

Research Committee

Minutes of 15th May 2003

Present: Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Dermot Kelleher, Deirdre Savage, Jim Sexton, Dylan Scammell, Doris Alexander, Michael Coey

In Attendance: Maria Treanor

Apologies: John Dillon, Clive Williams, Hilary Tovey, Margaret O'Mahony

Not Present: David Dickson, Sheila Greene, John Saeed

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 17th April 2003

Minutes signed by Chairman.

2. Matters Arising

The new Professor of Theology will be given access to €5,000 as start-up funding. This was agreed previously as no chair money is available due to College budgetary cuts.

Maintenance Grant 2003

319 people received the Maintenance Grant 2003, and the total allocation was €409,500.

Research Information System

Once Information Systems Services have done the systems development work on the Research Information Database, the Library will appoint someone to populate the bibliographic details of the database.

3. Strategic Plan: Research

Research Centres

The directors of the centres and institutes in College met recently with M Gibney. J Sexton attended as a centre director. Common issues to emerge include: governance; management;

benchmarking; funding; and promotion. The latter will be tackled using the College web site.

Several solutions to the issues raised above were suggested, including integration into four research theme areas or, as mentioned in the College research strategy as priority areas, a virtual faculty with the Dean of Research as the Dean. However, it was noted that the term faculty should not perhaps be used but rather “committee” or “forum”. As a first step, M Gibney will organise the integration of the centres into the College web site. There are 21 in existence but some more are planned. Centres should be fostered, and those which are not functioning should cease to exist.

M Gibney will write to the Senior Lecturer to ask if he may continue to chair the meetings of the forum on centres, and to sit on the Deans’ Committee to represent them.

The document on governance of SFI centres which went to Board is seen as a starting point to be reviewed within a year.

College Research Strategy

For each of the four programme areas suggested as strategic areas for College in the draft strategy document, there could be a programme director. These directors along with a representative from the forum on centres could form an executive management group for research development. This group would then meet regularly with the Dean of Research. The Research Committee would make the policy decisions. The Research Office, although not at its present size, could act as an office for this group.

There was some discussion about what could be done for departments which did not fit into the four programme areas. These departments could be made stronger or merged into a stronger department. It is important that the Deans are supportive of the College strategy and that there is buy-in by departments. Definitions should be broad and as inclusive as possible so that people who wish to join in are not prevented from doing so.

J Sexton will arrange to meet with John Pethica and Pdraig Cunningham to start work on preparing a document on the strengths and uniqueness of the second programme area “meeting the challenge of the information society”. These three representatives will then co-opt additional researchers from the broader programme area to help develop an IST strategy. Mike Coey will support this process.

M Gibney will meet with representatives from the other two programme areas next week in order to try to ensure the development of strategic plans for those areas within the context of the overall College plan. He will report back to the Committee.

The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College Green, at 2 p.m. on Friday 6th June 2003.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____