

GRADUATE STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 6 September 2007

9.00-10.15 a.m. in A204

- Present:** Dr Gary Murphy (Chair), Dr Patrick Brereton,
Professor Robert Forster, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary),
Dr Pierre McDonagh, Dr Declan Raftery, Professor Heather Ruskin,
Dr Mary Shine Thompson
- Apologies:** Dr Françoise Blin, Ms Claudine Devereux, Ms Hazel Hayes,
Dr Andrew McGrady
- In attendance:** Dr Anne Sinnott (representing the Associate Deans for Teaching
and Learning)

The Chair welcomed those present to the inaugural meeting of the Graduate Studies Board.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of seven new submissions under Item 5, one new submission under Item 7 and one submission under Item 11.

2. Membership

- 2.1** Noted that, with effect from the next meeting, that of Thursday 1 November, Dr Blin would be the representative of the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning on the GSB.
- 2.2** Noted that, since Professor Forster was about to complete his term of office as Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Science and Health, this was his only opportunity to attend a meeting of the GSB. Dr Murphy thanked Professor Forster for his (necessarily brief) involvement in the GSB.

- 2.3 Noted that it was likely that a postgraduate research student, rather than the Education and Welfare Officer of the Students' Union, would act as the student representative on the GSB and that Dr Murphy would discuss this matter further with the Union.

3. **Terms of reference and method of operation**

- 3.1 Agreed that it would be necessary for the GSB to be closely involved in the formulation of policy about graduate studies issues as well as in decisions relating to individual student matters.
- 3.2 Agreed that the GSB should report to Academic Council and that significant policy issues relating to graduate studies would also need to be brought to the attention of the University Standards Committee. Noted, in regard to the latter issue, that Dr Murphy would henceforth be a member of the USC.
- 3.3 Noted that Dr Murphy would e-mail draft terms of reference for the GSB to the members as soon as possible. Noted that the President had requested that the terms of reference be submitted for approval to Executive, and that they would also need to be submitted for approval to Academic Council.

4. **Proposed amendment to Section 7.4 of *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis***

Agreed that the existing wording, with the addition of a general reference to the fact that the student was, to the best of his/her knowledge, not in breach of any law, would be at least as likely to clarify the copyright issue as the proposed new wording. Agreed that Dr Murphy, Dr Raftery and Mr Paul Sheehan, Director of Library Services, would meet to agree a final wording on this basis, having first ascertained what type of wording is used in institutions comparable to the University.

5. **Applications for transfer to the PhD register**

- 5.1 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.1, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.2, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.3 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.3, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.

- 5.4 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.4, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.5 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.5, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 5.6 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.6, School of Law and Government
Approved.
- 5.7 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.7, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.8 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.8, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.9 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.9, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Approved.
- 5.10 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.10, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.11 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.11, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.12 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.12, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.13 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.13, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.14 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.14, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.15 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.15, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.16 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.16, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.17 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.17, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.18 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.18, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 5.19 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.19, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.20 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.20, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.21 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.21, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.22 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.22, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 5.23 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.23, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

- 5.24 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.24, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.25 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.25, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.26 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.26, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.27 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.27, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.28 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.28, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.29 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.29, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.30 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/5.30, School of Computing
Approved.

6. Applications for confirmation on the PhD register

- 6.1 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/6.1, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 6.2 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/6.2, School of Communications
Approved.
- 6.3 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/6.3, School of Communications
Approved.
- 6.4 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/6.4, Fiontar
Approved.
- 6.5 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/6.5, School of Applied Language and
Intercultural Studies
Approved.

Noted that, because the confirmation procedure was new, some staff members were still in the process of getting used to it. Agreed that it would be desirable to remind staff of its existence and of the importance of using it appropriately.

7. Appointment of external examiners

- 7.1 Professor S McLaughlin, University of Edinburgh
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.1, School of Computing
Approved.
- 7.2 Dr M Shevlin, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.2, School of Computing
Approved.

- 7.3 Dr S Evert, University of Osnabrück
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.3, School of Computing
Approved.
- 7.4 Dr A Breen, Nuance Communications Inc.
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.4, School of Computing
Approved.
- 7.5 Professor E Ventola, University of Helsinki
Professor M Rogers, University of Surrey
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.5, School of Applied Language and
Intercultural Studies
Approved. Noted that Professor Rogers would next be eligible to act as
external examiner for a research student in 2010/11.
- 7.6 Dr G Moane, University College Dublin
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.6, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 7.7 Dr P Caffrey, University College Dublin
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.7, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 7.8 Professor G Landberg, Lund University, Sweden
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.8, NICB/School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 7.9 Dr D Kennedy, University College Cork
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.9, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 7.10 Professor G Hanan, University of Montreal
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.10, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 7.11 Professor G Knörr, Johannes Kepler University Linz
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.11, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 7.12 Dr D Desmond, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.12, School of Nursing
Approved.
- 7.13 Professor R Bowman, Queen's University Belfast
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.13, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 7.14 Dr J Scanlan, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/7.14, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.

Noted that two students had submitted both PGR3 and PGR4 forms at more or less the same time and that the Registry had reminded the relevant supervisors that the

transfer procedure should take place at least a year prior to submission of the thesis for examination. (Approval of the submissions was granted none the less.)

8. Requests for changes to supervisory arrangements

- 8.1 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/8.1, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 8.2 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/8.2, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 8.3 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/8.3, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 8.4 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/8.4, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 8.5 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/8.5, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.

9. Requests for re-registration under 'write-up' status

- 9.1 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.1, Dublin City University Business School
- 9.2 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.2, Dublin City University Business School
- 9.3 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.3, Dublin City University Business School
- 9.4 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.4, Dublin City University Business School
- 9.5 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.5, School of Computing
- 9.6 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.6, School of Computing
- 9.7 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.7, School of Computing
- 9.8 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.8, School of Computing
- 9.9 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.9, School of Computing
- 9.10 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.10, School of Computing
- 9.11 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.11, School of Computing
- 9.12 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.12, School of Computing
- 9.13 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.13, School of Electronic Engineering
- 9.14 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.14, School of Electronic Engineering
- 9.15 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.15, School of Electronic Engineering
- 9.16 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.16, School of Electronic Engineering
- 9.17 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.17, School of Biotechnology
- 9.18 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.18, School of Chemical Sciences
- 9.19 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.19, School of Nursing
- 9.20 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.20, School of Physical Sciences

9.21 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/9.21, School of Communications

Noted, in relation to all the above requests, that information was awaited from the Finance Office as to whether or not the old 'write-up' fee might be applied to them.

Agreed that, notwithstanding the desirability of encouraging students to complete their research without undue delay, a 'write-up' fee was still required for students about to complete but needing to register in the following academic year. Agreed that Dr Murphy would convey this view to the Finance Office and the University Executive. Agreed that any 'write-up' permission should be for a maximum of one year.

10. Request to allow a research student to register for taught modules

10.1 Student ref. GSB/2007/G1/10, School of Communications
Approved.

11. Any other business

11.1 Examination of PhD thesis

Noted that an external examiner had expressed reservations about the standard of a thesis submitted for examination. Agreed that Dr Murphy and Dr Ruskin would discuss the matter with the two supervisors involved and propose the following alternatives to them: (a) the examination process to be completed, i.e. the internal examiner's report to be submitted and the *viva voce* examination to be held; (b) the student to withdraw the thesis and undertake very substantial research leading to a new thesis, with a minimum time limit to be set in view of the considerable workload that would be involved.

The importance of ensuring that a thesis had reached a minimum acceptable standard before being submitted for examination was noted.

Agreed that the relevant section (6.1) of *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* would need to be revised to ensure that procedures for appeal of an examination result reflected current structures within Faculties.

11.2 Distribution of GSB agenda and papers

Agreed that electronic distribution would be preferable to paper distribution.
Agreed that the logistical issues involved would be discussed between Dr Murphy, Ms McDermott and Ms Devereux.

Date of next meeting:

**Thursday 1 November 2007
9.00 a.m. in A204**

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____