

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 08 May 2008

Present: John Kelly (Chair); David Lloyd (Dean of Research, DoR), James Callaghan (Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADoTRI and Secretary), Alessio Frenda, Philip Lane, Carol O'Sullivan (Dean of Graduate Studies), Dermot Kelleher

Apologies: Jane Ohlmeyer, Bursar, Senior Lecturer, Deirdre Savage

In attendance: Maria Treanor, Doris Alexander

Section A: Policy/Implementation Issues

RS/07-08/37 Minutes

The Minutes were approved and signed.

RS/07-08/38 Welcome

The Chair welcomed James Callaghan, new Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation.

RS/07-08/39 Report from Dean of Research

TCD has so far received one sixth of the EU funding awarded to Ireland. Of approx 150 pre-proposals to the SFI Research Frontiers Programme 2008, TCD academics were invited to submit approx. 75 full proposals, and received a total of 30 awards. College is leading two SFI Strategic Research Clusters and participating in six others. TCD's three proposals to the HEA Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme have all been funded. The HEA PRTLTI call has been delayed until the new Minister is in place.

Section B: Implementation Decisions

RS/07-08/40 Research Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the terms of reference and agreed that the Bursar and Treasurer should be in attendance, and that at least one of the three academic staff members should be a Head of School. The revised document will be sent to the Restructuring Implementation Oversight Group (RIOG) on Revised Committee Structures, and they will be asked to provide feedback to the Research Committee.

It was also agreed that if a new committee replaces the Graduate Studies Committee, it should maintain a strong link with research.

Action: The Research Committee terms of reference will be sent to the Restructuring Implementation Oversight Group (RIOG) on Revised Committee Structures, and they will be asked to provide feedback to the Research Committee.

RS/07-08/41 Funding of Trinity Research Institutes (TRIs)

The Committee discussed the financial mechanism to be applied to any TRI approved by the Research Committee and Board. It was agreed that TRIs must have some relationship with Schools. All ARAM costs and credits for TRIs will be attributed to the home School of individual Principal Investigators. Overheads will be shared between the TRI and its partner Schools. The Committee approved the funding paper subject to some minor modifications which will be circulated to all members for noting. The paper will then be sent to Board.

Action: Funding paper with minor modifications to be circulated to Committee members for noting, and then sent to Board.

RS/07-08/42 Ethics Sub-committee

The Committee agreed that a representative from Statistics should also sit on the Ethics Sub-committee. It was suggested that the Sub-committee should begin with a brief 'ethics audit' to identify current gaps. If possible, the first meeting will be held before 19 June 2008.

Action: DoR to discuss Ethics Sub-committee brief with Chair.

Action: Representative from Statistics to be invited to join Ethics Sub-committee.

Action: Ethics Sub-committee to meet before 19 June 2008.

RS/07-08/43 Working Group on Research Careers

DoR and ADoTRI met the Staff Secretary and discussed the current range of postdoctoral salaries. In some cases these are higher than lecturers' salaries. In addition, some research fellows are not being paid for teaching, and this need to be regularised. The Chair will contact the Staff Secretary to request a white paper on these issues from the PAC sub-group examining career and salary issues in College. This should be available before the final Board meeting of 2007/08.

Action: Chair to contact Staff Secretary to request a white paper on career and salary issues in College the PAC sub-group examining these issues. This should be available before the final Board meeting of 2007/08.

RS/07-08/44 Hosting Conferences in College

The internal rate for conferences has been frozen for a couple of years but is still very high. It was agreed that the Committee would ask the new Bursar to look at the issues and report back at a future meeting of the Research Committee.

Action: New Bursar to look at issues regarding hosting conferences in College and to report back at a future meeting of the Research Committee.

RS/07-08/45 Any Other Business

The Committee recognised TCIN as a Trinity Research Institute (TRI).

It was agreed that College's policy on energy is important.

Committee members were asked to review the new College research webpages.

Action: Committee members to review the new College research webpages.

Section C: Items for Noting

RS/07-08/46 FP7 Working Group

It was noted that Marie Curie Early Stage Researchers, who are normally paid a PhD stipend, will in future be employed on contract as Research Assistants.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College, at 11.00 on Thursday 19 June 2008.

Signed:

Date: