

GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 26 April 2018

9:30 a.m. – 12.30 pm in A204

Present: Ms Fiona Brennan, Dr Charlotte Holland, Ms Margaret Irwin-Bannon (Secretary), Dr Caroline McMullan, Professor Eugene McNulty, Ms Roisín Morris-Drennan, Dr Mark Roantree, Ms Sabrina Smart, Mr Allan Stevenson, Professor Joseph Stokes (Chair) and Dr Blánaid White

Apologies: Ms Michelle Brennan, Professor David Collings, Ms Rachel Keegan, Professor Christine Loscher and Dr Tim McCormac

SECTION A: MINUTES AND RELATED ISSUES

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the deferral of item 9.45.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 15 March 2018

The minutes of the meeting of 15 March 2018 were approved and signed, subject to the following:

- 3.1 Amendment to the minute referring to open presentation for the *viva voce*
- 3.6 Amend the second sentence to read...*will be reviewed by the Vice-President for Research and, once signed-‘off’ will ‘subsequently’ be referred...*
- 5.10 Change 1.3.5 to 11.3.5
- 9 Amend ‘*All modules should be revised to reflect programme learning outcomes*’ to ‘*All modules should be checked to ensure alignment with programme learning outcomes*’.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 15 March 2018

- 3.1 The Chair noted that the pilot fieldwork for the Irish Survey of Engagement Survey had been completed and the response rate from DCU research students was at 41% (Item 3.5).
- 3.2 It was noted that a meeting would be arranged with the Associate Deans for Research to discuss the provision of resources with respect to the GTE module GS602 (Item 3.2).
- 3.3 It was noted that a meeting between the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Postgraduate Society would be held over the coming weeks to discuss issues which had arisen in the context of a Students' Union/SIPTU meeting (Item 3.3).
- 3.4 It was noted that work on ensuring the gender mix of examining panels through cross-school arrangements is ongoing (Item 3.7).
- 3.5 It was noted that work is ongoing on the guidelines on recital/performance and related capacity building (Item 3.8).
- 3.6 It was noted that work is ongoing on the Residing Abroad Principles (Item 3.9).
- 3.7 It was noted that work is ongoing on the recognition of completion of the Research Integrity module (Item 3.10).
- 3.8 It was noted that re-submission of a fully completed PGR3 form for a candidate in the School of Nursing and Human Sciences is awaited (Item 3.16) (original ref: 2017/A8/8.12)
- 3.9 It was noted that work is ongoing on the drafting of guidelines for the 10,000-word document which accompanies the PhD by publication (Item 6).
- 3.10 It was noted that the document entitled Professional Doctorates, Time line for consideration of PGR4 forms will be completed for September 2018 (Item 7).
- 3.11 It was noted that the Chair would investigate the addition of new venues to the facilities to be utilised for video conferencing of the *viva voce* examination (Item 14.2).
- 3.12 It was noted that additional information with respect to a PGR3 form submitted for a candidate from the School of Law and Government was submitted and approved (Item 10.6).
- 3.13 It was noted that the Academic Regulations have been amended to clearly reflect that an open (to those other than the examination panel) presentation is not permitted in the context of the *vive voce* (Item 3.1).

- 3.14 It was noted that the Retired Researcher Policy is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 3.6).
- 3.15 It was noted that the final revised Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis document is on the agenda of this meeting (Item 5).
- 3.16 It was noted that Ms R. Keegan had provided additional information with respect to project details required by Registry during the research student application process (Item 5.3).
- 3.17 It was noted that an update on possible visa issues for students in DCU Business School had been provided by Dr Caroline McMullan. It was noted that students have not reported any issues in relation to visas and the embassy either granted a two-year multiple-entry visa or a six-month student visa (Item 3.4).
- 3.18 It was noted that a finalised version of the GTE module, Conference and Symposium Organisation 1 was submitted to the Chair for review and was approved (Item 3.14).
- 3.19 It was noted that the restructured Doctor of Education programme, noted by GR SB at the 15 March 2018 meeting, had been referred to Education Committee for approval. It was noted too that the Chair had met with the programme Chair to address proposed module amendments (Item 9).
- 3.20 It was noted that an Independent Chairperson had been appointed for a candidate in the School of Biotechnology (Item 11.1).
- 3.21 It was noted that for a PGR4 form submitted for a candidate in the School of Informatics and Creative Arts, DkIT, it was confirmed that the submission was below the minimum threshold set out in the Academic Regulations, and the form will be re-submitted within the appropriate timeframe (Item 11.8).
- 3.22 It was noted that a PGR3 form for a candidate in the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies considered at the 19 January 2018 meeting had been amended and approved by Chair's Action, 20 April 2018 (GRSB2018/A1/5.1).

SECTION B: Policy and strategy issues

4. Graduate Researcher Development

- 4.1** DCU Institute of Education – Applying Mixed Methods Approaches to Educational Research
Approved

4.2 DCU Institute of Education – Qualitative Research Approaches
Approved

4.3 DCU Institute of Education – Applying Quantitative Research Methods to Educational Research
Approved

4.4 Faculty of Science and Health – RANCARE International Training School

It was noted that learning outcomes 4 and 5 reflect the aims of the International Training School rather than module learning outcomes for students and this should be addressed through the inclusion of more specific detail on the assessments to include those learning outcomes. It was recommended too that it is made clear in the descriptor that the assignment timeframe extends beyond the duration of the International Training School.

It was agreed that the revised module would be submitted to the Dean of Graduate Studies and considered under Chair's Action.

4.5 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences – LG608: Research Methods

It was noted that the following amendments to the content of the module descriptor were recommended:

- Inclusion of additional information in the indicative content section
- Inclusion of assessment which addresses learning outcome 1
- Correction of hours to reflect ECTS credits (125 for 5 ECTS credits)
- Expansion of workload description section
- Ensure that learning outcomes are more detailed

It was requested that the module descriptor would be re-submitted for the consideration of GRSB at its May 2018 meeting.

5. DCU Retired Researcher Policy

The DCU Retired Researcher Policy was noted. The following feedback was provided:

A recommendation that there is a change to the sentence (page 40 and 42 of GRSB papers) from 'The Retired Researcher can act as secondary supervisor to graduate research students' to 'The Retired Researcher can act as secondary' internal' supervisor to graduate research students'. It was noted that Ms F Brennan would consult with the Human Resources Office on the inclusion of the word 'internal' to ascertain if it would be problematic in the context of the retired researcher not holding

a contract of employment. It was noted that Ms F Brennan would provide an update in this regard at the next meeting of GRSB in May 2018.

It was noted that it would be useful for GRSB to have an understanding of the term 'nearing completion' as outlined in the policy (page 42 of GRSB papers) however it was noted that each case would have to be assessed on its own merits.

Ms F Brennan provided an update from the Research and Innovation Office as follows:

As part of the National Pilot Project for the Epigeum Research Integrity Training, the standard Research Integrity online module has been rolled out to all graduate research students. Information regarding progress and completion will be conveyed to the members of the Graduate Studies Office so that they can encourage all first year students to complete the online module within the designated timeframe.

6. Review of derogation from English language requirements for research students

6.1 Faculty of Engineering and Computing

Noted.

6.2 Faculty of Science and Health

Noted

It was noted on balance that the derogation from the English language requirement applied in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing and the Faculty of Science and Health had worked well, facilitating the recruitment of research students who may not have registered otherwise. It was recommended by GRSB that the application of the derogation would continue.

It was noted that, subject to minor amendments, the derogation review documentation would be submitted to University Standards Committee with recommendations that the derogation would continue to be applied, and reporting on the progress of the students would take place every two years.

7. Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis 208-2019

The amendments proposed to the Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis as outlined in the accompanying memo circulated in the GRSB papers and the tabled document 'Further changes/notes to the Academic Regulations' were agreed. In addition the following items were agreed:

- Page 56: 1.1.3, third paragraph, should indicate a change to text by the use of track changes.
- Page 60: 5.4, substitute 'submit' for 'complete' and insert 'to Registry' after the word 'thesis'.
- Page 61: 7.1.2, the paragraph should read 'The panel must include at least one academic supervisor from the academic school in which the student is registered'.
- Page 66-67: 8.3, the additional phrase 'and to make a final decision upon submission' will not be included.
- Page 67: 8.4.3, second paragraph, the additional sentence is to be included 'In the event of an examiner's or the candidate's unexpected absence, the examination must be postponed to another date.'
- Due to the change in academic titles, all references to 'Associate Professor and Professor' will read as 'Professor and Full Professor' (7.8.1, 7.8.2, 10.1).

SECTION C: Individual student issues

8. Applications for transfer to the PhD Register or confirmation on the PhD Register (PGR3)

- 8.1 GRSB2018/A3/8.1, School of Biotechnology
Approved
- 8.2 GRSB2018/A3/8.2, DCU Business School
Approved
- 8.3 GRSB2018/A3/8.3, DCU Business School
Approved
- 8.4 GRSB2018/A3/8.4, School of Communications
Approved
- 8.5 GRSB2018/A3/8.5, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 8.6 GRSB2018/A3/8.6, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved
- 8.7 GRSB2018/A3/8.7, School of Inclusive and Special Education
Approved
- 8.8 GRSB2018/A3/8.8, School of Nursing and Human Sciences
Approved

- 8.9 GRSB2018/A3/8.9, School of Law and Government
It was noted that this form had already been considered and the outcome of its final consideration is noted under Matters Arising (GRSB2018/A2/10.6).
- 8.10 GRSB2018/A3/8.10, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved
- 8.11 GRSB2018/A3/8.11, School of Policy and Practice
Deferred Decision. It was noted that the examiners should provide greater clarity in section B(ii) in terms of the student having attained the appropriate level for confirmation on the PhD register. It was recommended that Section C would be completed to include supports that will be put in place for the student, that relate to the feedback provided in B(ii).
- 8.12 GRSB2018/A3/8.12, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music
Approved

9. Appointment of internal and external examiners (PGR4)

- 9.1 GRSB2018/A3/ 9.1, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Professor Kerstin Otte, Biberach University of Applied Sciences, Germany
Approved
- 9.2 GRSB2018/A3/9.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Professor Wenxin Wang, University College Dublin
Approved
- 9.3 GRSB2018/A3/9.3, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Dr Karl Burgess, University of Glasgow
Approved
- 9.4 GRSB2018/A3/9.4, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Dr Sinéad Weldon, Queen's University Belfast
Approved, subject to confirmation that the candidate does not require a second external examiner
- 9.5 GRSB2018/A3/9.5, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Professor Alan Dickson, University of Manchester
Approved
- 9.6 GRSB2018/A3/9.6, PhD, DCU Business School
Professor Maria Vakola, Athens University of Economics and Business
Approved

- 9.7 GRSB2018/A3/9.7, PhD, DCU Business School
Dr Ciaran Heavey, University College Dublin
Approved
- 9.8 GRSB2018/A3/9.8, PhD, DCU Business School
Professor Dominic Elliott, University of Liverpool
Approved
- 9.9 GRSB2018/A3/9.9, MSc, School of Chemical Sciences
Professor Jeremy Glennon, University College Cork
Approved
- 9.10 GRSB2018/A3/9.10, PhD, School of Computing
Dr Vincent Blok, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
Approved
- 9.11 GRSB2018/A3/9.11, PhD, School of Computing
Professor Tahar Kechadi, University College Dublin
Approved
- 9.12 GRSB2018/A3/9.12, MSc, School of Computing
Dr Markus Hofmann, IT Blanchardstown
Approved
- 9.13 GRSB2018/A3/9.13, MSc, School of Computing
Dr John Breslin, NUI Galway
Deferred decision. It was noted that this is an early submission and, in addition, a second external examiner is required.
- 9.14 GRSB2018/A3/9.14, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Professor Thomas Kürner, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany
Approved, subject to addressing the gender mix of the examining panel through the appointment of the Independent Chair
- 9.15 GRSB2018/A3/9.15, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Professor Phuoc Tran-Gia, University of Würzburg, Germany
Approved
- 9.16 GRSB2018/A3/9.16, PhD, School of English
Professor Nerys Williams, University College Dublin
Approved. Noted that the candidate for examination is not a member of staff and therefore does not require two examiners

- 9.17 GRSB2018/A3/9.17, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance
Dr Oliver Witard, University of Stirling
Approved
- 9.18 GRSB2018/A3/9.18, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Dr Tania Ap Sion, University of Warwick
Approved, subject to the appointment of an alternative Internal Examiner
- 9.19 GRSB2018/A3/9.19, PhD, School of Inclusive and Special Education
Dr David Preece, University of Northampton
Approved
Dr Emer Ring, Mary Immaculate College of Education Limerick
Approved
- 9.20 GRSB2018/A3/9.20, PhD, School of Language, Literacy and Early Childhood
Education
Dr Breffni O'Rourke, Trinity College Dublin
Approved
- 9.21 GRSB2018/A3/9.21, PhD, School of Law and Government
Professor Philip Fennell, Cardiff University
Approved
- 9.22 GRSB2018/A3/9.22, PhD, School of Law and Government
Professor Jean Grugel, University of York
Approved
- 9.23 GRSB2018/A3/9.23, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Professor Robert Stelzer, Ulm University, Germany
Approved
- 9.24 GRSB2018/A3/9.24, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Professor Carol Robinson, Loughborough University
Approved
- 9.25 GRSB2018/A3/9.25, MSc, School of Mathematical Sciences
Professor Goran Peskir, Manchester University
Approved
- 9.26 GRSB2018/A3/9.26, PhD, School of Mathematical Sciences
Professor Martin Bridson, University of Oxford
Approved

- 9.27 GRSB2018/A3/9.27, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Professor Andrew Alleyne, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Decision deferred.
- 9.28 GRSB2018/A3/9.28, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Professor David Kennedy, Dublin Institute of Technology
Approved
- 9.29 GRSB2018/A3/9.29, PhD, School of Nursing and Human Sciences
Professor Carla Willig, City, University of London
Approved
- 9.30 GRSB2018/A3/9.30, PhD, School of Nursing and Human Sciences
Dr Bernadette Flanagan, Waterford Institute of Technology
Approved, subject to the appointment of an alternative internal examiner to comply
with Academic Regulations
- 9.31 GRSB2018/A3/9.31, MSc, School of Physical Sciences
Dr Jason Greenwood, Queen's University, Belfast
Approved
- 9.32 GRSB2018/A3/9.32, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Professor Padraig Dunne, University College Dublin
Approved
- 9.33 GRSB2018/A3/9.33, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Professor Marcus Grace, University of Southampton
Approved, Noted that there was a correction to the months of registration to 43.
- 9.34 GRSB2018/A3/9.34, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Professor Justin Holmes, University College Cork
Approved
- 9.35 GRSB2018/A3/9.35, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Dr Vinod Dhanak, University of Liverpool
Approved
- 9.36 GRSB2018/A3/9.36, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Dr Donna Brown, Ulster University
Approved
- 9.37 GRSB2018/A3/9.37, PhD, School of Policy and Practice
Professor Richard Thorn, Institute of Education, Sligo
Approved

- 9.38 GRSB2018/A3/9.38, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Dr Ciarán Ó Mathúna, Marino Institute of Education
Approved
- 9.39 GRSB2018/A3/9.39, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Dr Sakir Cinqir, Ankara University
Approved
- 9.40 GRSB2018/A3/9.40, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Dr Richard Boyle, Institute of Public Administration
Approved
- 9.41 GRSB2018/A3/9.41, EdD, DCU Institute of Education
Dr Geraldine Mooney Simmie, University of Limerick
Approved
- 9.42 GRSB2018/A3/9.42, MA, School of Policy and Practice
Dr Bonnie Slade, University of Glasgow
Approved
- 9.43 GRSB2018/A3/9.43, PhD, STEM Education, Innovation and Global Studies
Dr Cornelia Connolly, NUI Galway
Approved
- 9.44 GRSB2018/A3/9.44, PhD, School of Computing
Dr Monojit Choudhury, Microsoft Research Lab India
Approved
- 9.45 GRSB2018/A3/9.45, PhD, School of Informatics and Creative Arts, DkIT
Professor Frank Lyons, Ulster University
Withdrawn

10. Notice of Intention to Reside/Carry out Research Abroad (PGR13)

- 10.1 GRSB2018/A3/10.1, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved. Noted that DCU/student agreement was tabled at the meeting

11. Request for Extension to Maximum Registration Period OR Re-admission to the Research Programme (PGR14)

- 11.1 GRSB2018/A3, 11.1, PhD, DCU Business School
Approved

- 11.2 GRSB2018/A3/11.2, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved
- 11.3 GRSB2018/A3/11.3, PhD, School of Law and Government
Approved
- 11.4 GRSB2018/A3/11.4, EdD, School of Policy and Practice
Approved. It was confirmed that the application was a re-admission rather than extension of the registration period. GRSB granted two years registration to facilitate the completion of the Doctor of Education programme.
- 11.5 GRSB2018/A5/11.5, PhD, School of Theology, Philosophy and Music
Approved

12. Other student issues

There were no other student issues for consideration.

13. Any other business

- 13.1** The Chair noted that it was intended that the structured PhD pathways would be considered at the May meeting of GRSB. It was noted that in order to align with Faculty operations that review of the structured PhD pathways would be included on the schedule from 2018 for the consideration of the GRSB meeting closest to March.
- 13.2** It was noted that the implications of GDPR on meeting records would be discussed at a future meeting of GRSB.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
Chair

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 24 May 2018
at 9.30 a.m. in A204