

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Present: Professor Vinny Cahill, Dean of Research (DoR) and Chair  
Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation (TR&I) and Secretary  
Professor Derek Sullivan, Associate Dean of Research (ADoR)  
Professor Paul Coughlan, Director of Research, School of Business  
Associate Professor Martin Adams, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music  
Assistant Professor Aiden Seery in place of Associate Professor Colette Murphy, Director of Research, School of Education  
Associate Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English  
Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law  
Professor Ailbhe Ni Chasaide, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Science  
Professor Malcolm MacLachlan, Director of Research, School of Psychology  
Assistant Professor Gaia Narciso, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
Assistant Professor David Tombs, DOR, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics  
Professor Georg S. Duesberg, Director of Research, School of Chemistry  
Associate Professor Carl Vogel, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics  
Professor Frank Boland, Director of Research, School of Engineering  
Associate Professor Mike Peardon, Director of Research, School of Mathematics  
Assistant Professor Andrew Jackson, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences  
Associate Professor Gary Moran, Director of Research, School of Dental Science  
Professor Yuri Volkov, Director of Research, School of Medicine  
Associate Professor Gabrielle McKee, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Professor Shane O'Mara, Director of Research, TCIN  
Professor Louis Brennan, Director of Research, IIS  
Professor Juergen Barkhoff, Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub  
Associate Professor Aideen Long, Dean of Graduate Studies  
Ryan Kenny, President, Graduate Students Union

In attendance: Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation  
Mr David O'Shea, Acting Research Acc. Manager, Treasurer's Office  
Dr Camilla Kelly, Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee

Dr Margaret Woods, Technology Transfer Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation for Item RS/13-14/09

Apologies: Professor John Horne, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities  
Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics  
Associate Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Associate Professor Daniela Zisterer, DOR, School of Biochemistry and Immunology  
Professor John Boland, Director of Research, CRANN  
Dermot Frost, Acting Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA)

Not present: Professor Robert Gilligan, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy  
Assistant Professor Clemens Ruthner, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies  
Professor Seamus Martin, DOR, School of Genetics and Microbiology  
Professor Luke O'Neill, Director of Research, Trinity Biosciences Institute (TBSI)  
Mr John Murphy, Director of Information Systems Services

**RS/13-14/01 Introduction**

The Dean of Research welcomed everyone to the first meeting of this academic year.

**RS/13-14/02 Minutes of 28<sup>h</sup> May 2013**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the Committee.

**RS/13-14/03 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The DoR noted that any matters arising were addressed by today's agenda.

**RS/13-14/04 DoR Update**

The DoR noted that there have been a number of developments since the Research Committee last met in May of this year.

- In June, the Planning Group approved a business plan to support the industry strategy that had been discussed by the Committee during the last academic year.
- In July, College submitted a proposal to the HEA's Strategic Innovation and Development Fund jointly with UCD that aligns with the Innovation Alliance. The areas under which submissions were invited were very constrained and College submitted under the theme of 'Economic Development'. The proposal includes funding for new PhD studentships, undergraduate internships, and increased interaction with industry. No decision from the HEA has been received as yet.

- An internal call for SFI Opportunistic Funds took place over the summer period. There were a significant number of applications to the scheme, and six have been selected for funding to date. Negotiations are on-going with equipment suppliers. It appears that the bulk of the available funding will be taken up in this call, making it unlikely that a second call will be issued.
- The internal selection process for SFI's Career Development Award (CDA) and Starting Investigator Research Grant (SIRG) is on-going, noting that only 5 candidates for each scheme can go forward with a submission to SFI. By the closing date, there were 23 applications to the SIRG call and 27 to the CDA. The DoR is now working closely with faculty deans to make the selections.
- The SFI Centres call for 2013 is now open. The scheme will be a very competitive one, with SFI only funding 2-3 applications.

#### **RS/13-14/05 Introduction of New Director of Trinity Research & Innovation (TR&I)**

Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, the new Director of TR&I, began by noting that he was very familiar with College, its staff, and the external funding environment.

Dr O'Brien went on to comment on two important strategies now being implemented within College:

- 1) Research funding diversification. Horizon 2020, the successor to FP7, will launch very soon. TR&I will actively support the goal of doubling College's income from EU funding, as outlined in the Research Funding Diversification Strategy.
- 2) Industry strategy. TCD's Industry strategy aims to set out the future direction for the development of a coherent College-wide approach to external industry engagement. Much more sophisticated relationships need to be built with industry. TCD needs a better 'front door' for industry and other funding partners. TR&I intends working with Schools and Institutes to identify their needs in this regard.

In order to dispel the perception that TCD might be difficult to deal with, both from an industry and funding partner perspective, TR&I is now looking to rebrand itself. 'Trinity Connect' is being proposed as a working title and it will represent a one-stop shop for engagement with the university. The unit will be looking to work closely with PIs to ensure engagement by all parties.

Dr O'Brien concluded by noting that he looks forward to working with everyone, and that in the near future intends visiting all Schools and Institutes to garner their views.

The DoR congratulated Dr O'Brien on his appointment and noted the importance of the role of Director of TR&I.

**RS/13-14/06 Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) Strategy**

The Committee noted the document "Creating Impact - A Strategy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Trinity College Dublin", and a memo from the Dean of Research in relation to the creation of an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Working Group, which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The DoR spoke to the documents. Last year saw a significant amount of effort being put into the development of the I&E strategy across College. Over the summer the strategy was approved by both Council and Board. It is a major initiative for College, which seeks to, among other goals, maximise the impact of scholarship and research, and maximise the capacity for graduates to create impact.

The report contains a number of specific recommendations. One of these recommendations is the creation of an I&E Hub as a facilitator and enabler of innovation and entrepreneurship activity. The strategy recommends significant expansion of the Business School, in terms of both staff and associated students. Substantial dedicated physical space is to be developed to house the Hub and School of Business. Other recommendations include: development of an IP Policy that encourages value-creating partnerships; and the development of an enhanced executive education programme. The strategy is expected to be formally launched in November by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mr Richard Bruton.

The DoR added that the Business School has developed a strategy that serves to differentiate it from its competitors. It is a strategy that builds on its existing strengths but adds an additional level of focus on I&E.

One member of the Committee noted a lack of consultation with the Centre for Innovative Human Systems (CIHS) within the School of Psychology during the formation of the strategy. This despite CIHS being a very successful research centre, having, for example, drawn down a significant amount of funding from FP7. The DoR noted that CIHS would have an important role to play in the delivery of the strategy and agreed to consult further with the centre. The DoR noted that the strategy recommends the creation of Innovation Lectureships which would be open to all Schools.

The DoR concluded by drawing the Committee's attention to his memo proposing that a Research Committee Working Group be formed to advise and help steer implementation of relevant recommendations.. In the first instance, the group might comprise members of the steering group responsible for the development of the I&E strategy, together with nominees of the Research Committee.

The formation of the Working Group was approved by the Committee.

**RS/13-14/07 IUA Research Integrity Policy Statement - Report by the ADoR**

The Committee noted the Policy Statement and some correspondence from SFI, which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The ADoR spoke briefly to the Policy Statement and letter. Concerns about the recommended procedures for investigating allegations of research misconduct included in a previous draft of the document have been addressed in the final published version. The Research Ethics Policy Committee approved the document over the summer.

The SFI letter circulated with the policy document states that SFI will audit compliance with the policy.

One of the Committee asked whether the IUA had considered the resource implications for implementation of the policy. In response, the ADoR stated that, in particular, issues concerned with education and training will need to be addressed and that this will require adequate resourcing.

In response to a query on how complaints in relation to 'Personal behaviours' are handled in College, the DoR noted that all complaints are taken very seriously and handled appropriately through the College's established procedures. It is hoped that the new Policy should heighten awareness of good research practice among staff and students.

The Committee approved the policy.

**RS/13-14/08 Research Ethics Policy Committee (REPC) - Report by ADoR**

The Committee noted and approved the committee's Terms of Reference (ToR), which were circulated in advance of the meeting. The meeting also noted the following: the criteria for level 1 (low-risk) and 2 (high-risk) Research Ethics Committees (RECs) and their membership; approved minutes of the meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July; draft minutes for the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> September; and annual reports from the 12 RECs currently active in College, which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The ADoR noted that the College Secretary and Senior Dean are proposed to be members of the REPC. The Committee agreed with a proposal that a graduate student representative should also be a member of the REPC.

The committee approved the REPC ToR subject to that amendment.

The ADoR briefed the committee on the initial proposed criteria for level 1 and 2 RECs. He noted that it was important for units engaged

in research to review the criteria carefully prior to them being formally adopted.

*Action: Directors of Research to provide feedback to the ADoR on the draft criteria before mid-November.*

**RS/13-14/09 Principles of Intellectual Property (IP) Policy - Report by TTO Manager**

The Committee noted the document "Principles for Open Innovation, Engagement and Knowledge Transfer", which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Dr Woods noted that the document describes how TCD is open for engagement including with business. TCD wants to engage with public and private entities for societal benefit, where the benefit can be economic or otherwise.

The DoR requested that 2 important principles be made very clear in the document:

1) that College supports academic freedom to publish and to determine how research outputs are used, always subject to the terms and conditions attached to any funding of the research

2) that College claims ownership of all IP developed by TCD employees in the course of their employment

The DoR also noted that point 5 was a little open-ended and should note that implementation would be subject to normal TCD procedures.

The DoR reminded the committee that the principles if accepted would underpin a revision of the College's IP policy.

The document was approved subject to the above modifications.

**RS/13-14/10 HEA Compact**

The Committee noted the "HEA Higher Education System Performance Framework 2014-2016", which was circulated in advance of the meeting. This document is for information purposes only, and gives an indication of what the HEA considers to be important.

The DoR spoke briefly to the document. The Compact is an agreement that the HEA is asking HEIs to enter into. Each HEI must identify a set of objectives and associated key performance indicators (KPIs) that can be used by the HEA to assess performance. It is expected that up to ten per cent of the HEA core grant will be allocated based on achievement of institutional objectives.

A significant amount of work took place over the summer to identify an appropriate set of objectives, and an initial submission to the HEA was made in the last week. College is now entering into a strategic

dialogue with the HEA to agree these objectives and goals. It is expected that by spring 2014 the HEA and College will have agreed upon a set objectives.

The DoR noted that he had hoped to circulate College's response before the meeting. The objectives and metrics in the response derive from College's current strategy document. A key metric relates to research activity, as measured by the number of research productive staff. The goal is to increase the number of research productive staff by 10% (to 80%) by 2016.

The RC discussed the importance of metrics which describe the breadth of research activity on-going within College. The DoR supported this view point and requested suggested metrics which would be specific and measureable but also meet this objective.

*Action: DoR to circulate TCD's response to the Committee.*

*Action: Directors of Research to forward proposals for specific research metrics to the DoR.*

*Action: DoR to explore options for other metrics.*

#### **RS/13-14/11 Dean of Research Annual Report 2011-12**

The Committee noted the report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

The DoR requested that Schools and Institutes start compiling their research highlights for the 2012/2013 DoR Annual Report. A timeline for School/Institute input by the next RC meeting was agreed. The intention is that the next DoR report would be complete in Q1 2014.

*Action: Directors of Research to forward their contributions to the 2012-13 DoR report prior to the next Committee meeting.*

#### **RS/13-14/12 Applications for Establishment of Research Centres**

The Committee noted submissions from the Centre for Cultures, Academic Values and Education Research (CAVE) and the Trinity Centre for Digital Humanities (TCDH), which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

Both applications were approved by the DoR with support from the Committee, which agreed a derogation from the normal College policy on the operation of Research Centres to allow TCDH to be hosted by the Trinity Long Room Hub Institute for the Arts and Humanities.

#### **RS/13-14/13 Any Other Business**

The DoR noted that the 'Discover Research Dublin' event took place on September 27<sup>th</sup>. This event was part of a European wide event to

raise public awareness of researchers and research careers across Europe. The aim is to give the public, in particular young people, the opportunity to meet researchers within the context of interactive activities and hands-on demonstrations that highlight the appeal of pursuing a career in research. The Dean and Committee extended their thanks to Jennifer Edmond for coordinating the event.

The DoR asked Schools to identify potential applicants for the European Research Council grants as per his recent email.