

## **GRADUATE STUDIES BOARD**

### **MINUTES**

Thursday 18 April 2013

9.00 a.m.-12.10 p.m. in A204

**Present:** Dr Lisa Looney (Chair), Ms Gillian Barry, Professor Liam Barry, Ms Goretti Daughton, Ms Claudine Devereux, Dr Gabriel Flynn, Dr Ekaterina Kozina, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary), Ms Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, Dr Enda McGlynn, Dr Anne Morrissey, Dr Ciarán Mac Murchaidh, Professor Colm O’Gorman, Dr Kevin Rafter

**Apologies:** Dr Bernadette Flanagan, Dr Christine Loscher, Dr Ana Terres

The Chair welcomed Dr Ekaterina Kozina of the Graduate Studies Office (replacing Dr Tracy Dixon, who is on leave) to her first meeting of the Graduate Studies Board.

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

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

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of three submissions under Item 9.

##### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 7 March 2013**

The minutes were confirmed subject to the substitution of the word ‘framework’ for the word ‘programme’ in Item 4.1. They were signed by the Chair.

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

- 3.1** Noted that the finalised and approved policy on joint research supervision and awards had been made available to the GSB membership and that a template would

- be made available for supervisors who wish to engage in collaborative activity with partners in other institutions. (Item 3.2)
- 3.2** Noted that a number of ongoing issues are under consideration and that the GSB membership would be updated about these as appropriate. (Item 3.3)
- 3.3** Noted that the issue of an alternative term to ‘mentor’ had been addressed in the context of the revisions to *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* (see Item 5 below). (Item 3.12)
- 3.4** Noted that it was intended to have a revised list of all available scholarships for research students on the Graduate Studies Office web page and that discussions about management processes for scholarships would be undertaken with Faculties. (Item 3.13)
- 3.5** Noted that a revised PGR3 form was awaited from a School. (Item 3.15)
- 3.6** Noted that information was awaited from a School in respect of a candidate who had requested permission to reside/carry out research abroad. (Item 3.16)
- 3.7** Noted that a number of revisions to postgraduate research forms were under consideration. Noted that a future meeting of the GSB would consider the issue of the relevance, as distinct from the recency, of the publications of individuals nominated as external examiner. (Item 3.17)
- 3.8** Noted that the policy and procedures pertaining to Higher Doctorates would be revised in due course and in light of the experience of managing the first nomination. (Item 3.18)
- 3.9** Noted that the Chair would, in due course, discuss with representatives from the Students’ Union and from Faculties issues such as administrative procedures for nomination/election of candidates and durations of terms of office. (Item 3.19)
- 3.10** Noted that the revised Terms of Reference of the GSB would be submitted for the consideration of Academic Council at its meeting of 5 June 2013. (Item 3.22)
- 3.11** Noted that the GTEs on the Chemistry of Therapeutics framework could be deemed approved once the final amendments had been made to the module descriptors. (Items 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4)
- 3.12** Noted that the Chair was giving consideration to the management of GTEs from the perspective of ensuring that each of them is the responsibility of a named external examiner. (Item 4.5)

- 3.13** Noted that the Chair intended to raise with the Deputy Registrar/Dean of Teaching and Learning an issue relating to wording ('recommendations' vis-à-vis 'requirements') on the module descriptor template. (Item 4.6)
- 3.14** Noted that the 'Tell it Straight' competition taken place successfully on 14 March 2013 and had involved a diversity of backgrounds and disciplines as well as representation from both genders. Work is ongoing to facilitate the broadening of capacity, across the University, in terms of making the short videos which were a feature of the competition. (Item 6.2)
- 3.15** Noted that a group would be established to consider and make recommendations about education relating to research integrity and a range of related issues. This group is to be convened under the auspices of the Vice-President for Research and Innovation, Professor Alan Harvey, and is to include representation from Research and Innovation Support, the Research Ethics Committee, the Graduate Research Office, the Human Resources Department and the Library. With respect to two online tools, in Research Methods and Research Integrity, it was noted that the IUA was considering a consortium-based agreement with the provider so as to minimise costs as well as a user workshop to pool knowledge and develop community of practice. Noted that responses had been submitted on the Draft Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland. (Item 6.4)
- 3.16** Noted that the O'Hare Scholarships 2013 had been publicised and all relevant operations were in train. (Item 6.5)
- 3.17** Noted that, it had not been possible to provide four scholarships for any more than three years of funding for the 2013/14 scheme, and that Schools would have to address this issue in line with University policy. (Item 6.5)
- 3.18** Noted that discussions have been initiated with QQI about the appropriateness or otherwise of having GTEs at Level 10. (Item 7)
- 3.19** Noted that the Graduate School proposals had been reworded slightly. (Item 7)
- 3.20** Noted that a revised version of a PGR3 form had been submitted and had been deemed approved. (Item 8.3)
- 3.21** Noted, in the case of PGR4 forms, that revised versions (outlining in appropriate detail the reasons for appointment) had been made available and had been deemed approved. (Items 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.6 and 9.10).
- 3.22** Noted that a new independent chair had been appointed in respect of a *viva voce* examination. (Item 9.3)
- 3.23** Noted that a PGR4 form had been signed by a student and had therefore been deemed approved. (Item 9.5)

- 3.24 Noted, in the case of a PGR4 form, that a revised version (outlining in appropriate detail the reasons for appointment and indicating the date) had been submitted and had been deemed approved. (Item 9.7)
- 3.25 Noted that it had been mentioned to two Schools, in the case of two PGR4 forms, that the word count of the theses appeared low. (Items 9.8 and 9.12)

## SECTION B: POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES

### 4. Proposed Graduate Training Elements:

- 4.1 CS507A: Advanced Experimental Data Processing using Microsoft Excel  
4.2 CS551A: Advanced Analytical Techniques

Approved.

### 5. Proposed revisions to *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*

- 5.1 With respect to the memorandum to the GSB which accompanied the revised *Regulations*, the following were agreed:
- Qualifications, Role and Responsibilities – last bullet point: ‘may extend’ to be replaced by ‘will normally extend’.
  - Linked colleges – second line: ‘college’ to be replaced by ‘colleges’.
- 5.2 With respect to Appendix 1, the detailed list of changes to the *Regulations*, it was noted that it might well prove appropriate to publish the final version and pointed out that this is consistent with what was done for Marks and Standards.
- 5.3 With respect to Appendix 2, the *Roles and Responsibilities* document, the following substantive changes were agreed:
- Supervisory panel – qualifications/profile – first sentence: ‘and/or’ to be replaced by ‘or’.
  - Supervisory panel – responsibilities of all panel members – last bullet point: present wording to be replaced by ‘Undertake professional development as appropriate in respect of supervisory training’.
  - Supervisory panel – responsibilities of principal supervisor – fourth-last bullet point: ‘if the student is happy for them to do so’ to be replaced by ‘unless the student requests otherwise’.
  - Independent chairperson – responsibilities: ‘Liaise with candidate in cases where the candidate does not wish the supervisor present at the *viva voce*’ to be amplified by wording which will include reference to the procedure by which the candidate requests that the supervisor not be present.

- 5.4 With respect to Appendix 3, the guidance on PhD by publication, the following was agreed:
- Publications – second paragraph: ‘conference papers’ to be replaced by ‘outputs’.
- 5.5 It was noted that, where changes in the above accompanying documentation were required to reflect changes in the *Regulations*, these changes would be made. It was noted, none the less, that the *Regulations* are the primary source of information on regulatory matters and the purpose of the *Roles and Responsibilities* document is to provide guidance on procedural and operational matters. Once the *Regulations* have been approved, the *Roles and Responsibilities* document will be made available to Heads of Schools and on the supervisor section of the Graduate Studies Office website, and relevant elements will be made available in the planned *DCU Guidebook for Research Students*. It was noted that there is an ongoing, wider discussion in the University about the optimum location for policy documents generally.
- 5.6 With respect to the *Regulations*, it was noted that the forthcoming HEA quality framework on PhD education might well include reference to the possibility of having a compulsory minimum number of credits to be obtained by means of Graduate Training Elements.
- 5.7 With respect to the *Regulations*, the following substantive changes were agreed<sup>1</sup>:
- Section 1.1.5: to be accompanied by a statement that the thesis should constitute no less than half the total credits.
  - Section 1.3: to be removed from Section 1 to Section 7.
  - Section 2.6: the last sentence to be deleted (if an exercise to be conducted by the Chair outside the context of the meeting indicates that this is necessary for the purpose of consistency with statements elsewhere in the *Regulations*).
  - Section 4.6: the sentence beginning ‘Sign-off’ to be deleted.
  - Section 7.4: to be deleted.
  - Section 7.5.2: to be reworded to reflect current realities with respect to retirements and resignations.
  - Section 7.16: the Chair, outside the context of the meeting, to compare the use of ‘formally’ here with its use in the *Roles and Responsibilities* document and to ensure consistency in its use across all documentation. (The Chair will also ascertain, in consultation with the Registry, the optimum way of ensuring consistency between this section and the revised PGR2 form; noted, in this connection, that it is intended that the revised form will elicit information about the dates of meetings between students and supervisors.)
  - Section 9.1.2: third paragraph – ‘publications’ to be replaced by ‘peer-reviewed outputs’.

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<sup>1</sup> The section numbers refer to the proposed revised *Regulations* as submitted for the consideration of the GSB at the present meeting, not to the *Regulations* as currently approved and promulgated.

- Section 10.2.7: to be amplified to include a reference to close personal ties (between external examiner and supervisor) and a reference to reciprocity of appointment similar to that contained in *Regulations and guidelines: external examiners for taught programmes/modules*.
  - Section 11.4.7: to be deleted, with the exception of the first sentence.
- 5.8** It was noted that there is some repetition of elements at different stages of the *Regulations* and that this would be addressed, as necessary, in a future revision, but also that it can be helpful to have key points restated.
- 5.9** With respect to the constitution of supervisory panels, it was noted that it would not be practical for Heads of School to do this other than on a periodic basis, as indicated in the *Regulations*.
- 5.10** It was noted that it might be appropriate to provide guidance about the procedures to follow with respect to examiners following a failed examination (in cases, for example, where the examiners were unable or unwilling to take part in the resit or were in disagreement with each other).
- 5.11** It was noted that issues remain to be discussed and agreed, at University level, about the role of postdoctoral researchers vis-à-vis a number of activities and that the perception of their role in regard to supervision varies across Faculties and disciplines.
- 5.12** The Chair requested the members of the GSB to bring any typographical errors or inconsistencies in the documentation to her attention as soon as possible.
- 5.13** It was noted that the revised *Regulations* would be submitted for the consideration of the University Standards Committee at its meeting of 30 May 2013 and for the consideration of Academic Council at its meeting of 24 June 2013 (accompanied in each case by an explanatory memorandum from the Chair), with a view to implementation from the beginning of 2013/14. The Chair will also make a presentation on the revised *Regulations* to the Heads' and Deans' meeting of 19 September 2013.

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

- 6. Applications for transfer to the PhD register or confirmation on the PhD register**
- 6.1 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.1, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved.

- 6.2 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.2, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved.
- 6.3 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.3, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.4 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.4, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.5 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.5, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.6 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.6, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 6.7 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.7, School of Biotechnology Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.8 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.8, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 6.9 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.9, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.
- 6.10 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.10, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved subject to the submission of a revised form which includes specific advice to guide the student in future work.
- 6.11 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.11, School of Communications  
Approved subject to the submission of a typed form and the incorporation into it of the report, which had been made available separately.
- 6.12 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.12, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 6.13 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.13, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 6.14 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.14, School of Computing Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.15 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.15, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.16 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.16, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.17 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.17, School of Electronic Engineering Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.18 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.18, School of Law and Government  
Agreed that the School would be asked to submit a revised form with an indication that a supervisor has been appointed who is a member of University staff and that this person has satisfied him/herself that the recommendation that the student be confirmed on the PhD register is appropriate.

- 6.19 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.19, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.20 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.20, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.21 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.21, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved subject to confirmation that the supervisor was involved in the confirmation examination, as this is not evident from the form.
- 6.22 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.22, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 6.23 Student ref. GSB/2013/A3/6.23, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.

## **7. Appointment of external examiners**

- 7.1 Dr Carmen Valero-Garcés, Universidad de Alcalá, Spain  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.1, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Approved subject to signature by one of the supervisors.
- 7.2 Professor Lynne Bowker, University of Ottawa  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.2, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies  
Decision deferred pending the submission of additional information.
- 7.3 Dr Patricia Maguire, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.3, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 7.4 Dr Colette Hand, University College Cork  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.4, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved subject to the reasons for appointment being indicated with an appropriate level of detail.
- 7.5 Professor Bruce Jefferson, Cranfield University  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.5, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.
- 7.6 Professor Kay Ohlendieck, National University of Ireland, Maynooth  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.6, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved. Agreed that the Chair would bring to the attention of the School the regulations governing the selection of an independent chair.
- 7.7 Dr Cora O'Neill, University College Cork  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.7, PhD, School of Biotechnology  
Approved.



