

GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 27 February 2020

9:30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. in A204

Present: Ms Lisa Buckley, Ms Isabelle Caulfield, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Ms Karen Keating, Dr Gillian Lake, Dr Pascal Landais, Professor Christine Loscher, Dr Kenneth McDonagh, Professor Eugene McNulty, Dr Joseph Stokes (Chair)¹, Ms Jennifer Yore

In attendance: Ms Sharon King (Recording)

Apologies: Professor David Collings, Professor Edel Conway, Dr Maura Coulter, Dr Sally Smith

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed new member, Ms Jennifer Yore, representing the Faculty Administration Peer Group (FAPG).

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as circulated was adopted subject to:

- The inclusion of a late PGR4 form under item 10 (10.8)
- One item under AOB, item 11 (11.1)

2. Minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2020 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 16 January 2020

3.1 It was noted that work on guidelines on recital/performance and related capacity building is

¹ Note: Dr Joseph Stokes chaired the meeting until 10.35 am and Professor Eugene McNulty chaired the meeting thereafter.

- 3.2 It was noted that follow-up with respect to a PGR4 form for a student in the School of Health and Human Performance, which was approved subject to a new internal examiner being nominated, is ongoing (item 3.2) (original ref. item 9.28, 18 April 2019).
- 3.3 It was noted that follow-up with respect to a PGR3 form for a student in the School of Theology, Philosophy and Music, which was approved subject to correction of the date of the PGR3 examination and amendment to point 1 to '...is withdrawn...', is ongoing (item 3.3) (original ref. item 7.30, 20 June 2019).
- 3.4 It was noted that follow-up with respect to a PGR3 form for a student in the School of Computing, for which a decision was deferred pending more detailed reports in section B(i) and section B(ii), is ongoing (item 3.6).
- 3.5 It was noted that follow-up with respect to a PGR13 form for a student in DCU Business School, which was approved pending clarification on funding is ongoing (item 12.2).
- 3.6 It was noted that follow-up with respect to a PGR4 form for a student in the School of Electronic Engineering, which was approved subject to the appointment of an alternative independent chairperson to ensure gender mix on the examination panel, was completed (item 3.4) (original ref. item 8.20, 2 Sep 2019).
- 3.7 It was noted that follow-up with respect to a PGR3 form for a student in the School of Chemical Sciences, for which a decision was deferred pending more detailed reports in section B(i) and B(ii), was completed (item 3.5).
- 3.8 It was noted that the Advanced Metallic System pathway is on the agenda (item 4.1.4) of this meeting (item 3.7) (original ref. item 4.1.2.1, 2 Sep 2019).
- 3.9 It was noted that the Machine Learning Pathway is on the agenda (item 4.1.3) of this meeting (item 3.8) (original ref. item 4.1.2.4, 2 Sep 2019).
- 3.10 It was noted that update to the *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2020-2021* is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 7).
- 3.11 It was noted that an amended PGR3 form, containing additional guidance for its completion, is on the agenda (Item 6) of this meeting (Item 8).
- 3.12 It was noted that follow-up with respect to a PGR3 form for a student in the School of Chemical Sciences was completed, following receipt of an R103 form to change the supervisor (Item 10.5).
- 3.13 It was noted that follow-up with respect to a PGR4 form for a student in the School of Communications was completed, following receipt of a completed up-to-date version of the form (Item 11.2).

SECTION B: POLICY AND STRATEGY ISSUES**4. Graduate Researcher Development****4.1. Centre for Doctoral Training/Research Training Pathways**

The Chair provided a brief background to the pathways under consideration and advised that while the Artificial Intelligence doctoral pathway (CRT) was noted at the 2 September 2019 meeting of the GRSB, three other pathways had required revisions and the Graduate Studies Office (GSO) had also provided feedback in the interim.

4.1.1 Artificial Intelligence (CRT)

Noted subject to clarification that the online Research Integrity module must be passed, and other minor recommendations

4.1.2 Digitally-Enhanced Reality (D-REAL) (CRT)

Noted subject to clarification that the online Research Integrity module must be passed

4.1.3 Machine Learning (CRT)

Noted subject to clarification that the online Research Integrity module must be passed

4.1.4 Advanced Metallic Systems (CDT)

Noted subject to inclusion of the requirement to complete and pass the online Research Integrity module.

It was noted that GSO would progress the required amendments.

5. Updates to Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 2020-2021

The Chair presented several proposed changes to the Academic Regulations for 2020/21 as follows:

- 1.1.3 Professional Doctorate, addition of 'monograph'. It was agreed that this change was unlikely to be required, however it would be reconsidered at the 16 April 2020 meeting of GRSB.
- 7.7.1: It was noted that amendments to this section awaited input from the Director of Research and the provision of a HR policy.
- 11.3.5: The first two sentences of this section were agreed as follows: 'The viva voce examination shall be carried out jointly by the External and Internal Examiners in a private session. Audio/video recording of the viva voce examination will not be permitted.'
- 10.1: Selection and Nomination of Internal Examiners. This section was amended to reflect the changes made to the PGR4 form and those changes were agreed.

- 10.2: Selection and Nomination of External Examiners. The suggested change, the implication of which would be to allow more than two appointments in 4-years, if an external examiner was nominated by different schools was discussed. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed again at the 16 April 2020 meeting of GRSB.

It was agreed that several proposed changes to the regulations, as noted above will require further clarification from the faculties/units concerned. The Chair advised the Board that the revised academic regulations, incorporating the changes, will be brought to the 16 April 2020 GRSB for consideration, at which time further clarification should be forthcoming.

6. PGR3 form update

The Chair tabled an amended PGR3 form which it is proposed will be adopted for the academic year 2020-2021. The Chair advised the Board that he would circulate the revisions to the Associate Deans for Research and Registry with a view to further discussion at faculty level, and the provision of additional feedback. A revised PGR3 would be brought to the next meeting of GRSB, either for noting or consideration, depending on the nature of feedback received.

7. Graduate Studies Office, Annual Report 2018-2019

The Board noted the annual report. It was noted that the value on page 10 for LG608: Research Methods should be '10'.

8. Faculty of Science and Health: Proposals for MSc and Professional Doctorate

8.1 *MSc in Elite Performance*

The Chair provided a brief background to the documentation and invited feedback on the proposals. The Chair indicated that while the taught MSc in Elite Performance programme proposal was not within the scope of the GRSB, the Committee would review the material in the context of the proposed professional doctorate programme. The Professional Doctorate in Elite Performance proposal would be reviewed to ensure that it aligned with typical professional doctorate structures.

8.2 *Professional Doctorate in Elite Performance*

Both programme proposals were noted subject to clarification on a number of operational matters which will be discussed between Registry, the programme proposers and the Chair in advance of the Education Committee meeting next month. Particular concerns were raised in relation to the proposed use of the PGR3 process as a mechanism for students transferring from a taught to a research degree programme, and the need to provide further clarification in relation to the discipline specific module specifications provided for the MSc programme.

SECTION C: Individual student issues**9. Applications for transfer to the PhD Register or confirmation on the PhD Register (PGR3)**

- 9.1 GRSB2020/A2/9.1, DCU Business School
Approved
- 9.2 GRSB2020/A2/9.2, School of Communications
Approved
- 9.3 GRSB2020/A2/9.3, School of Computing
Approved
- 9.4 GRSB2020/A2/9.4, School of Computing
Approved
- 9.5 GRSB2020/A2/9.5, School of Electronic Engineering
Decision deferred. It was noted that further clarification should be provided on the rationale for the examiners' recommendation in sections B(i) and B(ii).
- 9.6 GRSB2020/A2/9.6, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved
- 9.7 GRSB2020/A2/9.7, School of English
Approved
- 9.8 GRSB2020/A2/9.8, Fiontar and Scoil na Gaeilge
Approved
- 9.9 GRSB2020/A2/9.9, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 9.10 GRSB2020/A2/9.10, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 9.11 GRSB2020/A2/9.11, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 9.12 GRSB2020/A2/9.12, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved subject to clarification on the date of endorsement provided in Section D of the form.
- 9.13 GRSB2020/A2/9.13, School of Physical Sciences
Approved

9.14 GRSB2020/A2/9.14, School of Physical Sciences
Approved subject to paperwork being submitted to Registry on the most recent version of the form.

10. Appointment of internal and external examiners (PGR4)

10.1 GRSB2020/A2/10.1, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved

10.2 GRSB2020/A2/10.2, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved

10.3 GRSB2020/A2/10.3, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved

10.4 GRSB2020/A2/10.4, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved

10.5 GRSB2020/A2/10.5, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved

10.6 GRSB2020/A2/10.6, PhD, School of Policy and Practice
Approved

10.7 GRSB2020/A2/10.7, PhD, School of Policy and Practice
Approved subject to addressing the gender mix of the examination panel through the appointment of the Independent Chairperson.

11. Any other business

11.1 *Report on derogation from English language requirements for research students in the Faculties of Science and Health, and Engineering and Computing*

It was noted that the Chair will speak to the biennial review of the operation of the English language derogation requirements for research at a forthcoming meeting of University Standards Committee. In preparation, the Chair requested that the faculties concerned use the template provided to submit a completed report for consideration at the next meeting of GRSB.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 16 April 2020
at 9.30 a.m. in A204