

## **GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES BOARD**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

Monday 9 September 2013

9.00 a.m.-12.25 p.m. in A204

**Present:** Dr Lisa Looney (Chair), Ms Gillian Barry, Ms Goretti Daughton, Ms Claudine Devereux, Dr Bernadette Flanagan, Dr Gabriel Flynn, Dr Ekaterina Kozina, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Dr Enda McGlynn, Dr Ciarán Mac Murchaidh, Professor Colm O’Gorman, Dr Kevin Rafter, Dr Ana Terrés, Dr Blánaid White

**Apologies:** Professor Liam Barry, Ms Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, Ms Ann McCartney

The Chair welcomed Dr Blánaid White, School of Chemical Sciences, to her first meeting of the Graduate Research Studies Board as well as welcoming back Professor Colm O’Gorman following his research leave. She thanked, in his absence, Professor David Jacobson for having substituted for Professor O’Gorman in his capacity as acting Associate Dean for Research in Dublin City University Business School. She expressed appreciation on behalf of the GRSB to Ms Claudine Devereux, who is leaving the University, for her commitment and dedication to the work of the GRSB since its inception as the GSB in 2007.

### **SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES**

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

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of two additional submissions under Item 11.

## **2. Minutes of the meeting of 27 June 2013**

The minutes, which had been approved electronically on 5 July 2013, were noted. They were signed by the Chair.

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

- 3.1** Noted that no further action would be required at this time in respect of the development of frameworks for transfer from professional doctorate to PhD. (Item 3.2 from the meeting of 24 January 2013)
- 3.2** Noted, with respect to the postgraduate research forms, that revised versions (dated September 2013) would shortly be available, for use in 2013/14. Stakeholders are to be requested to access these forms by means of the appropriate links on the DCU website rather than by conducting a search on this website. (Items 3.24 and 5 from the meeting of 24 January 2013; item 3.4 from the meeting of 23 May 2013; item 3.11 from the meeting of 27 June 2013)
- 3.3** Noted that the Teaching and Learning component strategy includes references to the goal of developing a new information system designed to meet the needs of research students and those involved in their supervision. (Item 3.4 from the meeting of 7 March 2013)
- 3.4** The Chair invited any member of the GRSB who might wish to do so to make a proposal in respect of submission timeframes for research degrees. (Item 9 from the meeting of 7 March 2013)
- 3.5** The Chair noted that it had emerged in discussion with QQI and her counterparts in the other universities that delivery of GTEs at Level 10 is not usual, and that DCU GTEs would continue to be made available at Levels 8 and 9, with students being advised by supervisors in the usual way as to selection of such GTEs. (Item 3.18 from the meeting of 18 April 2013)
- 3.6** The pattern of nominations of external examiners from the 3U partner institutions, the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, was noted: these have constituted approximately 5% of the total nominations in recent years, with NUIM being used more extensively than RCSI and certain DCU Schools, and the linked colleges, tending to nominate a relatively high number of external examiners from NUIM. (A similar pattern is evident in terms of nominations as external examiners for taught programmes and as members of Accreditation Boards.) The advice of the University will be forthcoming in due course as to the appropriateness or otherwise of continuing to nominate individuals from the 3U partner institutions as external examiners. (Item 7 from the meeting of 18 April 2013)

- 3.7** Noted that a change of internal examiner in respect of a candidate had been submitted and had been approved by Chair's action on 10 July 2013. (Item 7.31 from the meeting of 18 April 2013)
- 3.8** Noted that a revised version of a PGR4 form had been made available and had been deemed approved. (Item 3.1)
- 3.9** Noted that a number of ongoing issues were under consideration and that the GR SB membership would be updated about these as appropriate. (Item 3.2)
- 3.10** Noted that a revised version of a PGR3 form had been made available and had been deemed approved. (Item 3.3)
- 3.11** With respect to a request that a student be permitted to reside abroad while carrying out research, it was noted that the reason for registration with DCU was that the overseas institution, with which there is a longstanding collaboration, was a research institute and not a university. It was agreed that the request should be approved. (Item 3.4)
- 3.12** Noted that electronic copies of theses placed on DORAS must be the same as published versions and that guidance to the effect that an embargo can apply on e-versions would be incorporated into the documentation on PhD by publication. On the issue of the appropriateness or otherwise of making electronic (as distinct from soft-bound) copies of theses available to examiners in advance of examination, it was agreed that further discussion would need to take place. (Item 3.6)
- 3.13** With respect to guidance on withdrawal and early exit, it was noted that the final version of the documentation, as approved by Executive, was available to the GR SB on Google Drive. One addition that was made to the documentation and is likely to be very helpful is the reference to the support available from Student Support and Development in relation to welfare, visa and career issues. With respect to the disbursement of funds to students, the principle is that the responsibility should normally remain with the principal supervisor, or with the Graduate Studies Office in the case of externally-funded scholarship holders. It was noted that, in the case of an appeal (see also Item 7 below), fee liability for the following year does not apply until the appeal process has finished. The Chair noted that she would cover these matters in her presentation to the Heads' and Deans' group on 19 September 2013 on the implementation of the revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*. (Items 3.6 and 5)
- 3.14** Noted that the *Roles and Responsibilities* guidance document would be made available to Heads of School and on line and, as appropriate, in the *DCU Guidebook for Research Students*. The *Roles and Responsibilities* document is currently with Communications and Marketing with a view to its being

appropriately formatted. It will be available by 30 September 2013.  
(Items 3.7 and 3.18)

- 3.15** Noted that the reasons for nominating an external examiner had been indicated in appropriate detail and that the relevant PGR4 form had therefore been deemed approved. (Item 3.9)
- 3.16** Noted that revisions to module descriptors for GTEs were to be carried out in the School of Computing. (Item 3.12)
- 3.17** With respect to the pilot exercise in making online provision for recording annual progress, it was noted that it had gone live in July 2013, that some minor technical issues had been resolved and that users were becoming accustomed to the system. One issue that had emerged as a result of the pilot exercise was that, in some instances, changes to supervisory arrangements had been made locally without having been notified to Registry. It was agreed that it would be desirable to eliminate all instances of this and that the exercise had the potential to be useful in facilitating such elimination. It was noted that feedback on the exercise would be sought from stakeholders, particularly Heads of School and Research Convenors. Exercises such as this one, while hugely useful, were noted as being expensive and time-consuming to conduct, and the desirability of an overarching University document management system was noted. On behalf of the GRSB, the Chair expressed appreciation to the Registry for their very considerable work on this issue. (Item 3.13)
- 3.18** Noted, in the case of a PGR3 form, that confirmation had been made available that the recommendation had been endorsed by both examiners, clarification had been obtained about the reference to 'date of resubmission' and the form had been deemed approved. (Item 3.17)
- 3.19** Noted that a decision on a PGR3 form had been deferred pending further information from a School. (Item 3.18)
- 3.20** Noted that, if an approved examiner proves unable or unwilling to serve in cases of a resubmitted thesis, a revised PGR4 form, containing details of the replacement nominee(s), should be submitted for the consideration of the GRSB. In a case of disagreement between examiners, a new, additional external examiner should be appointed. Noted also, in connection with resubmissions, that this would affect the timeframe for examination (and noted in this connection that (a) where a period of, e.g., a year is specified for a resubmission, this means a year from the date of examination and not a year from the date of the relevant meeting of the Faculty Awards Board for Research Degrees, and (b) the PGR6 form from the original examination does not need to go to the Faculty Awards Board prior to the second examination taking place; completed PGR6 forms should go to the next Faculty Awards Board meeting, and this may result in two going to the same meeting in respect of one candidate). It was agreed that further consideration would be needed

in respect of cases where examiners disagree.  
(Item 5.10 from the meeting of 18 April 2013)

- 3.21 Noted, in the case of a PGR4 form, that the word count indicated, which had appeared extremely low, was not in fact low and that the apparent issue had been caused by a typographical error. (Item 8.6)
- 3.22 Noted that a revised PGR4 form had been made available by a School and had been deemed approved. (Item 8.17)
- 3.23 Noted that it had been indicated to a School that a special-case admission request should be considered without GRSB involvement. (Item 9.2)
- 3.24 Noted that a change of internal examiner in respect of a PhD candidate in the School of Chemical Sciences had been approved by Chair's action on 3 September 2013.

## **SECTION B: POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES**

### **4. Proposed Graduate Training Elements:**

None.

### **5. Graduate School: developmental opportunities for 2013/14**

- 5.1 The Chair explained that, on the basis of feedback from 2012/13, the format of orientation had been modified with respect to 2013/14 and sessions would now be made available over a longer timeframe than hitherto. Attendance, while not compulsory, is strongly encouraged: certificates of participation will be made available and it is expected that these will be helpful to students in the context of the development of a training portfolio. The schedule is available on the Student Support and Development website, and students may register for the orientation session through their portal pages.
- 5.2 The Chair, on behalf of the GRSB, expressed appreciation to Dr Kozina for her work on orientation and related issues. She requested the Associate Deans for Research to bring the sessions to the attention of supervisors. Feedback on the effectiveness of orientation 2013/14 will be sought. If it proves appropriate, consideration will be given to developing an accredited orientation module for use in future.

## 6. Draft guidance for recruitment of research students

- 6.1 The Chair outlined the background to the development of this draft guidance, noting that it had been informed by, *inter alia*, the European Commission's *The European Charter for Researchers* (2005) and the IUQB *Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education* (2009). On behalf of the GRSB, she expressed appreciation to Dr Kozina for her work in drafting the guidance.
- 6.2 The following amendments to the draft guidance were agreed:
- references should be to 'recruitment and selection' rather than simply to 'recruitment'
  - a reference should be incorporated to make it clear that the recruitment of a research student represents not a private agreement between individuals but a formal contract and commitment on the part of the University (and the student)
  - the reference to research proposals in section 1 should be amended to emphasise that proposals must be relevant to the proposed topic
  - the reference, in section 7, to disadvantaged groups and researchers returning to research at later stages of career paths should be divided into two references on the basis that the two types of student are quite distinct
  - the reference to space should be deleted from the heading of section 8, as it is not universally appropriate and is in any event covered under the reference to resources
  - the reference, in section 7, to the range of experience of a candidate being taken into account should be amended to specify *relevant* experience
  - section 9, on feedback to unsuccessful applicants, should be modified to take account of University best practice as well as feasibility in terms of the time available for feedback
  - it should be ensured that none of the wording in the draft guidance implies that an offer of a place as a research student can be guaranteed in advance in any way.
- 6.3 It was agreed that consideration would be given to making YouTube videos in collaboration with student representatives and other research students and that this was likely to be particularly helpful in conveying 'soft' contextual information.
- 6.4 It was agreed that Dr Terrés would discuss with relevant colleagues the possibility of improved alignment between the information available via DORAS and the information on the Research Support System with respect to potential supervisors' areas of expertise.
- 6.5 The Chair requested that any further amendments that GRSB members might wish to make to the draft guidance be notified to her within two weeks (including suggested wording with respect to the last bullet point at Item 6.2 above). She noted that the amended guidance would be made available on a campus-wide basis, following which discussions with each School would take place to ascertain if there are areas where supports might need to be put in place to facilitate the following of

the guidance. The guidance itself is expected to be further modified in due course, in the light of experience.

## **7. PGR2 appeals**

- 7.1** The Chair noted that one such appeal was under way at present and that it was possible there would be a small number of others. She expressed appreciation to the subcommittee of the GRSB which has undertaken to deal with the present appeal, and especially to Professor O’Gorman who is to chair the subcommittee (as she herself is ineligible to do so having dealt with prior aspects of the case). She noted that, on the basis of the experience of the appeal(s) dealt with in the course of 2013/14, a standard operating procedure would be drawn up, and that it was possible that such a document might incorporate reference to the entire range of possible appeals and not just to those pertaining to annual progression. The current advisory note and associated documentation have been reviewed by the Vice-President Academic Affairs (Registrar), Professor Eithne Guilfoyle, and the Chief Operations Officer, Dr Declan Raftery.
- 7.2** The subcommittee is to report to the GRSB at its meeting of 17 October 2013. The *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* in effect for 2013/14 stipulate that the subcommittee’s recommendations are subject to approval by the GRSB, but it may prove appropriate to reconsider this stipulation later in 2013/14 (it was noted, in this connection, that the reports of the Appeals Board for taught programmes are noted, not approved, by Academic Council). The advice of Professor John Carroll, chair of the Appeals Board for taught programmes, will be sought in the course of 2013/14 according as the research appeal(s) issues are dealt with.
- 7.3** Among the issues that may need consideration in the course of 2013/14 are the timelines specified and the implications of the statement that disagreement with the examiners’ judgement does not, of itself, constitute grounds for appeal. With respect to timelines, it was agreed that the ten days within which a student may appeal should be counted from the date of the e-mail sent by the Chair to a candidate in respect of whom a negative progression recommendation has been made.

## **SECTION C: INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ISSUES**

### **8. Applications for transfer to the PhD register or confirmation on the PhD register**

- 8.1 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.1, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.

- 8.2 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.2, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 8.3 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.3, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 8.4 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.4, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved. Noted that the student has to date been registered on the PhD track.
- 8.5 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.5, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 8.6 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.6, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 8.7 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.7, School of Chemical Sciences Engineering  
Approved.
- 8.8 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.8, School of Communications  
Approved.
- 8.9 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.9, School of Communications  
Approved.
- 8.10 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.10, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 8.11 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.11, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 8.12 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.12, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 8.13 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.13, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 8.14 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.14, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 8.15 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.15, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved subject to the deletion of the last sentence in Section 1a of the PGR3 form.
- 8.16 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.16, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved subject to the submission of a revised form, to be completed in appropriate detail and to include an indication that the report had been provided by the student and had been read by all relevant parties.
- 8.17 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.17, Fiontar  
Approved. Agreed that the reference to the external expert as ‘external examiner’ should be deleted and that it would need to be ensured that this person did not act as external examiner when the student submitted for examination.
- 8.18 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.18, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved.
- 8.19 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.19, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved.



- 8.20 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.20, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved.
- 8.21 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.21, School of Law and Government  
Approved subject to the submission of a revised form, to be completed in appropriate detail and to include an indication that the report had been provided by the student and had been read by all relevant parties.
- 8.22 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.22, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 8.23 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.23, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 8.24 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.24, School of Mathematical Sciences  
Not approved. The School is requested to submit a revised (and typed) form to include a report of appropriate length which refers to the student in appropriate detail as well as an indication that the student himself had submitted a report. There is also a request to clarify the reference to PhD by portfolio.
- 8.25 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.25, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved. Agreed that it would be noted to the School that the designation of all supervisors should be in line with *Academic Regulations*.
- 8.26 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.26, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved. Agreed that it would be noted to the School that the designation of all supervisors should be in line with *Academic Regulations*.
- 8.27 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.27, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved. Agreed that it would be noted to the School that the designation of all supervisors should be in line with *Academic Regulations*.
- 8.28 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.28, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved.
- 8.29 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.29, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved.
- 8.30 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/8.30, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved.

## **9. Appointment of external examiners**

- 9.1 Dr Clemens Ruthner, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.1, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved.

- 9.2 Professor Anthony Hartley, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.2, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved.
- 9.3 Dr Derek Doherty, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.3, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 9.4 Professor Denis Alexander, University of Ulster  
Dr Jonathan Bones, NIBRT  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.4, PhD, School of Biotechnology/NICB  
Approved subject to the deletion of the wording up to the comma in the first sentence of the ‘reasons for appointment’ section with respect to Dr Bones.
- 9.5 Professor Michael Butler, University of Manitoba  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.5, PhD, School of Biotechnology/NICB  
Approved. Agreed to note to the School that the PGR4 form should be amended to include appropriate reference to the School of Biotechnology.
- 9.6 Dr Scott Estes, Biogen Idec, USA  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.6, PhD, School of Biotechnology/NICB  
Approved. Agreed to note to the School that the PGR4 form should be amended to include appropriate reference to the School of Biotechnology.
- 9.7 Dr Brian Mullan, Novartis Pharma AG, Switzerland  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.7, PhD, School of Biotechnology/NICB  
Approved with respect to the newly-nominated internal examiner. Noted that the external examiner had been approved at the meeting of the GSB of 29 November 2012.
- 9.8 Dr David Hughes, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.8, PhD, School of Biotechnology/NICB  
Approved.
- 9.9 Professor Michael Larkin, Queen’s University Belfast  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.9, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved with respect to the internal examiner. Not approved with respect to the external examiner on the grounds that to approve the nomination would lead to a breach of *Academic Regulations* with respect to frequency of appointment. Agreed also that the word length of the thesis would need to be confirmed.
- 9.10 Dr Kenneth Nally, University College Cork  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.10, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 9.11 Dr Paul Evans, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.11, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved. (See also Item 9.12 below.)
- 9.12 Professor Declan Gilheany, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.12, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved. With respect to the nominated external examiner here and the nominated external examiner at 9.11 above, it was agreed that it would be mentioned to the School that, henceforth, no two individuals from the same

- department in the same institution should be nominated by the same DCU School in any one academic year.
- 9.13 Professor Celine Marmion, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.13, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.
- 9.14 Dr Kevin Thomas, Norwegian Institute for Water Research  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.14, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.
- 9.15 Professor Jeremy Glennon, University College Cork  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.15, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.
- 9.16 Professor Frank McDermott, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.16, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.
- 9.17 Professor Eva Malmström Jonsson, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.17, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved. Agreed that the School would be asked to provide the year of publication of each of the nominated external examiner's publications.
- 9.18 Dr Stéphane Huet, Université d'Avignon  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.18, MSc, School of Computing  
Approved. Agreed that it would be noted to the School that an independent chair is not normally required for a Master's examination although the School has, in this instance, identified a chair.
- 9.19 Mr Anthony Malone, National University of Ireland, Maynooth  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.19, MA, School of Education Studies  
Approved.
- 9.20 Professor Peter Bradshaw, University of Huddersfield  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.20, EdD, School of Education Studies  
Decision deferred. Agreed that the School would be requested to nominate an alternative external examiner or to resubmit the form at an appropriately later date.
- 9.21 Professor Hugh Byrne, Dublin Institute of Technology  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.21, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved. Agreed that it would be noted to the School that an independent chair is not normally required for a Master's examination although the School has, in this instance, identified a chair.
- 9.22 Professor Gregory O'Hare, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.22, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 9.23 Dr Xavi Giró i Nieto, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.23, MEng, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 9.24 Dr Yacine Ghamri-Doudane, ENSIIE, France  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.24, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.

- 9.25 Dr Garrett O'Donnell, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.25, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 9.26 Dr Adrian Bors, University of York  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.26, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 9.27 Dr Darren Warburton, University of British Columbia  
Dr Lee Graves, Liverpool John Moores University  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.27, PhD, School of Health and Human  
Performance  
Approved.
- 9.28 Professor Andrew Silke, University of East London  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.28, PhD, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 9.29 Professor Richard Hyman, London School of Economics and Political  
Science  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.29, PhD, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 9.30 Dr Melanie Hoewer, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.30, PhD, School of Law and Government  
Agreed that the School would be requested to make a strong case as to the  
need for the expertise of this particular nominee and, if they did this and if  
the circumstances required and warranted it, the decision on the nomination  
could be taken by means of Chair's action.
- 9.31 Professor Jan Aart Scholte, University of Warwick  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.31, PhD, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 9.32 Dr Bruce Murphy, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.32, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved. Noted that the nominated examiners had previously been  
approved at the GSB meeting of 5 May 2011.
- 9.33 Professor Gianfranco Palumbo, Politenico di Bari  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.33, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved subject to the submission of a revised form indicating a duly  
appointed principal supervisor who is a current member of University staff  
and including this person's signature. (See also Item 10.20 below.)
- 9.34 Professor Imtiaz Choudhury, University of Malaya, Malaysia  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.34, MEng, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 9.35 Dr Peter Tiernan, University of Limerick  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.35, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.

- 9.36 Professor Dominique Legendre, Institut de Mécanique des Fluides de Toulouse  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.36, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 9.37 Professor Terrence Perera, Sheffield Hallam University  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.37, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved subject to the submission of a revised form indicating a duly appointed principal supervisor who is a current member of University staff and including this person's signature.
- 9.38 Dr Clare Corish, Dublin Institute of Technology  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.38, PhD, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved subject to confirmation that the student is not a staff member.
- 9.39 Professor Søren Holm, University of Manchester  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.39, PhD, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved.
- 9.40 Professor Robert Woods, Bangor University  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.40, PhD, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved.
- 9.41 Professor Abbey Hyde, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.41, PhD, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved subject to the submission of a revised form indicating a duly appointed principal supervisor who is a current member of University staff and including this person's signature, and subject to confirmation that the internal examiner will be the person nominated on the form.
- 9.42 Professor Edwin van Teijlingen, Bournemouth University  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A5/9.42, PhD, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved subject to the submission of a revised form indicating a duly appointed principal supervisor who is a current member of University staff and including this person's signature.
- 9.43 Dr Felipe Iza, Loughborough University  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.43, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 9.44 Dr Mairéad Conneely, St Angela's College, Sligo  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.44, MA, All Hallows College  
Approved.
- 9.45 Professor Keith Howard, SOAS, University of London  
Student ref. GRSB2013/A6/9.45, DMusPerf, Royal Irish Academy of Music  
Approved.

With respect to three nominations, it was agreed that it would be mentioned to the relevant Schools that the independent chair must be a person experienced in supervising doctoral candidates. With respect to one of these nominations, it was agreed also to mention that the chair must be a member of a University School (though not necessarily the School in which the candidate is registered).

With respect to one nomination, it was noted that a non-disclosure agreement would be sent to the external examiner with a request to sign, and noted too that the potential usefulness of such agreements warranted discussion by the GR SB at a future date.

It was noted that, at the GSB meeting of 5 May 2011, the following four external examiners had been approved, but the approvals had not been recorded in the minutes:

- 5.37 Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.37, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Dr Alan Ryder, National University of Ireland, Galway  
Approved.
- 5.38 Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.38, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Professor Isabel Rozas, Trinity College Dublin  
Approved.
- 5.39 Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.39, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Professor Mihai Chiriță, University of Medicine and Pharmacy Gr T Popa,  
Romania  
Approved.
- 5.40 Student ref. GSB/2011/A3/5.40, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Dr Bruce Murphy, Trinity College Dublin  
Approved.

It was noted that the official signed minutes of the meeting of 5 May 2011 would be amended to reflect the above approvals.

## **10. Other student issues: requests for extension to registration period**

- 10.1 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.1, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 10.2 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.2, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 10.3 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.3, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 10.4 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.4, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 10.5 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.5, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.

- 10.6 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.6, School of Communications  
Approved.
- 10.7 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.7, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 10.8 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.8, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 10.9 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.9, School of Computing  
Approved. Noted, however, that the student is likely to need more than one year to complete the revisions and that this matter should be brought to the attention of the relevant Faculty Awards Board for Research Degrees in October 2013.
- 10.10 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.10, School of Computing  
Approved. Agreed that the attention of all concerned should be drawn to the requirement that a student normally be resident in Ireland and that the relevant staff members should be requested to ensure that systems are in place (as per section 7.15 of *Academic Regulations*) to facilitate timely completion now that the student has returned to live abroad.
- 10.11 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.11, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 10.12 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.12, Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 10.13 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.13, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 10.14 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.14, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 10.15 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.15, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 10.16 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.16, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 10.17 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.17, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 10.18 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.18, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 10.19 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.19, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 10.20 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.20, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Decision deferred. Noted (as indicated at Item 9.33 above) that the School would be requested to submit a revised PGR2 form in respect of the student, indicating a duly appointed principal supervisor who is a current member of University staff and including this person's signature. Agreed that, if the request for an extension to registration is resubmitted for the consideration of the GRSB, it should include (over the signature of the supervisor, i.e. the current staff member) more detailed reasons than are available at present for the long period of time required to complete the research as well as an

- indication that completion is in fact feasible. Agreed also that the implications of card fee status would be mentioned to the School.
- 10.21 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.21, School of Nursing and Human Sciences  
Approved.
- 10.22 Student ref. GRSB/2013/A6/10.22, St Patrick's College  
Approved.

It was noted that a student's registration status should reflect the reality of his/her situation (particularly in terms of whether he/she is researching full or part time) and that this would be mentioned to a relevant School.

It was noted that continuous registration might not necessarily always be in the interests of a student, in cases where significant life events occur which have a detrimental effect on his/her ability to focus on research.

It was noted that candidates for extension of registration do not necessarily see the memorandum that is submitted on their behalf to the GRSB. It was noted too that such memoranda may sometimes contain potentially sensitive information and that a protocol would be needed in terms of the dissemination of such information. It was agreed to give consideration to the development of a standard form for use where extensions to registrations are requested.

## **11. Any other business**

- 11.1** It was noted that, because some GSB minutes from 2012/13 needed to be approved by Academic Council (having been approved electronically by the University Standards Committee on 29 July 2013), these minutes – from the meetings of 18 April 2013, 23 May 2013 and 27 June 2013 – would all be included in the papers for the Council meeting of 9 October 2013. GRSB minutes will not need approval by the USC and will go directly to Council for approval.
- 11.2** It was agreed not to approve a request to allow a *viva voce* examination to take place by means of Skype participation with respect to two of the relevant parties, on the basis that the case for the necessity of this would need to be made more strongly than it had been and also that the level of remote participation (with the concomitant risks in terms of technological difficulty) appeared excessive. In the event that a revised request is submitted for consideration, it will be necessary for the remote participation of the examiner to be envisaged as being managed through the University's standard videoconferencing facilities rather than by means of Skype.



- 11.3** It was noted that the revised *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*, as approved by Academic Council at its meeting of 24 June 2013, would come into effect on 30 September 2013. (It had been noted, at the beginning of the meeting, that all student issues at the meeting would be considered under the version of the *Regulations* in force in 2012/13.)

**Date of next meeting:**

**Thursday 17 October 2013  
9.00 a.m. in A204**

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

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