

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 23 April 2009

Present: Prof. Shane Allwright (*Board member and Chair*), Dr James Callaghan (*Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADoTRI and Secretary*), Dr David Lloyd (*Dean of Research, DoR*), Prof. Roger Stalley (*Heads of School representative*), Prof. Patrick Honohan (*representative of College research community*)

In attendance: Ms Maria Treanor (*Research Development Office*), Ms Deirdre Savage (*Nominee of Treasurer*), Ms Doris Alexander (*Research Development Officer*)

Apologies: Prof. Carol O'Sullivan (*Dean of Graduate Studies*), Prof. Dermot Kelleher (*representative of College research community*), Prof. Patrick Prendergast (*Vice-Provost*)

RS/08-09/30 Minutes of 06 April 2009

Changes were incorporated, and the revised minutes will be circulated for approval by email.

RS/08-09/31 Matters Arising from the Minutes

RS/08-09/13 Any Other Business: DoR has circulated the Indirect Costs Policy to all Heads of School and the Faculty Deans.

RS/08-09/15 Research Ethics Board: The Research Ethics Working Group has met to bring the 2002 TCD Good Research Practice document up-to-date and to audit the current ethics committees. This Working Group will make ethical policy issue recommendations in relation to embryonic stem cell line research in TCD. Principal Investigators will be required to tick a box on each application indicating that they will abide by the College policy on good research practice. The draft document will also include a framework for the management of conflict of interest. It will be sent to the Directors of Research for comment by their Schools and then presented to the Research Committee. When completed, the Research Committee will send its recommendations to Board for approval.

The Research Ethics Group will meet twice a year and report back to the Research Committee on an annual basis on any recommendations for changes to policy.

RS/08-09/16 Update on Relationship between Research Centres/Institutes and Faculties/Schools (sub-committee): The Vice-Provost will address this after the recommendations for restructuring College committees have been accepted by Board.

RS/08-09/17 Research Committee Sub-committees and Working Groups: The minutes of the last Business and Industry Committee meeting must be signed off by the Vice-Provost, and will then be circulated to the Research Committee for their next meeting.

RS/08-09/23 Working Group on Research Careers: Comments from Doris Alexander on the Report of the Joint Research Committee/PAC Working Group were discussed. It was noted that this is a very complex area e.g. even with the same payscale, the cost of employment to College can differ considerably. College could set up some guiding principles for funders which all the universities could support. In relation to research career titles, it was suggested that there may be a move towards more Americanised titles, such as Assistant Professor, as have been adopted more widely in continental Europe. The Research Committee will review the revised Report before the Vice-Provost brings it to Council and Board.

RS/08-09/28 Research Proposal and Award Management System (RPAMS): The Research Committee will look closely at the RPAMS document, and will take on board any comments made by the Directors of Research.

Action: DoR to circulate draft of amended Good Research Practice document to Directors of Research for comment by their Schools.

Action: ADoTRI to circulate the minutes of the next Business and Industry Committee meeting to the Research Committee.

Action: Research Committee to review revised Report of the Joint Research Committee/PAC Working Group before the Vice-Provost brings it to Council and Board.

Action: Chair to send Research Committee response on RPAMS to Donal Lyons.

Section A: Policy Items

RS/08-09/32 IIIS Bid for Institute Status

Prof. Alan Matthews, Director of the Institute for International Integration Studies (IIIS), made a submission for recognition of the IIIS as a Trinity Research Institute (TRI). He outlined how the IIIS has been operating as a *de facto* cross-School research institute since 2002. It has a strong track record in research, and this was supported by the recommendations of the reviewers from the recent Social Sciences Review. These recommendations were subsequently accepted by both the Research Committee and Board. The IIIS has strong support for this application from its six associated Schools: Social Sciences and Philosophy; Business; Histories and Humanities; Law; Religions, Theology and Ecumenics; and Drama, Film and Music. It can add value in a number of ways to the ability of these Schools to attract research funding particularly in the area of globalisation. It works with the Trinity Foundation to raise philanthropic funding to strengthen research in this area. It can also help to raise Trinity's profile as a centre for excellent research on globalisation. It has five research strands which reflect the strengths and interests of major groups of researchers in the associated Schools. It also provides a base for around 30 postgraduate students whose research topics fall within the broad remit of the IIIS. Although global health is not part of the IIIS, they are maintaining this linkage through the Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI).

The IIIS is governed by an executive committee made up of School-appointed representatives which meets four to five times a year. If approved as a TRI, they will appoint a consultative panel of distinguished external members. The IIIS is financed through a low-budget cost structure using a modified School umbrella model. Costs are initially defrayed by overheads from research projects, philanthropic grants and miscellaneous income, with the balance met by the Schools according to a fixed distribution key. Funding is already in place for the next two years.

The Research Committee approved in principle that the IIIS may be recognised as a TRI subject to the Director of the IIIS providing the Research and Finance Committees with a detailed three-year forward-facing financial plan, aligned to the College policy on the funding of Trinity Research Institutes and addressing the recent report by the Audit Committee on this matter. The plan is to be signed off by the Acting Treasurer to illustrate his satisfaction on financial compliance. This revision should explain any modifications to the 'School umbrella model', clearly articulate the reporting lines for the institute (cognisant of the need for a reporting relationship to a Faculty Dean) and include the proposed distribution of overheads with costs proportioned out.

It should comply with requirements of the Audit Committee. Also, regarding current policies, the Director should review governance of the IIIS in light of the new College structures.

Action: Director of IIIS to revise the bid for institutional status in keeping with the recommendations above, and to provide a detailed three-year financial plan for the Research and Finance Committees.

Section B: Implementation Decisions

RS/08-09/33 Trinity Research & Innovation

It was agreed that the TR&I Annual Report 2007/2008 and Service Plan 2008/2009 gives a very good summary of the scale of activities and the people involved. It was noted that the next report will have service-level agreement for contracts, and objectives for the future. The Committee recommended that after approval by Board it should be made available on the web and provided to all new academic and research staff.

Action: ADoTRI to provide TR&I Annual Report 2007/2008 to all new academic and research staff, and to make it available on the web.

Section C: Items for Noting

RS/08-09/34 Meeting with Directors of Research

Research Strategic Planning Team (SPT): the document drafted by the Research SPT will shortly go to Schools and Faculty for input which will be fed back to the Research SPT. It was requested that the draft Research SPT document should be sent to the Directors of Research as well as to the Heads of School.

The focus of the document is on how to improve the quality and quantity of the College's research. In order to consolidate the College's international recognition and standing, TCD's research strategy will seek to strengthen the essential interconnectivity between research, graduate education, undergraduate education and innovation over the next five years. TCD's strategy and vision for research excellence will be achieved by maintaining a broad disciplinary base of individual endeavour mapping across the five core research areas agreed in the 2006 strategic plan together with consideration of new key areas. Research activity (themes) will bear relevance to national and international priorities, and will collectively address a series of grand challenges both local and global. College aims to move up in the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES)

subject rankings. At the moment, 30% of College's income is non-exchequer, and the aim is to increase this to 45% by increasing industry-academic partnerships. A research-enabling environment is required in the College in order to allow all research staff to be research-active. Various metrics for assessing quality of research are required.

Directors of Research said that a definition of 'research-led' was needed. Another major concern for researchers is the structuring of research careers. There has been some discussion regarding bringing research into the College Performance Management Development Scheme (PMDS). The aim is to try to create a research-enabling environment in the College in order to allow all research staff to be research-active. Schools can then have an increased research profile as well as benefiting financially through ARAM. The process of strategic planning is to be 'bottom up' with invitations to engage on the SPT framework documents issuing to all Schools in the coming days.

The recently-announced TCD-UCD Innovation Alliance aims to mainstream innovation as one of the pillars of graduate education alongside education and research. It was noted that TCD is still working from the original roadmap in the last strategic plan.

The recommended adjustments and weightings to the proposed resource planning model prepared by the ARAM Task Force now include quality of research as a metric. There is more detail in the Board minutes of 09 December 2008 and 28 January 2009.

Although there is a moratorium on the employment of new staff, research contract posts may go ahead. The University Chief Financial Officers Group (UCFOG) and the HR group at the Irish Universities Association (IUA) are in discussion with the Department of Finance regarding the moratorium.

Open Access Publication (OAP): Trinity's Access to Research Archive (TARA) is designed to store, index, distribute, and preserve the College's digital materials. Deposited directly by TCD staff, content is distributed through a Google-indexed repository. Science Foundation Ireland and Wellcome want open access for publications which they fund. Open access publications are more highly-cited because authors can more easily access them. If TCD became an OAP university, this would considerably increase the number of citations per paper. DoR will send a letter to all staff asking for their views on OAP for publicly-funded research. Based on the response, he will then bring a proposal to the Research Committee. He will also ask Niamh Brennan to send out a list of OAP tips and suggestions to the Directors of Research for their feedback. In addition, DoR will invite Niamh

Brennan to make a presentation on OAP at the next meeting of the Research Committee with Directors of Research.

Research Proposal and Award Management System (RPAMS):

Directors of Research were asked to provide input on the proposed RPAMS. This is still in development and will come back again for comment at a later stage. Currently, research is tracked manually and report-generation involves a considerable overhead. RPAMS will allow College to make financial projections and streamline the process for everyone from applicants to Faculty Deans. Heads of School will be able to track the progress and success rates of research funding applications from their Schools. This may also lead to improved success rates if applications can be improved by, for example, better grantsmanship.

Any Other Business: DoR has convened a Working Group on Research Ethics to review the seven-year-old TCD Good Research Practice document. It is being re-framed as a policy document and will be sent to all Directors of Research for comment in the next few weeks. The Working Group is also carrying out an ethics committee audit, and will report back to the Research Committee at a future date.

Following the last meeting of the Research Committee with Directors of Research, the DoR and the Vice-Provost discussed options for additional meetings between Directors of Research. They suggested that these meetings would be best organised by the Directors at Faculty level e.g. before/after Faculty, Executive or Research Committee meetings.

The TCD bid to HEA PRTL15 Phase 1 was submitted on time, and the deadline for the second phase is 16 July 2009. A lot of data will be required from individuals, and the easiest way to manage this is via the Research Support System. The DoR will email the Directors of Research requesting them to ask staff to update their entries on the RSS.

Action: Research SPT document to be sent to Directors of Research as well as to Heads of School.

Action: DoR to send letter to all staff asking for their views on Open Access Publications for publicly-funded research.

Action: DoR to ask Niamh Brennan to send out a list of Open Access Publications tips and suggestions to the Directors of Research for their feedback.

Action: DoR to invite Niamh Brennan to make a presentation on Open Access Publications at the next meeting of the Research Committee with Directors of Research.

Action: DoR to send updated TCD Good Research Practice document to all Directors of Research for comment in the next few weeks.

Action: Directors of Research to pass on message that it would be very helpful to TCD bid to HEA PRTL15 if staff could keep their entries on the Research Support System up-to-date. DoR to send email reminder.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College, at 11.00 on Thursday 18 June 2009.

Signed:

Date: