
Approved.
- 5.25 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.25, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Professor Graham Cockerham, Sheffield Hallam University
Approved.
- 5.26 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.26, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Professor Domenico Sorrenti, Università degli Studi di Milano
Approved.
- 5.27 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.27, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Dr David Tanner, University of Limerick
Approved.
- 5.28 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.28, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Dr Tofail Syed, University of Limerick
Approved.
- 5.29 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.29, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Dr Garret O'Donnell, University College Dublin
Agreed that, in view of the number of previous appointments as external examiner held by Dr O'Donnell, the School would be asked to nominate an alternative examiner.
- 5.30 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.30, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Dr Peter Williams, University of Limerick
Approved.
- 5.31 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.31, PhD, School of Nursing
Professor Chris Bobel, University of Massachusetts Boston
Approved.
- 5.32 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.32, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Professor Iggy McGovern, Trinity College Dublin
Approved subject to the correction of the stated word count of the thesis.
- 5.33 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.33, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Dr Jean-Paul Booth, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France
Approved with respect to the nominated external examiner. Agreed, however, that further information on the word count of the thesis would be sought from the School.

- 5.34 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.34, MSc, School of Physical Sciences
Dr Jelle Kaastra, Utrecht University
Approved with respect to the nominated external examiner. Agreed, however, that a rationale for early submission would need to be provided.
- 5.35 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.35, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Professor Nicholas Braithwaite, The Open University
Approved.
- 5.36 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.36, EdD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Dr Gráinne Ní Dhomhnaill, University College Dublin
Agreed, in view of the number of previous appointments as external examiner held by Dr Ní Dhomhnaill, that an alternative nomination would be submitted to the GSB meeting of 3 November 2011.
- 5.37 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.37, EdD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Dr Anne Lodge, Church of Ireland College of Education
Agreed, in view of the number of previous appointments as external examiner held by Dr Lodge, that an alternative nomination would be submitted to the GSB meeting of 3 November 2011.
- 5.38 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.38, EdD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Dr Aidan Seery, Trinity College Dublin
Approved.
- 5.39 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.39, EdD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Professor Ciarán Sugrue, University College Dublin
Approved.
- 5.40 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.40, EdD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Dr Eamon Lynch, Garda Research Unit
Approved.
- 5.41 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.41, EdD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Professor James Deegan, Mary Immaculate College of Education,
University of Limerick
Approved.
- 5.42 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.42, EdD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Dr Claire Hayes, clinical psychologist in private practice
Not approved, on the basis that the nominee has co-published with the supervisor. Agreed that an alternative nomination should be submitted to the GSB meeting of 3 November 2011.

- 5.43 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.43, EdD, Special Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Dr Michael Shevlin, Trinity College Dublin
Approved.
- 5.44 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.44, EdD, Special Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Professor Sip Jan Pijl, University of Groningen
Approved.
- 5.45 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.45, PhD, School of Education,
Mater Dei Institute of Education
Professor William Kilbourne Kay, Glyndŵr University, Wales
Approved. Noted that the word '(Education)' should be deleted after 'PhD'.
- 5.46 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/5.46, MA, School of Humanities,
Mater Dei Institute of Education
Dr Anne Dolan, Trinity College Dublin
Approved. Noted that the words 'in Irish Studies' should be deleted after 'MA'. Agreed that it would be helpful to give further consideration to the proposed word count of the thesis.

The difficulty of sourcing external examiners for professional doctoral programmes, when a number of candidates present for examination in cognate areas at the same time, was noted.

Agreed that a mechanism would be agreed between the Registry, the linked colleges and relevant Schools in the University to ensure that the same external examiner was not nominated in one area without other areas being aware of this (and with the risk that the nominee might not be approved because he/she would then exceed the appropriate number of appointments).

With respect to the box at the end of the PGR4 (notification of intention to submit thesis for examination) form, which elicits information about the nominated external examiner's previous experience, it was suggested that the words 'to completion' be added after 'supervision of research candidates' and 'co-supervision of research candidates'. It was agreed that the GSB would give consideration to this suggestion at a future meeting.

6. Requests for changes to supervisory arrangements

- 6.1 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/6.1, Dublin City University Business School
Approved.
- 6.2 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/6.2, School of Education Studies
Approved.

- 6.3 Student ref. GSB/2011/A5/6.3, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 6.4 Student ref. GSB2011/A5/6.4, School of Nursing
Approved.

7. Other student issues

7.1 Request for transfer into Year 2 of the part-time PhD track (Dublin City University Business School)

Approved. Agreed that DCUBS would be requested to amend all the relevant references on the form to read ‘part-time’ rather than ‘full-time’, as ‘part-time’ is what is intended.

7.2 Request for transfer from Doctorate in Psychotherapy to PhD (School of Nursing)

Approved. Noted that there is no standard procedure for dealing with transfer requests such as this one.

7.3 Request for entry to the full-time PhD track (School of Electronic Engineering)

Approved. Agreed that the basis of the decision would be noted to the School as being the specific circumstances pertaining to the candidate’s case rather than any matter related to NARIC.

7.4 Request to register on Year 2 of the PDPE programme (School of Education Studies)

Decision deferred pending receipt of additional information from the School.

SECTION C: POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES

8. Proposed Graduate Training Elements

8.1 NS5029: Theoretical Perspectives in Sexuality Studies (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Approved.

8.2 EE600: Propagation and Channel Modelling (Faculty of Engineering and Computing)

Approved.

9. Proposal on the management of requests for changes to supervisory arrangements

Noted that the need for this proposal had arisen because, with the implementation of the revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* from 26 September 2011 onwards, changes to supervisory arrangements would be approved within Faculties rather than having to be approved by the GSB but, none the less, it would be important to ensure equity of treatment for students across the University. Agreed that the proposal would be submitted for the consideration of Faculties and that the Faculties would also be requested to articulate their views as to the desirability, or otherwise, of continuing to use the current form (or an appropriately adapted version of it). Noted that the appropriate use of forms had the potential to facilitate standard approaches to requests for changes to arrangements.

10. Request relating to publication of theses

A number of concerns were raised in respect of the request, including the potential for confusing a thesis with a book based on the thesis and the fact that the request appears not to take account of the fact that theses are normally available on DORAS as a matter of course. Agreed to consider the issue at a future meeting of the GSB. Agreed that the Chair would mention to the Head of School who had received the request in the first instance that consideration was being given to the issue and the GSB would issue a recommendation in due course.

11. Any other business

11.1 Noted, in the case of a candidate who had submitted a Master's thesis for examination, that an appropriate arrangement had been made within the School in respect of the sign-off of the corrections.

11.2 Noted that discussions were in progress to ensure that research students were always represented among the student members of Academic Council.

- 11.3** The GSB membership expressed its appreciation to Professor Murphy for having led the committee since its inception, and wished him every success in his future endeavours.

Date of next meeting:

**Thursday 3 November 2011
9.00 a.m. in A204**

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____