

GRADUATE STUDIES BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday 1 May 2008

9.00-10.45 a.m. in A204

Present: Professor Gary Murphy (Chair), Dr Françoise Blin,
Dr Pat Brereton, Dr Tony Cafolla, Ms Jennifer Dowling,
Ms Tanya Keogh, Ms Louise McDermott (Secretary),
Dr Pierre McDonagh, Dr Andrew McGrady, Ms Noeleen Peel,
Dr Declan Raftery, Dr Mary Shine Thompson

Apologies: Professor Heather Ruskin

In attendance: Ms Jean Hughes (for Item 11)

The Chair welcomed Ms Noeleen Peel, Assistant Awards Officer, Registry, to her first meeting of the GSB. He also congratulated Dr Andrew McGrady, currently Registrar of the Mater Dei Institute of Education, on his appointment as Director the Institute from 1 September 2008.

SECTION A: Minutes and related issues

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted subject to the inclusion of one new submission under Item 4, four new submissions under Item 6, the substitution of Item 11 by a new item (Evaluation of Postgraduate Tutor Training), the renaming of Item 11 as Item 12 and the inclusion of three submissions under Item 12.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 6 March 2008

Confirmed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

- 3.1** Follow-up actions from the last meeting were reported.
- 3.2** Noted that the correct title of a new post in the Registry was *Systems Administrator*, not *Systems Development Officer*.
(Item 11.3 from the meeting of 10 January 2008)
- 3.3** Noted that information about a number of procedural issues would be made available to relevant staff members after *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis* had been revised. (Item 3.8)
- 3.4** Noted that Dr Shine Thompson would recommend to the Secretary/Bursar's Office in St Patrick's College that the college adopt a system similar to *Submission of Theses between September and December*. Agreed that the Chair would send Dr Shine Thompson the definitive wording that had been agreed for this system. (Item 3.11)
- 3.5** Noted that an issue relating to supervisory arrangements for a student had been resolved. (Item 4.2)
- 3.6** Noted, in relation to the identification of external examiners for taught doctoral programmes and, more specifically, for the Doctorate in Education in St Patrick's College, that a review would be held after the first cohort of students on this programme had been examined with a view to determining whether or not a new regulation needed to be drafted and, if so, what it should be. (Item 10.1)
- 3.7** Noted that the Chair intended to source a model for an exit survey which all research students would be requested to complete on graduation (or on ceasing the research without graduating). (Item 10.2)
- 3.8** Noted that a candidate who had been requested to make a formal application for admission to Year 1 of a research programme had now done so. (Item 11.1)
- 3.9** Noted that a regulation on research students transferring from other institutions would be drafted in the context of the revisions to *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Degrees by Research and Thesis*. Noted too, in the context of regulatory issues generally, that detailed regulations were needed about procedures following *viva voce* examinations. (Item 11.3)

SECTION B: Individual student issues**4. Applications for transfer to the PhD register**

- 4.1 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/4.1, School of Computing
Approved.
- 4.2 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/4.2, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 4.3 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/4.3, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 4.4 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/4.4, School of Nursing
Approved.
- 4.5 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/4.5, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 4.6 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/4.6, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 4.7 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/4.7, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved.
- 4.8 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/4.8, NICB/School of Biotechnology
Approved. Agreed that a procedure would be drafted to ensure an efficient signing process for forms where both a School and a Research Centre were involved. Agreed also that Dr Cafolla would raise the issue of signing with the Faculty Research Committee of the Faculty of Science and Health.

5. Applications for confirmation on the PhD register

- 5.1 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/5.1, School of Computing
Approved.
- 5.2 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/5.2, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.

6. Appointment of external examiners

- 6.1 Dr H Fagan, NUI Maynooth, and Dr Bryan Fanning,
University College Dublin
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.1, PhD, School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies
Decision deferred pending information on the reason two external examiners had been nominated though only one was required.

- 6.2 Professor K Hantke, University of Tübingen
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.2, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 6.3 Dr D Malone, University College Dublin
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.3, PhD, School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 6.4 Dr J M Jose, University of Glasgow
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.4, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.5 Dr P Borlund, Åbo Akademi University, Finland
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.5, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.6 Professor S McKenna, University of Dundee
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.6, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.7 Professor C Fernandez-Maloigne, University of Poitiers
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.7, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.
- 6.8 Dr B McCormack, Institute of Technology Sligo
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.8, PhD, School of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.9 Professor R Kearney, Boston College
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.9, PhD, Education Department,
St Patrick's College
Approved.
- 6.10 Dr I Rozas, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.10, PhD, School of Chemical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.11 Professor T Holloway King, Stanford University
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.11, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.12 Dr S Luz, Trinity College Dublin
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.12, MSc, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.13 Professor D Meurers, Ohio State University
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.13, PhD, School of Computing
Approved.
- 6.14 Dr S Lindsay, Dublin Institute of Technology
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.14, PhD, School of Education Studies
Decision deferred pending a fuller *curriculum vitae* for the nominee.
- 6.15 Professor A Teixeira, University of Aveiro, Portugal
Student ref. GSB/2008/G3/6.15, PhD, School of Electronic Engineering

- Approved.
- 6.16 Professor Á Hyland, University College Cork, and Professor T Copley, Oxford University
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.16, PhD, School of Education, Mater Dei Institute of Education
Approved.
- 6.17 Professor M Enchev, University of Rousse, Bulgaria
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.17, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.18 Professor J Hawley, RMIT University, Australia
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.18, PhD, School of Health and Human Performance
Approved.
- 6.19 Professor S Irvine, University of Wales, Bangor
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.19, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.20 Dr C Mahony, University of Ulster
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.20, PhD, School of Physical Sciences
Approved.
- 6.21 Professor J Balsega, Val d'Hebron University Hospital
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.21, PhD, NICB/School of Biotechnology
Approved.
- 6.22 Dr C Ó Mathúna, Tyndall Institute, University College Cork
Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/6.22, PhD, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Decision deferred pending more detailed information about the supervisory arrangements.
- 6.23 Mr Robert Simpson, Dublin Institute of Technology
Student ref. GSB/2008/G3/6.23, MEng, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 6.24 Professor T Ray, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
Student ref. GSB/2008/G3/6.24, MSc, School of Mathematical Sciences
Approved.

7. Requests for changes to supervisory arrangements

- 7.1 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/7.1, School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Approved.
- 7.2 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/7.2, School of Nursing
Approved.

7.3 Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/7.3, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.

8. Other student issues

8.1 Request to re-register in 2007/0808 to complete examination process

Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/8.1, School of Electronic Engineering
Approved.

8.2 Request to re-register in 2007/2008 to complete examination process

Student ref. GSB/2008/A3/8.2, School of Education Studies
Approved.

SECTION C: Policy and strategy issues

9. Establishment of a framework for graduate research training

Noted that work on this was ongoing. The importance of articulating this work with training structures set up in the context of PRTLTI funding was noted.

10. MD by research

Agreed that the proposers would be requested to submit a more detailed proposal on this issue to the 3 July 2008 meeting of the GSB. Noted that it was possible that, following this meeting, a validation proposal might be made to the Academic Strategy Committee.

11. Evaluation of postgraduate tutor training

Ms Jean Hughes, Head of the Learning Innovation Unit, summarised the outcomes of the evaluation of a postgraduate tutor training programme which had run from October 2007 to January 2008. The views of the Learning Innovation Advisory Panel on this issue were also summarised.

The following points were noted in discussion:

- attendees varied widely in their backgrounds and in the extent to which they were actually involved in teaching

- attendance had been very good initially but had deteriorated significantly; more frequent, ongoing sessions might be desirable though, given the logistical difficulties of organising such a programme, consideration might alternatively be given to holding intensive day sessions
- there should be a balance between generic and discipline-specific training
- it would be desirable to validate and accredit a programme such as this
- such a programme could form part of the framework for graduate training (though various issues, e.g. those relating to sign-off of completion of training and recording training on transcripts, would need to be resolved)
- the expertise of the linked colleges in teacher education should be availed of in the preparation of programmes
- a needs analysis would be necessary before further programmes are run (LIAP recommendation)
- completion of assignments, and compulsory completion (though not compulsory attendance at all elements), should be involved (LIAP recommendation)
- there is a single rate of pay involved for all tutors, but responsibilities vary widely (LIAP observation).

The Chair congratulated Ms Hughes and her LIU colleagues on their work in running the programme and carrying out a detailed evaluation of it.

It was noted that it would be important to provide opportunities for academic staff heavily engaged in teaching to base their research on the teaching. It was suggested that the university might consider allowing staff to complete a PhD through publications, but noted that the National University of Ireland had discontinued this option.

12. Any other business

12.1 Addition to membership

Agreed that provision should be made for the co-option of a maximum of two additional members of the GSB, for limited periods of time. Such members would normally have a role within the university that would enable them to make a significant contribution to the work of the GSB.

12.2 Workshops for supervisors

Noted that a series of workshops on supervision, jointly organised by the Office of the Vice-President for Research and the Human Resources Office, would take place from Autumn 2008. Noted that, while these had initially been intended for new

supervisors, all supervisors could benefit, and agreed therefore that all would be invited.

12.3 IUQB review

Noted that the Irish Universities Quality Board intended to carry out a review of structures relating to research students. Noted that the Chair intended to obtain more detailed information about this issue and to convey it to the GSB. The importance of articulating the timescale of this review with ongoing developments in the university was noted.

Date of next meeting:

**Thursday 3 July 2008
9.00 a.m. in A204**

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: _____