

## **Research Committee**

### **Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

**Present:** Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Deirdre Savage, Dylan Scammell, Dermot Kelleher, Hilary Tovey, Jim Sexton, Clive Williams, John Saeed, Doris Alexander

**In Attendance:** Maria Treanor

**Apologies:** Margaret O'Mahony, John Dillon, Sheila Greene

**Not Present:** David Dickson, Michael Coey

1. **Apologies**

M Gibney apologised for cancelling the meeting arranged for January 2003.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2002**

Two corrections were made: "awarded" instead of "received" paragraph 2, item 4; and "Research Office" instead of "Research Committee" paragraph five, item 4.

3. **Matters Arising**

It was agreed that Tom Turpin, Freedom of Information Officer, should be invited to attend the next meeting of the Research Committee.

4. **Berkley Fellowships**

M Gibney wrote to all the current Berkeley Fellowship applicants and, on the whole, received a positive response. Next year, the Berkeley Fellowships will have priority over Start-up Funding and Maintenance Grants, and no new Berkeley Fellowship applications will be requested.

5. **Task Force on Centres**

A questionnaire was prepared by the Task Force on Centres and distributed to the Directors of 22 Research Centres listed in the Calendar. Some 20 replies were received. M Gibney will prepare a briefing paper which includes issues of finance.

6. **Strategic Plan for Designated Areas**

D Kelleher reported to the Committee concerning the development of a strategic College plan for life sciences, and will

circulate a draft report document. Different disciplines have met together and, following a meeting of a broad range of researchers from life science-related disciplines, a small sub-group met to try to develop a strategic plan. This plan now needs to be distributed to the broader audience for comment. In general, a strategic approach to life sciences is seen as a good thing, and may help first-year graduate students to cross boundaries.

The Committee discussed the effects of this approach. It was felt that the focus would be on strong areas. The weaker areas would either have to be incorporated or included through synergies. It was suggested that professorial appointments could relate to research dimensions rather than departments, and that some departments might merge or disappear completely.

**7. Good Research Practice**

M Gibney has written to the Secretary about restructuring the original medical ethics committee and also about developing a procedure for dealing with allegations of research fraud and misconduct.

In future, hospital ethics groups will deal with ethical issues associated with research conducted in the hospitals but not necessarily with university research. The Health Sciences Faculty is to set up an ethics committee, and M Gibney will suggest that they should also be able to embrace non-medical issues.

**8. High Performance Computing**

J Sexton gave the Committee details of potential internal and external reviewers for the Trinity Centre for High Performance Computing. M Gibney will propose three names and the Committee will then vote by email. This will be first on the agenda of the next meeting.

The TCHPC will make their report available next year when the Research Committee has decided on the appropriate reporting procedure.

**9. Research Overhead**

M Gibney, D Savage and D Alexander will meet and prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the Committee on the current overhead situation. This presentation will then be made available to the College community via the web.

**10. Start-up Grant 2003**

It was agreed that members will read and evaluate all applications before the next meeting. Each application will be read by two evaluators, one of whom should be from the same

faculty as the applicant. It was noted that applications from the School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies can not be accepted as the School came into College with its own budget.

11. **Maintenance Grant 2003**

In the minutes of the last meeting of the Research Committee (December 2002), it was agreed that approximately €250k each would be allocated for the Start-up and Maintenance Grant schemes. As the budget may now be greater than the €500k envisaged at that time, this has been changed to a 50 / 50 split of the actual allocated budget but a final decision has been deferred until the issue of College travel grants has been resolved. Due to the budgetary situation in College, staff who receive the travel grant will no longer be eligible for the Maintenance Grant as well.

12. **Start-up Grant 1999/2000 final reports**

M Gibney will write to those who are reviewing the final reports on the first Start-up Grant.

13. **AOB**

It was suggested that approximately every third meeting should have only one topic on the agenda. It was agreed that while the Committee makes policy decisions, it is the Dean of Research who is responsible for implementation.

The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College Green, at 2 p.m. on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_