

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Board Meeting, 21 May 2008

<i>Present</i>	Provost (Dr J Hegarty), Vice-Provost (Dr R M J Byrne), Registrar (Dr J Barkhoff), Bursar (Dr M M O'Mahony), Senior Lecturer (Dr C Kearney), Dr A Butterfield, Mr A Byrne, Dr J F Donegan, Dr A C Donnelly, Ms U Faulkner, Mr A Frenda, Dr J M Kelly, Dr E Mac Cárthaigh, Dr K J McGinley, Mrs P E Murphy, Dr D P O'Donovan, Dr E J O'Halpin, Dr J A N Parnell, Dr A J Piesse, Dr H J Rice, Mr B Rock, Mr M A Slevin.
<i>Apologies</i>	Ms G M Clarke, Ms M A Coffey, Dr S M Ryan, Mr B Sweeney, Dr J K Vij.
<i>In attendance</i>	
<i>(ex officio)</i>	Secretary, Treasurer Acting, Assistant Secretary.
<i>(by invitation)</i>	Professor P J Prendergast (for BD/07-08/301) Dean of Research (for BD/07-08/302)

SECTION A

BD/07-08/295 Minutes

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2008 were approved and signed subject to the following amendments:

BD/07-08/275 Academic Year Structure and Modularisation The word 'readings' on the second line of page 6 was replaced with the phrase 'reading weeks' and the word 'Board' was replaced with the word 'Broad' on fifth line of paragraph 2.iv.

- (b) The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2008 were approved and signed.

BD/07-08/296 Matters Arising from the Minutes A number of matters arising from the minutes were discussed and have been recorded below, (see minutes BD/07-08/297, 298, 299).

BD/07-08/297 Estimates 2008 (see minute BD/07-08/273 of 7 May 2008) In response to a query, the Secretary advised Board that a paper on the issues raised by the former Treasurer in a memorandum considered by Board at its meeting on 23 January 2008 (minute BD/07-08/145 refers) would be brought to Board in due course.

BD/07-08/298 Statutes Review (see minute BD/07-08/274 of 7 May 2008) The Secretary advised Board that there may have to be some adjustments to the proposed schedule for Board and Council meetings associated with the revision of the Statutes so as to accommodate other meeting requirements in a timely manner. He stated that these amendments would be discussed with the Chairman of the Statutes Review Working Party.

BD/07-08/299 Academic Year Structure and Modularisation (see minute BD/07-08/275 of 7 May 2008 and Actum CL/07-08/155 of 7 May 2008) The Board noted that Council had approved the proposals in relation to the academic year structure and modularisation with the addition of a clarification in relation to the elective curriculum. The Board noted concerns that there will be insufficient time to address all the industrial relations issues before the introduction of the new academic year structure in 2009/2010. The potential value of appointing a facilitator at an early stage in the negotiation process was noted. The Secretary advised Board that the Staff Office would be engaging with the staff relations issues without delay. In response to a query, the Senior Lecturer advised Board that, as it would not be possible to foresee all the issues that might arise in defining non-cognate/non-complementary disciplines, it had been decided to give Council the discretion to consider each situation on a case-by-case basis.

BD/07-08/300 Provost's Report The Provost invited Board's attention to the appointment of Mr Batt O'Keeffe T.D. as the Minister of Education and Science in the new Cabinet and to the awarding of a significant grant to the Science Gallery by the Wellcome Trust. The Board, on a confidential basis, approved the appointment of a named individual to the post of Chief Operating Officer, with an expected start date of 30 June 2008.

BD/07-08/301 Restructuring - Role of Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer Introducing the topic, the Provost advised Board that he intended to nominate Professor P J Prendergast as the College's first Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and that, in advance of seeking Board's approval for the appointment, he had invited Professor Prendergast to outline his vision for the role and how it might evolve over the period of his appointment. The Provost welcomed Professor Prendergast to the meeting.

Professor Prendergast, thanking the Board for the opportunity to address it, congratulated it for creating a position with a remit covering both teaching and research, which he stated would be of immense value to the College as Ireland's leading university.

He outlined the following principles which he stated would guide him in fulfilling the role of Vice-Provost:

- (i) research and teaching combine to create the academic scholar;
- (ii) education offered by Trinity goes beyond research and teaching and promotes the development of students in the broadest sense;
- (iii) internationalisation and diversity are important in the promotion of Trinity's objectives as a leading international university;
- (iv) a close working relationship between academic and administrative staff is critical for the success of the College.

In the course of a long and wide-ranging discussion, Professor Prendergast responded to queries from Board members on the following topics:

- communication with the Fellows;
- academic freedom;
- scale of the remit of the Vice-Provost;
- curriculum reform;
- interaction with other institutions;
- incentives for excellence in teaching;
- ARAM;
- engagement with academic staff and the role of research Fellows in the academic life of the College.

The Provost thanked Professor Prendergast who then withdrew from the meeting.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

The Board approved the Provost's nomination of Professor Prendergast as Vice-Provost with effect from 13 July 2008 for a period of five years subject to the relevant Statutory provisions regarding Academic Officerships and to a review after the first three years.

BD/07-08/302 Research Matters The Dean of Research, present by invitation, invited Board's attention to the College's successes in securing external research funds since his last report to Board (minute BD/07-08/157 of 30 January 2008 refers). The Board noted that Trinity had received the highest number of awards of any Irish university in the 2008 IRCSET postdoctoral and postgraduate schemes and that the College had also been successful in the SFI Research Frontiers Programme under which it received funds for 38% of the proposals submitted.

The Dean advised Board that the only SFI Young Researcher Award this year will be made to a Trinity researcher. This announcement will be made in the coming weeks.

He noted that all of the College's proposals submitted under the HEA Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme had been supported, with the College receiving 70% of the funding sought. He advised Board that the funds received will support facilities in CRANN, Biochemistry & Immunology, Sir Patrick Dun Translational Laboratories in St James's Hospital, and the Arts Technology Research Laboratory. The Dean advised Board that Trinity has received almost one-sixth of the national EU's FP7 awards to date, amounting to almost €8m.

He also advised Board that Dr James Callaghan, the newly-appointed Associate Director of Research and Innovation, had taken up his post on 6 April 2008. The Board noted the Dean's comments in relation to the Foresight exercise announced by the HEA for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Dean concluded by advising Board that archaeological work had begun on the An Post site and that two significant philanthropic pledges had already been received for the initiative. He noted that it was expected that the call for proposals under the fifth cycle of PRTL was imminent and that the College would be making the development of the Biosciences building on the An Post site a priority.

In response to queries from Board members, the Dean advised Board that every effort will be made to reduce the College's reliance on State funding for research, while at the same time ensuring that the level of research activity in the College will not diminish. He also noted that, while funding for the Arts and Humanities had increased in recent years, the relative level of funding available was not on a par with that of the Science and Engineering disciplines and that this would have to be addressed. He also advised Board of issues associated with the HEA's plan to increase the number of PhD students nationally.

In the course of a brief discussion on the allocation of overheads between Principal Investigators and central administration and service areas, the Dean clarified a number of technical issues and noted the challenges posed by the original Overhead Investment Programme.

The Provost thanked the Dean of Research for his very useful report.

BD/07-08/303 Irish School of Ecumenics (see Actum CL/07-08/157 of 7 May 2008) The Registrar invited the Board's attention to a memorandum, dated 15 May 2008, which had been circulated, together with the Review of the Agreement between the ISE Trust and TCD. He noted that the review's recommendations in respect of academic and administrative and organisational matters had been approved by Council at its meeting on 7 May 2008.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

The Registrar invited Board's attention to the five sections of the review report, namely, (i) academic matters, (ii) administrative and organisational matters, (iii) governance, (iv) finances, and (v) location. He stated that a number of issues raised under the section on administrative and organisational matters have either been resolved or are close to resolution, namely the inclusion of the Belfast-based staff into all relevant College communication systems and the inclusion of ISE postgraduate courses in the new postgraduate online application facility.

The Registrar noted the report's recommendations that the governance arrangements set out in the 2000 Agreement should be revisited to give expression to the new academic structures in Trinity. He stated that it will be necessary to co-ordinate the process of the Aspirant School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics achieving full School status, and when appropriate to address the nature of the relationship between the School and the Milltown Institute. The Board noted that the review recommended that a continuance of HEA-targeted funding should be sought beyond the current agreement which expires at the end of 2008 and that a case should be made to the HEA to consider the ISE for funding under the proposed new HEA funding category of strategically important and vulnerable subjects.

In discussing the report's recommendations, concerns were raised by Board members as to the suitability of the proposed financial model in the context of ARAM. The Board noted that these matters should be the subject of consideration by the Finance Committee prior to their consideration by Board. Concern was also expressed about the long-term financial implications for the College arising from the proposals. In response to a query, the Registrar advised Board that opportunities exist to develop further the potential of the ISE's Belfast campus for use by other areas of College.

The Board, noting that detailed proposals on the implementation of the report's recommendations would be considered by the relevant Board committees prior to their submission to Board for approval, approved the recommendations as presented. (These are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.)

BD/07-08/304 Draft Acta of the University Council The Board confirmed draft Acta of the University Council from its meetings held on:
 (i) 7 May 2008;
 (ii) 14 May 2008 (Chair of Philosophy);
 subject to further comments covering CL/07-08/155, CL/07-08/157, CL/07-08/159(i), CL/07-08/160, CL/07-08/163, CL/07-08/164, CL/07-08/173, CL/07-08/174, CL/07-08/175. (Items from Section D in the Acta are set out in Section D of these minutes.)

BD/07-08/305 Graduate Studies (i) Structure of the Trinity PhD/Master Research Degrees (see Actum CL/07-08/159 (i) of 7 May 2008) The Senior Lecturer invited Board's attention to Council's decision that, as of 2008/2009, eligible new entrants will be admitted directly to the PhD register, rather than being admitted to the Masters register in the first instance and then transferring to the PhD register, normally at the end of year 2. The Board noted that students, whose aim is to submit a Masters thesis only, can still enter onto the research Masters register, and that the opportunity to transfer to the PhD register will remain open to eligible students.

BD/07-08/306 Cessation of Academic Programmes (see Actum CL/07-08/160 of 7 May 2008) The Senior Lecturer invited Board's attention to Council's decision to cease the B.A. Honors in Germanic Studies and the Bachelor in Theology, noting that the decisions to discontinue these degrees had been taken in accordance with College guidelines. The Board noted that while these degrees would be discontinued in due course, five new degree programmes had been introduced this year.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

BD/07-08/307 New Degree Title- Professional Doctorate in Dental Surgery Under Other Business the Board approved the following:

Latin Title	<i>Doctor Negotialis in Chirurgia Dentaria</i>
Abbreviation	D.Ch.Dent.
Gown	Scarlet faced with pale blue silk
Hood	Scarlet lined with pale blue, edged with myrtle green

BD/07-08/308 Board Business Under Other Business the Secretary agreed to develop a proposal which would assist the Board in its overview of College business.

SECTION B

BD/0708/309 Heads of School Committee (see Actum CL/07-08/163 of 7 May 2008) The Board noted, and where appropriate, approved proposals in the draft minutes of the Heads of School Committee from its meeting of 15 April 2008.

BD/0708/310 Site and Facilities Committee The Board noted, and where appropriate, approved proposals in the draft minutes of the Site and Facilities Committee from its meeting of 29 April 2008 with particular reference to:

SF/07-08/116 Presentation by College Safety Officer Dr McGinley, the Chair of the Site and Facilities Committee, invited Board's attention to the Committee's concerns about the College's ability to meet the full requirements of Health and Safety legislation due to the insufficiency of funds to carry-out risk reduction works.

BD/07-08/311 Student Services Committee (see Actum CL/07-08/164 of 7 May 2008) The Board noted, and where appropriate, approved proposals in the draft minutes of the Student Services Committee from its meeting of 1 April 2008 with particular reference to:

SS/07-08/96 Careers Advisory Service Annual Report 06-07 Dr Piesse, the Chair of the Student Services Committee, invited Board's attention to the pressure which the increase in the number of non-traditional and postgraduate students is placing on the Careers Advisory Service, noting that this matter will be addressed in the Student Services Annual Report to Board.

SECTION C

BD/07-08/312 Senate Business - Degree of MA (j.o.) The Board noted and approved an additional recommendation, that of Dr G Biehler, to be proposed to the next meeting of the Senate.

BD/07-08/313 Headship of Schools The Board noted and approved the following nominations to Headship of Schools, for three years from 13 July 2008:

- (i) **Business** Dr G McHugh;
- (ii) **Computer Science and Statistics** Dr D Abrahamson;
- (iii) **Genetics and Microbiology** Professor C Dorman;
- (iv) **Mathematics** Dr D O'Donovan;
- (v) **Social Work and Social Policy** Professor R Gilligan.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

SECTION D

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts this information is restricted

Signed:

Date:

Irish School of Ecumenics - Recommendations approved by Board Appendix 1 to Minute BD/07-08/303

- (i) *Governance*
 - the Dean of the new Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (or his representative) should become a member of the ISE Executive Committee;
 - the governance arrangements set out in the 2000 Agreement be revisited in order to give expression to the new structures in College.
- (ii) *Financial matters*
 - in the context of College moving towards a full implementation of ARAM, consideration needs to be given as to how ISE (TCD)'s unique operating and financial situation as a postgraduate, all-Ireland School should be interpreted under ARAM;
 - TCD and the ISE Trust will work together to ensure the continuance of targeted funding from the HEA for the ISE in its new School environment beyond December 2008 and recommends that negotiations with the HEA ensue as soon as possible.
- (iii) *Location*
 - A suitable site be found for the ISE (TCD) in Dublin on campus or within walking distance of College, ideally co-located with the Milltown Institute, if their proposed strategic alliance with TCD goes ahead;
 - That this should be pursued in the context of TCD's overall space and buildings strategy;
 - That the ISE building in Belfast be made available, as appropriate, to other Schools within College for their use in cross-border and Northern-based activities.
- (iv) *On academic matters*, College should give consideration to how:
 - the ISE could become involved in some undergraduate activities;
 - the academic activities on the Belfast campus can be supported and attract activities from other Schools;
 - the College could benefit from the School's considerable experience in outreach activities in order to strengthen those within the Republic.
- (v) *On administrative and organisational matters*, a resolution of the following outstanding matters be actively pursued:
 - the establishment of an appropriate administrative mechanism to ensure that the Belfast-based staff are included in all communications between College and academic staff;
 - the establishment of a system whereby Belfast-based ISE staff and students who need visas to live and study in the UK can be accommodated;
 - a solution that would enable the financial obligations incurred in ISE Belfast to be dealt with appropriately;
 - the inclusion of ISE programmes in the next phase of the roll-out of the Postgraduate Applications Centre project.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings