

Áine Lynch	Present
Ann Mulcahy	Present
Anne Howard	Present
Anne Loughnane	Present
Bryan O'Reilly	Present
Catherine Doolan	Present
Catherine Moynihan	Present
Ciaran O'Donnell	Present
David O'Sullivan	Present
Declan Fahie	Present
Eamon Dennehy	Present
Éamonn Shaughnessy	Present
Fergal McCarthy	Present
Gerry Leydon	Apologies
Gráinne Conachy	Present
Jean Beswick Duignan	Present
Kathleen Burke	Present
Liam Ó Néill	Present
Mai Fanning	Apologies
Mary Magner	Apologies
Mary Curley	Present
Mary Rose Cremin	Present
Michael Delargey	Apologies
Michelle Keane	Present
Niall Duddy	Absent
Niamh Hourigan	Present
Niamh Dennehy	Present
Noel Cronin	Present
Paul Moroney	Present
Peter McCabe	Apologies
Rosena Jordan	Present
Séamus Ó Fearraigh	Present
Seán Ó hArgáin	Present
Seán Ó Dubhlaing	Present
Seán O'Neill	Apologies
Teresa O'Doherty	Present
Tracie Tobin	Present

**Staff in attendance:** Phil Fox, Acting Director; Harry McGeary, Head of Finance and IT; Siobhan Healy, Head of Registration; Bríd Murphy Head of Initial Teacher Education & Induction, Ruth Flynn Head of Corporate Affairs and Human Resources,

## 1. Attendance & Apologies

### 1.1. Opening Remarks by Chairperson

- i. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.
- ii. The Chair also welcomed Barry Fagan and Eoin O Cuilleainain of Fieldfisher Solicitors to the meeting.

### 1.2. Noting of Apologies

Apologies were noted from Gerry Leydon, Mai Fanning, Mary Magner, Michael Delargey Niall Duddy, Peter Mc Cabe and Seán O'Neill

### 1.3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

## 2. Item for Decision

### 2.1. Appointments to Committees and Panels

Following their recent appointment to Council the following appointments were confirmed:

- o Executive Committee – Gráinne Conachy
- o Registration Committee – Gráinne Conachy
- o Education Committee – Gráinne Conachy
- o Registration Panel – Gráinne Conachy
- o Audit & Risk Committee – Gráinne Conachy & Mary Rose Cremin

having been proposed by David O'Sullivan and seconded by Mary Curley

## 3. Item for Discussion

### 3.1. Teaching Council (Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2023

The Head of ITEI gave a presentation providing the background of similar previous amendments to the Teaching Council Registration Regulations (2016) in 2020 and 2021, the rationale for proposing a Teaching Council (Registration) (Amendment) Regulation 2023, the safeguards that will be put in place, the resourcing implications and the four decisions before Council today.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

- i. The nature of the proposed delegation to the Director in relation to potential shortfalls for post-primary applicants in curricular subjects was discussed. It was clarified that conditional registration will apply in accordance with the Council's conditional registration timeframes. It was also clarified that applications with a shortfall of more than 15 ECTS in a curricular subject will be referred to the Qualifications Panel.

- ii. Should the Council approve the Amendment Regulations 2023, the timeframe for operationalising them will depend on increased resourcing. In response to a query regarding the possibility of the Department of Education financing the additional resource being sought, the acting Director confirmed that registration of teachers is a core function of the Teaching Council and as such the legislation is clear that financing must come from Council funds.
- iii. The acting Director confirmed that the purpose of this temporary amendment regulation, as one of the measures proposed to assist teacher supply challenges in the context of the current public health situation is to allow teachers who qualify overseas, and who meet the eligibility requirements, to complete their induction in Ireland. If this timebound amendment regulation is not approved these teachers will have to remain abroad to complete their induction period. It was noted that the induction period in England is two years.

#### Decision 1

**Council approved** an amendment to the Teaching Council (Registration) Regulations 2016, as outlined **having been proposed by Catherine Moynihan and seconded by David O'Sullivan.**

#### Decision 2

**Council approved** the sanctioning of an additional staff member and inclusion of the cost in the Council's staffing budget **having been proposed by Éamonn Shaughnessy and seconded by Mary Curley.**

#### Decision 3

**Council approved** the delegation of the approval of any unforeseen additional costs to the Chair of Council and the Chair of Finance Committee in advance of the next meeting of either Finance Committee or Executive Committee, whichever is sooner **having been proposed by Bryan O'Reilly and seconded by Rosena Jordan.**

#### Decision 4

**Council approved** a further temporary time-bound delegation to the Director in respect of confirming post-primary qualifications for teachers who have qualified outside of the State in relation to the Curricular Subject Registration Requirements (Post-primary) where;

- o a shortfall of 15 ECTS credits or less has been identified
- and/or
- o a shortfall of one or two of the subject essential areas has been identified
- and/or
- o evidence of immersive educational experience has not been provided (language subjects)

This delegation will only apply to applications received in accordance with the amendment regulation before 1 February 2024

following a vote of 20 for and 9 against with 0 abstentions, **having been proposed by Seán Ó Dubhlaing and seconded by Bryan O'Reilly**

Meeting Ended 17:00

Signed: Michelle Keane  
Council Chair

Date: 06.03.23

Signed: Rush By  
Secretary to Council

Date: 06/03/23