

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 16th October 2012

Present: Professor Vinny Cahill (*Dean of Research, DOR, and Chair*)
Associate Professor Derek Sullivan (*Associate Dean of Research, ADoR*)
Assistant Professor Aidan Seery (*Director of Research, School of Education*)
Assistant Professor Clemens Ruthner (*Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies*)
Professor Ailbhe Ni Chasaide (*Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences*)
Professor Malcolm MacLachlan (*Director of Research, School of Psychology*)
Paula Maycock in place of Associate Professor Suzanne Cahill (*Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy*)
Assistant Professor Ed Lavelle (*Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology*)
Professor Georg Duesberg (*Director of Research, School of Chemistry*)
Associate Professor Carl Vogel (*Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics*)
Associate Professor Sinead Ryan (*Director of Research, School of Mathematics*)
Associate Professor Anthony Quinn (*Director of Research, School of Engineering*)
Assistant Professor Gary Moran (*Director of Research, School of Dental Science*)
Associate Professor Gabrielle McKee (*Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery*)
Assistant Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll (*Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences*)
Assistant Professor Andrew Jackson (*Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences*)
Professor Paul Coughlan (*Director of Research, School of Business*)
Professor Kevin Rockett (*Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music*)
Professor John Horne (*Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities*)
Associate Professor Crawford Gribben (*Director of Research, School of English*)
Assistant Professor Caoimhin MacMaolain (*Director of Research, School of Law*)
Assistant Professor Gaia Narciso (*Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy*)
Assistant Professor Iain Atack (*Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics*)
Professor Shane O'Mara (*Director of Research, TCIN*)
Professor Louis Brennan (*Director of Research, IIS*)
Juergen Barkhoff (*Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub*)

Professor Veronica Campbell (*Dean of Graduate Studies*)
Dr James Callaghan (*Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADTRI, and Secretary*)

In attendance: Ms Deirdre Savage (*Research Acc. Manager, Treasurer's Office*)
Ms Doris Alexander (*Research Development Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation*)
Dr Geoffrey Bradley (*CSG Manager, ISS*)
Dr Camilla Kelly (*Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee*)
Niamh Brennan (*Library*) for item RS/12-13/04

Apologies: Professor Martin Hegner (*Director of Research, School of Physics*)
Professor Seamus Martin (*Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology*)
Carol Newman (*Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy*)
Professor John Boland (*Director of Research, CRANN*)
Martin John McAndrew (*President, Graduate Students Union*)

Not present: *Director of Research, School of Medicine*

Section A

RS/12-13/01 Introduction

The DoR welcomed everyone to the first meeting of this academic year, in particular, welcoming new members.

RS/12-13/02 Minutes of 29th May 2012

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the Committee subject to the following:

Item RS/11-12/69: The DoR suggested the following revision to the final sentence, which was accepted:

"He informed the Committee that the proposal would now proceed to the Finance Committee for consideration before being noted by Board."

RS/12-13/03 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/11-12/67 (referring to Items RS/11-12/55 and RS/11-12/44): New National IP Policy. The DoR noted that the policy was launched in June, as expected. College will now undertake a review of its own IP policy in the light of the National policy and other developments.

Item RS/11-12/67 (referring to Item RS/11-12/57): Research Quality Metrics Update. The DoR informed the Committee that there will be a small amount of funding available from the Research Committee (of the order of 20K) to support travel in support of new research

collaborations. A program will be put in place to distribute this; details to be announced at a later date.

Item RS/11-12/67 (referring to Item RS/11-12/62): SFI Research Centres Call and SFI Infrastructure Call 2012. The DoR informed the Committee that three Centre proposals led by members of College were now under evaluation.

Item RS/11-12/68: Provision for Redundancy Payments. The DoR noted that this item is on the agenda for today's meeting.

RS/11-12/69: Proposal for Approval of Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI) as a Trinity Research Institute (TRI). It was noted that Board and Council have both approved this new TRI. Concerns that had been raised by the School of Medicine were addressed prior to approval.

Item RS/11-12/70: Research Ethics Policy Group. No further updates other than to comment that research integrity will become an important issue for College going forward.

Item RS/11-12/72: Terms of Reference for RSS Focus Group. The DoR noted that this item is on the agenda for today's meeting.

RS/12-13/04 Ranking Strategy

The Committee noted a document, which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The DoR spoke to the document.

This strategy document was prepared last year on foot of a request from the Planning Group, and was subsequently approved by Board. Since the strategy was prepared, College's rankings have stabilised and in some cases improved - although College's QS ranking has fallen slightly, the Times ranking has risen, and College's international reputation has improved.

College is now devising an implementation plan for the strategy. One area of focus is our international reputation and how we communicate what we do. Another focus is maximising the impact of our publications - for example by making them more widely and easily accessible via Open Access mechanisms. We are continuing to make the case that research outputs from AHSS must be properly reflected in the various publication databases.

Niamh Brennan informed the meeting that College has negotiated with Thomson Reuters to include more journals of relevance to TCD researchers, and priority journals as identified by TCD. The next step will be to approach Scopus to negotiate a similar agreement.

With reference to the Research Support System (RSS), an RSS user group is being formed, and volunteers are still being sought.

Action: Parties interested in volunteering for the RSS User Group to contact Niamh Brennan

RS/12-13/05 Research Funding Diversification Strategy

The Committee noted the proposal, which was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms Doris Alexander spoke to the document.

The strategy included a proposal for new supports to help increase revenue from two sources - US funding and EU (Horizon 2020) funding. Targets have been outlined for both an increased number of applications and a larger average value per application. The supports will include more promotional work, and opportunities for teaching buyouts to free up time for grant applications.

The call for locally-based Research Programme Officers drew 12 applications and 6 were funded. An additional call for a further 2 posts will launch in the near future on the basis that these posts will be 50% co-funded by the Research Committee and 50% by the successful School/TRI.

RS/12-13/06 Redundancy Payments Update

The DoR briefed the Committee on developments with respect to redundancy payments for research staff. He emphasized that Schools/TRIs should be aware of redundancy entitlements for Contract Staff and informed the committee that the Policy on the Management of Redundancy Costs on Research Grants & Projects had now been approved and would be published on the Human Resources web site.

RS/12-13/07 RPAMS

Dr James Callaghan, Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, updated the Committee on developments with the Research Proposal and Awards Management System (RPAMS). TR&I staff are now using the system and the use of the system by PIs will be phased in on a call-by-call basis going forward.

RS/12-13/08 Extension of Derogation from IP Policy as it Relates to Campus Companies

The Committee noted and approved the memo as circulated.

RS/12-13/09 Any Other Urgent Business

None

Section B

RS/12-13/10 Proposal for Smart and Sustainable Cities Research Centre

The Committee noted a proposal to establish a Smart and Sustainable Cities Research Centre, circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee approved the application.

RS/12-13/11 Proposal for Trinity Ageing Research Centre
The Committee noted a proposal to establish a Trinity Ageing Research Centre, circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee approved the application.

RS/12-13/12 Proposal for TrinityHaus Research Centre
The Committee noted a proposal to establish TrinityHaus as a Research Centre, circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee approved the application.

RS/12-13/13 Proposal for Trinity Academic Gastroenterology Group Research Centre
The Committee noted a proposal to establish a Trinity Academic Gastroenterology Group Research Centre, circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee approved the application.

RS/12-13/14 Dean of Research Annual Report 2010/2011
The Committee noted and approved the report as circulated. The School of Psychology noted that its material, as submitted, had not been included. The DoR is now requesting material from every School for the 2011/2012 Report.

Action: The DoR to investigate how the submission from the School of Psychology had been omitted from the report.

Action: Directors of Research/TRIs to submit a one/two page summary of the major research achievements of their School/TRI in the academic year 2011/2012 to the DoR as soon as possible.

RS/12-13/15 Any Other Urgent Business
None

Section C

RS/12-13/16 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings
(i) WiSER Strategic Group - Annual Report to Research Committee

RS/12-13/17 Any Other Urgent Business
None

Signed:

Date: