

## **GRADUATE STUDIES BOARD**

### **MINUTES**

Thursday 14 May 2009

9.00-10.30 a.m. in Invent

**Present:** Professor Gary Murphy (Chair), Dr Françoise Blin,  
Dr Dermot Brabazon, Dr Pat Breton, Dr Tony Cafolla,  
Ms Claudine Devereux, Ms Hannah Dyas, Dr Bernadette Flanagan,  
Dr Gabriel Flynn, Professor David Jacobson, Ms Tanya Keogh,  
Dr Christine Loscher, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary),  
Ms Patricia Moore, Dr Declan Raftery, Dr Mary Shine Thompson

The Chair welcomed Ms Patricia Moore, incoming representative of research students, to her first meeting of the Graduate Studies Board, and welcomed Ms Claudine Devereux, Registry, back to membership of the Board following leave.

#### **SECTION A: Minutes and related issues**

##### **1. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of two additional items (12 and 13).

##### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2009**

Confirmed and signed by the Chair.

##### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

###### **3.1 Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.**

- 3.2 Noted that the meeting of the working group to revise *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*, scheduled for 30 March 2009, had had to be postponed but that the Chair was preparing a revised draft of the regulations for consideration by the working group and the GSB (and then by Faculties). Noted that he intended to solicit the views the Research Advisory Panel in revising the draft. (Item 3.4)
- 3.3 Noted that students are currently being registered on all taught modules and that a consequence of this is that each Faculty will need to hold the equivalent of a PBERC (Programme Board Examination Review Committee), ideally as early in Summer 2009 as possible. Noted that, where students take modules in institutions other than the one they are registered with (in the context of the DRHEA (Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance)), institutions will supply one another with lists of relevant students and modules so that records can be maintained. (Item 3.5)
- 3.4 Noted that the submission for funding under PRTL I Cycle 5 had been made and that the follow-up interview of representatives of University management by representatives of the HEA was scheduled to take place on 20 May 2009. (Item 3.6)
- 3.5 Noted that discussions would take place with the Learning Innovation Unit and Information Systems and Services about support for online presentations by students undergoing examination in a remote location. (Item 5.7)
- 3.6 Noted that, in the case of two students requesting confirmation on the PhD register, the forms had now been signed by the School Research Convenor, and the Chair would contact the Convenor to agree the extent, if any, to which additional information was required before the requests could be finally approved. (Items 5.9 and 5.10)
- 3.7 Noted that, in the case of a student who had requested to revert from the PhD-track register to the Master's register, a satisfactory reason had been articulated. The request was therefore approved. (Item 8.1.1)
- 3.8 Noted that, in a case where a student had not been confirmed on the PhD register and had been requested to revert to the Master's register, there was a possibility that the student might wish to appeal the decision. Noted that (as noted also by the working group to revise *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*) additional clarity in respect of students' rights to appeal at the various stages of progress through a research degree, as well as in respect of the associated procedures, was required. Agreed none the less that arrangements would be made for the student currently in question to appeal the decision if a firm

intention to do so was expressed by the student and that, in this event, the Chair would make these arrangements. (Item 8.1.2)

**3.9** Noted that a student whose case had been the subject of discussion and decision at the meeting of 5 March 2009 was about to submit the Master's thesis for examination. (Item 8.4)

**3.10** Noted that the Chair is shortly to discuss with the Director of Information Systems and Services the means that might be used to encourage online completion of forms and the legal issues relating to digital signatures. (Item 11.1)

## **SECTION B: Individual student issues**

### **4. Applications for transfer to the PhD register**

4.1 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/4.1, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.

4.2 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/4.2, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.

4.3 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/4.3, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.

4.4 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/4.4, School of Computing  
Approved.

Noted that the Chair intended to raise with relevant supervisors cases in which students had submitted for transfer to the PhD register some considerable time following initial registration on the Master's register.

### **5. Applications for confirmation on the PhD register**

5.1 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/5.1, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.

### **6. Appointment of external examiners**

6.1 Dr Gisela Holfter, University of Limerick  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.1, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved.

- 6.2 Dr Tom Dowling, National University of Ireland, Maynooth  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.2, PhD, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 6.3 Professor Leo Pepino, University of Massachusetts  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.3, PhD, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 6.4 Dr Miguel-Angel Sicilia, Universidad de Alcalá  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.4, PhD, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 6.5 Professor Xiaoming Fu, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.5, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.6 Professor Hugues Bersini, Université Libre de Bruxelles  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.6, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.7 Professor Dr-Ing Walter Stechele, Technische Universität Munich  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.7, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.8 Mr Dermot Geraghty, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.8, MEng, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.9 Professor Andrew Evans, Aberystwyth University  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.9, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 6.10 Professor Brian Winston, University of Lincoln  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.10, PhD, School of Communications  
Approved.
- 6.11 Professor Peter Shaffer, University of Washington  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.11, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 6.12 Dr Damien Arrigan, Tyndall National Institute, University College Cork  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.12, PhD, School of Physical Sciences/BDI  
Approved.
- 6.13 Dr Paul Dawson, Queen's University, Belfast  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.13, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 6.14 Professor Erwin Bente, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.14, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.15 Dr Evelyn Buckwar, Heriot-Watt University  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.15, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences  
Approved.

- 6.16 Professor Sjoerd Verduyn Lunel, Universiteit Leiden  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.16, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences  
Approved.
- 6.17 Professor Anthony Moran, National University of Ireland, Galway  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.17, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.18 Professor Gary Walsh, University of Limerick  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.18, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.19 Professor Alan Keenan, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.19, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.20 Professor Tony Pembroke, University of Limerick  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.20, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.21 Professor Gary Henahan, Dublin Institute of Technology  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.21, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.22 Mr Martin Braund, University of York  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.22, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.
- 6.23 Dr Bernard P Mahon, National University of Ireland, Maynooth  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.23, PhD, School of Nursing  
Approved.
- 6.24 Professor Gabriele Wulf, University of Nevada  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.24, PhD, School of Applied Language and  
Intercultural Studies  
Approved.
- 6.25 Dr Eugene Duffy, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.25, MA, All Hallows College  
Approved.
- 6.26 Dr Elizabeth Cotter, Milltown Institute  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.26, MA, All Hallows College  
Approved.
- 6.27 Dr Paula Maycock, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.27, MA, Education Department,  
St Patrick's College  
Approved.
- 6.28 Professor James Deegan, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.28, MA, Education Department,  
St Patrick's College  
Approved.

- 6.29 Dr Karen Guldborg, University of Birmingham  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.29, PhD, Special Education Department,  
St Patrick's College  
Approved.
- 6.30 Dr Cecilia Wadensjø, Linköping University  
and Professor Graham Turner, Heriot-Watt University  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.30, PhD, School of Applied Language and  
Intercultural Studies  
Approved.
- 6.31 Professor Georgi Vasilev Nenov, University of Rousse, Bulgaria  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.31, MEng, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.32 Dr Krassimir Dotchev, University of Plymouth  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.32, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.33 Professor Bernard Hanzon, University College Cork  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.33, PhD, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 6.34 Dr Maria Tuohy, National University of Ireland, Galway  
Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/6.34, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.

Noted that, in Section C of the notification of intention to submit thesis for examination form (PGR4), under 'Reasons for appointment' of the proposed external examiner, it is preferable not to state that the individual 'has expertise in the area' but to give a more nuanced rationale for the choice.

Noted that there is now some duplication on the PGR4 form in that, with the addition of the standard *curriculum vitae* section, external examiner nominees' contact details are solicited twice. Agreed that this matter would be rectified.

Noted that, where nominees are in distant locations, consideration should be given to the option of holding the *viva voce* examination by means of videoconferencing (as already happens in some instances). This option may prove particularly helpful in the current difficult economic climate.

## **7. Requests for changes to supervisory arrangements**

- 7.1 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/7.1, School of Biotechnology/NICB  
Approved.

- 7.2 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/7.2, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 7.3 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/7.3, School of Nursing  
Approved.
- 7.4 Student ref. GSB/2009/A3/7.4, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved.

**8. Other student issues**

None.

**SECTION C: Policy and strategy issues**

**9. *IUQB National Guidelines of Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education***

Noted that these guidelines are to be launched on 15 June 2009 and that they are to be available in hard copy and on line (the previous guidelines having been in hard copy only).

**10. Regulations update and graduate training**

Covered under Items 3.2 and 3.3 above.

**11. Report on quality review of the postgraduate student experience**

The Chair reported that this review had taken place and that the outcome had been largely positive, with the recommendations focussing more on pastoral than on academic issues. The Peer Review Group report had been made available and the response to this submitted. Once the Quality Improvement Plan is available, the Chair will bring it to the attention of the GSB.

**12. Online application for graduate research students - PAC**

The Chair reported that the University had made a decision to maintain the use of PAC for application for taught postgraduate programmes up to the end of the academic year 2011/12 and that Executive had referred to the GSB the decision as

to whether or not research student applications should now also be administered through PAC. It was agreed that research student applications should be administered through PAC with effect from 2009/10. Agreed that it would be very important to ensure that the system was set up in a way that facilitated the maintenance of the current practice whereby an applicant first contacts a potential supervisor and only after agreement with this person submits a formal application (rather than the other way around). Noted that the move to PAC would form part of a more general thrust towards ensuring that research student processes were carried out on line to the extent possible. Noted that the possibility of using PAC for research student applications would be raised in St Patrick's College also.

**13. Possible accreditation of Qualitative Research Summer School**

Agreed that the forthcoming Qualitative Research Summer School in the School of Nursing would be recognised as forming part of the suite of university graduate training activities and that therefore, in principle, a student participating in the Summer School could be awarded credit. The credit value remains to be determined; the Chair will report the decision on this to the GSB. The issue of liability for fee payments for students who participate also needs to be decided.

**14. Any other business**

None.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Thursday 2 July 2009  
9.00 a.m. in A204**

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

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