- 7.8 Professor Robert Roe, Maastricht University  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.8, PhD, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 7.9 Professor Kerstin Sahlin, Uppsala University, Sweden  
GSB2013/A3/7.9, PhD, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 7.10 Professor Svante Andersson, Halmstad University, Sweden  
GSB2013/A3/7.10, PhD, Dublin City University Business School  
Approved.
- 7.11 Professor David Haddleton, University of Warwick  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.11, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.12 Professor Michael Laffan, Imperial College London  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.12, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved subject to signature by one of the supervisors.
- 7.13 Professor Günther Knör, Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.13, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.14 Professor Theresa Buckland, De Montfort University  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.14, PhD, School of Communications  
Approved. Agreed that, for the sake of completeness of information, some further details would be sought in respect of the nominee.
- 7.15 Professor Andreas Auinger, University of Applied Science Upper Austria  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.15, PhD, School of Computing  
Approved.
- 7.16 Professor Thomas Sødning, Oslo and Akershus University College  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.16, PhD, School of Computing  
Agreed that the School would be requested to have the candidate (re-)examined by the original examiners and that it was therefore not necessary to consider the nomination of Professor Sødning or the nominated internal examiner.
- 7.17 Professor Helen Simons, University of Southampton  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.17, PhD, School of Education Studies  
Approved subject to the reasons for appointment being indicated with an appropriate level of detail.
- 7.18 Dr Tony Hall, National University of Ireland, Galway  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.18, EdD, School of Education Studies  
Approved.
- 7.19 Dr Michael Shevlin, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.19, EdD, School of Education Studies  
The nominated internal examiner was approved. It was agreed that the nominated external examiner would not be approved so as not to lead to a breach of *Academic Regulations* with respect to the frequency with which an external examiner can examine a research candidate. It was agreed that, in the event that an alternative external examiner needed to be considered in a

short timeframe so as not to cause undue delay for the candidate, the matter could be addressed by means of Chair's action.

- 7.20 Dr Rose Dolan, National University of Ireland, Maynooth  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.20, MA, School of Education Studies  
Approved.
- 7.21 Dr Conor O'Mahony, University College Cork  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.21, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 7.22 Professor Ioannis Tomkos, Athens Information Technology Center  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.22, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 7.23 Professor David Guerra, University of the Basque Country  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.23, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
The nominated internal examiner was approved. The nominated external examiner was approved in principle. It was agreed that the School would be requested to choose either this examiner or the other approved nominated external examiner from the same department in the same university (see Item 7.26 below) but could not avail of the services of both. It was agreed also that, for the sake of completeness of information, some further details about the nominee would be sought.
- 7.24 Dr Jing Wu, University of Ottawa  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.24, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 7.25 Dr George Ghinea, Brunel University  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.25, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
Approved.
- 7.26 Professor Amaia Arrinda, University of the Basque Country  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.26, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering  
The nominated internal examiner was approved. The nominated external examiner was approved in principle. It was agreed that the School would be requested to choose either this examiner or the other approved nominated external examiner from the same department in the same university (see Item 7.23 above) but could not avail of the services of both. It was agreed also that, for the sake of completeness of information, some further details about the nominee would be sought.
- 7.27 Professor Liam Mac Mathúna, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.27, MA, Fiontar  
Approved.
- 7.28 Dr David Greene, Australian Catholic University  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.28, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved.
- 7.29 Professor A Wayne Orr, LSU Health Sciences Center, Louisiana, USA  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.29, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved.

- 7.30 Dr Orina Belton, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.30, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance  
The nominated external examiner was approved. It was agreed that the Chair would speak to the Head of School about a matter relating to the nominated internal examiner and would also bring to the attention of the Head the regulations governing the selection of the independent chair.
- 7.31 Professor Thomas McKenzie, San Diego State University  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.31, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved.
- 7.32 Dr Niamh Murphy, Waterford Institute of Technology  
Professor Mark Dyer, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.32, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance  
It was noted that more detail about the candidate's research had emerged since the date of the GSB meeting at which Dr Murphy and the nominated internal examiner had originally been approved (29 November 2012) and there was in fact not now a sufficiently appropriate match between the subject-matter of the research and their expertise (or that of the newly-nominated second external examiner). It was agreed, therefore, that the School would be requested to submit a new PGR4 form.
- 7.33 Dr Ciarán Mac Donncha, University of Limerick  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.33, MSc, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved.
- 7.34 Dr Vincent Healy, University College Cork  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.34, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved. Agreed that the Chair would discuss a matter, unrelated to the approval, with the Head of School.
- 7.35 Dr Carlos Jalali, University of Aveiro, Portugal  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.35, PhD, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 7.36 Professor Paul Webb, University of Sussex  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.36, PhD, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 7.37 Dr Anna Stavrianakis, University of Sussex  
Dr Gillian Wylie, Trinity College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.37, PhD, School of Law and Government  
Approved.
- 7.38 Professor Tom Lodge, University of Limerick  
GSB2013/A3/7.38, PhD, School of Law and Government  
Approved.

- 7.39 Dr Bahawodin Baha, University of Brighton  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.39, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 7.40 Professor David Kennedy, Dublin Institute of Technology  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.40, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved. Agreed that the School would be requested to provide a different  
(appropriately short) abstract.
- 7.41 Dr Syed AM Tofail, University of Limerick  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.41, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 7.42 Dr Robert Mines, University of Liverpool  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.42, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved.
- 7.43 Dr Brigid Mullany, University of North Carolina Charlotte  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.43, PhD, School of Mechanical and  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Approved subject to the submission of a typed form which includes  
appropriate detail about the reasons for appointment.
- 7.44 Dr Ann Sheridan, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.44, PhD, School of Nursing and Human  
Sciences  
Approved. Agreed that it would need to be confirmed that the Head of  
School had advisedly (rather than otherwise) indicated that no second  
external examiner was required.
- 7.45 Professor Linda Franck, University of California, San Francisco  
Professor Helen Simons, University of Southampton  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.45, PhD, School of Nursing and Human  
Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.46 Dr Simon Elliott, University College Cork  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.46, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.47 Professor Gareth Redmond, University College Dublin  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.47, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.48 Dr Leah Wallace, Limerick Institute of Technology  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.48, MSc, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.49 Dr Ger O'Connor, National University of Ireland, Galway  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.49, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.

- 7.50 Dr William Brocklesby, University of Southampton  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.50, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance  
Approved.
- 7.51 Dr Bruce Sinclair, University of St Andrews  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.51, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.52 Professor Mathieu Abel, Université d’Aix-Marseille  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.52, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
The nominated internal examiner was approved. It was agreed to request the School to nominate an alternative external examiner. Appreciation was expressed to the School for having highlighted a potential conflict of interest issue.
- 7.53 Professor Michael Morris, University College Cork  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.53, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.54 Professor John Callan, University of Ulster  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.54, PhD, School of Physical Sciences  
Approved.
- 7.55 Dr Aisling Ní Dhonnchadha, National University of Ireland, Maynooth  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.55, PhD, Roinn na Gaeilge, St Patrick’s College  
Approved.
- 7.56 Dr Alison Waller, University of Roehampton  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.56, PhD, School of Humanities, Mater Dei Institute of Education  
Approved.
- 7.57 Professor Michael Spitzer, University of Liverpool  
Student ref. GSB2013/A3/7.57, DMusPerf, Royal Irish Academy of Music  
Approved subject to the submission of evidence of recent relevant professional activity on the part of the nominated external examiner.
- 7.58 Professor Halina Goldberg, Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University  
GSB2013/A3/7.58, DMusPerf, Royal Irish Academy of Music  
Approved.

It was agreed that the Registry would conduct an exercise to determine the extent to which Schools were opting to select external examiner nominees from locations relatively distant from Ireland.

It was noted that the implications of the 3U Partnership for the nomination of examiners for research students would, when they emerged, be of considerable relevance to the work of the GSB.

It was agreed to include in *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* (see Item 5 above) a stipulation that the independent chair must, in all cases, be a member of the University or one of its linked colleges.

It was agreed that, at a future date, consideration might be given to allowing potential independent chairs to observe serving independent chairs at *viva voce* examinations.

**8. Other student issues**

None.

**9. Any other business**

**9.1 Third Annual Postgraduate Conference in Humanities and Education**

The Chair noted that this conference, hosted by Mater Dei Institute of Education and St Patrick's College on 12 April 2013, had been very successful. On behalf of the GSB, she congratulated Dr Flynn and Dr Mac Murchaidh and their colleagues and students.

**9.2 Second EUA-CDE Global Strategic Forum on Doctoral Education**

The Chair noted that this event had been hosted by Dublin Institute of Technology on 20-22 March 2013 and that the outcomes from it would be circulated to the GSB membership.

**9.3 EUA project on Quality Assurance in Doctoral Education (the ARDE project)**

The Chair noted that the report on this project was available and would be circulated to the GSB membership.

**Date of next meeting:**

**Thursday 23 May 2013  
9.00 a.m. in CG35**

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

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