

## **Research Committee**

### **Minutes of 06<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

**Present:** Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Doris Alexander, Deirdre Savage, Jim Sexton, Michael Coey, John Dillon, David Dickson, Sheila Greene

**In Attendance:** Maria Treanor

**Apologies:** Clive Williams, Margaret O'Mahony, Dermot Kelleher, Dylan Scammell

**Not Present:** John Saeed

#### **1. Minutes of the Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

Minutes approved and signed by Chairman.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

##### **College Centres**

M Gibney wrote to the Senior Lecturer, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, in relation to the establishment of a Forum for Research Centres. Approval for the establishment of such was agreed and it was further agreed that the Dean of Research should sit on the Deans' Committee representing Research Centres and research issues.

##### **Resignation**

H Tovey is resigning from the Research Committee for health reasons, and the Committee extended its gratitude for all the work she has done. The Dean of BESS will be asked to nominate a replacement to represent the faculty on the Research Committee.

##### **Congratulations**

Congratulations were also offered to M Coey who was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. It was noted that there are currently four Fellows of the Royal Society in the Physics department.

### **3. Strategic Plan**

The strategic plan has been adopted by Board and is being prepared for publication.

The plan has four themes which should not be defined by faculty boundaries. Each theme should have two or three strands, and each strand should have a maximum of three priority areas, each capable of being world-class. A bottom-up approach should be used.

Four facilitators, with experience in the area, will be nominated to assemble the theme packages. If they are not already on the Research Committee, they should be co-opted for the next few months. Deans and Heads of Departments should be given the names of the theme facilitators. They should also be assured that the facilitator position is for a period of about one year and that it is hoped that a co-coordinator may emerge to run with a particular programme area. Every member of the academic staff should also be informed as it is very important that everyone has buy-in at an early stage.

Three facilitators were agreed on: D Kelleher [Health], J Sexton [ICT] and J Dillon / replaced by D Dickson in the autumn [Arts/Culture]. It was suggested that Michael Laver [Policy] be asked to participate as a facilitator.

M Gibney will meet the four facilitators and start communicating with the rest of the academic community in College. A meeting should be held at the beginning of the next term, and the report produced before Christmas 2003.

### **4. Budget**

The Financial Review Group advisory document goes to Board next week. The Research Committee will probably have €0.25m to spend. In addition, conference travel may be organised through the Research Committee next year. If this is the case, it was suggested that the Committee look at the terms and conditions, and check to see whether or not it is a contractual entitlement. D Savage will circulate the terms before the next meeting.

## 5. **AOB**

### **Postgraduate Degrees**

Council has approved the new postgraduate degrees which have arisen from HEA proposals.

### **Invitations to Centres**

In future, invitations received by the Senior Lecturer to send to Heads of Departments, such as those relating to new courses funded through the HEA, will now go to Directors of Centres as well.

### **Deans' Committee**

M Gibney has joined the Deans' Committee.

### **Centres' Criteria**

The Committee discussed the possible criteria and procedures needed for proposed new centres. It was suggested that applications for centres / institutes be sent to the Research Committee first, then Academic Affairs, then Council.

Three will be presented shortly to the Research Committee. They are linked to department and faculty and do not intend to become cost centres. Internally, these centres could be labelled as something which indicates the size of the centre but a totally new entity would follow the formula devised so that if one size it would be referred to as an institute, and so on. However, it is recognised that using the new labelling would cause confusion for a lot of centres / institutes already in existence. These centres have used one term (centre, unit, etc.) and are known by this externally.

TCD centres must have gone through accreditation and acceptance and must appear in the Calendar. The guidelines for the application process for a centre might use a template similar to that used by Graduate Studies for the development of a course. Those who receive SFI funding or HEA funding for a centre should still have to satisfy TCD centre requirements. Note: the SFI centres will have done this by virtue of having to comply with the SFI governance document.

### **Berkeley Fellowships**

J Sexton is working on a presence for the Berkeley Fellows on the Research and Innovation Services website. Each will have a photograph, email address and one-third page on what was done during the year off. This information could be further developed into a brochure or newsletter to demonstrate the value of these fellowships to the College.

After the Finance Committee meets in September 2003, the Research Committee will make a decision on whether or not to award Berkeley Fellowships in the next academic year.

The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College Green, at 2 p.m. on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2003.

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