

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014

- 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  
Professor Martin Adams, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music  
Professor Clemens Ruthner, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies  
Professor Malcolm MacLachlan, Director of Research, School of Psychology  
Professor Gaia Narciso, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
Professor Georg S. Duesberg, Director of Research, School of Chemistry  
Professor Carl Vogel, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics  
Professor Frank Boland, Director of Research, School of Engineering  
Professor Mike Peardon, Director of Research, School of Mathematics  
Professor Gary Moran, Director of Research, School of Dental Science  
Professor James O'Donnell, Director of Research, School of Medicine  
Professor Gabrielle McKee, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Dermot Frost, Acting Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA)  
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, Financial Services Division  
Ms Lynn Scarff, Acting Director of the Science Gallery, for Item RS/13-14/67  
Dr Geoff Bradley, senior IT manager IS Services, for Item RS/13-14/72  
Dr Camilla Kelly, Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee
- Apologies: Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English  
Associate Professor Irene Walsh, acting Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Science  
Professor David Tombs, Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics  
Professor Shane O'Mara, Director of Research, TCIN  
Mr John Murphy, Director of Information Systems Services

Not present: Professor Colette Murphy, Director of Research, School of Education  
Professor John Horne, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities  
Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law  
Professor Robert Gilligan, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy  
Professor Daniela Zisterer, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology  
Professor Seamus Martin, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology  
Professor Andrew Jackson, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences  
Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics  
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of Research, CRANN  
Professor Juergen Barkhoff, Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub  
Professor James Wickham, Acting DOR, IIS, IIS  
Professor Aideen Long, Dean of Graduate Studies  
Professor Luke O'Neill, Director of Research, TBSI

**RS/13-14/63 Introduction**

The Dean of Research welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**RS/13-14/64 Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the Committee.

**RS/13-14/65 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Item RS/13-14/55 (referring to Items RS/13-14/46, RS/13-14/37, & RS/13-14/29): Research Staff Employment Contracts. The DoR noted that a HR document, 'Temporary Employment Guide', had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Item RS/13-14/58: Dean of Research Initiative. The DoR noted that four members have been invited to sit on a sub-committee to oversee the development of the programme, three of whom have confirmed.

**RS/13-14/66 DoR Update**

The DoR began by noting some recent programme results from SFI. The SFI Investigator Programme 2013: seven out of the twelve applications from Trinity that reached the second-stage review were successful. A further two of the twelve are on a reserve list. SFI's Career Development Award (CDA) and Starting Investigator Research Grant (SIRG) schemes: For both schemes, three out of five Trinity applicants were successful, a success rate of 60%.

The SFI Investigators Programme for 2014 is now open. This call will operate on a themed basis, with 15 themes in all.

The DoR reminded the Committee of the rolling call for the SFI Research Professorship Programme, which is designed to attract very high calibre researchers to Ireland. The programme will provide funding of up to €5M for research costs, but does not fund the applicant's salary. While this Programme has been running for quite some time, SFI recently initiated a themed version of the Programme to promote recruitment in certain areas. In response to a request from SFI, and after consultation with the Faculties, College expressed interest in recruiting in a number of these areas. Notwithstanding this themed variant of the programme, the Dean encouraged colleagues to continue to seek candidates for the Research Professorship programme.

Following the formation of a Working Group some months ago, the process of reviewing the College IP policy is ongoing. The Finance Committee is currently examining one aspect, namely the policy derogation in relation to campus company formation.

The DoR noted that the proposal for the Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, which was first brought to the attention of the Committee in April 2013, has been reviewed by an external panel and their report has recently been received. It will come to the Committee for consideration in due course.

The development of the College's new Strategic Plan is continuing. A special Research Committee meeting will be convened in the near future to discuss the Research & Innovation aspects of the plan. The Vice Provost will attend this special one hour meeting.

The DoR was delighted to inform the Committee that Trinity, in partnership with RCSI, has been the recipient of the first Horizon 2020 award in Ireland - to support the 'Discover Research Night' programme for two years.

### **RS/13-14/67 Science Gallery**

Ms Lynn Scarff, Acting Director of Science Gallery, gave a brief overview of the public engagement programmes delivered by Science Gallery to date and potential opportunities to support research activities within Schools/Research Institutes and Centres.

In 2013, Science Gallery welcomed over 339,000 visitors. Science Gallery produces four exhibitions a year on broad themes and over 100 events annually from talks to workshops and major launch events. Exhibitions have involved curators, advisors and researchers from a variety of schools across the university, including the School of Psychology, Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, School of Biochemistry and Immunology, School of Genetics and Microbiology and School of Physics, School of Chemistry, School of Computer Science and Statistics, School of Medicine, School of Education and The Long Room Hub. Events at Science Gallery also regularly involve researchers from within TCD.

Science Gallery is also involved in extensive research in public

engagement across Europe, and has been a coordinator and/or partner in six Framework 7 programmes.

In short opportunities exist to:

- Partner in public engagement activities on major research grants
- Partner in developing exhibitions at Science Gallery
- Support and partnership in delivery of undergraduate/postgraduate broad curriculum modules or science communication/ engagement modules
- Support and partnership on undergraduate theses research that connects with Science Gallery activities
- Learning Lab programme - a continuing professional development programme currently in development with the Department of Education
- Partner in development of events and workshop programmes connecting public audiences with specific school research and activities
- Partner in delivery of TCD innovation strategy through opportunities for exhibiting early prototype work through Science Gallery exhibits and events programmes.

Upcoming programme in Science Gallery:

BLOOD

Oct 23rd, 2014 - Jan 23, 2015

HOME

Feb 12th - May 3rd

LIFELOGGING LAB

May 21st - Jul 19th

CODE

Aug 6th - Nov 1st

TRAUMA

Nov 19th 2015 - Feb 7th, 2016

SOLO ARTIST SHOW

Feb - April 2016

PLACEBO

May - Jul 2016

FUTURE FARM

Jul - Oct 2016

COLOUR (Alternatives: PARASITE/ TOXIC/ MUSIC)

Oct 2016 - Feb 2017

### **RS/13-14/68 Research Ethics Policy Matters**

The Committee noted the Policy on Access to Trinity College Staff and Students for Research Purposes by External Organizations, and a Summary of the Status of Research Ethics Committee Applications, which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The DoR started by thanking the ADoR for driving developments in the area of Research Ethics policies.

With regard to the Policy on Access to Trinity College Staff and Students for Research Purposes by External Organizations, it was noted that the document should also refer to 'Unit' anywhere there was a reference to 'School'. It was also noted that it should be made clear that the word 'ethical' refers specifically to the ethical conduct of research.

The policy was approved subject to these minor corrections.

The summary of the status of research ethics committee applications was also noted.

The DoR closed by noting that there is now a clear framework in place for ethical approval of research projects in College and that all Schools must have their own research ethics policies clearly available on their websites. The DoR thanked the Research Ethics Policy Committee for all its hard work, in particular the Chair, Professor Orla Sheils.

### **RS/13-14/69 Good Research Practice Policy**

The Committee noted the revised policy document, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

The DoR noted that the document update was a significant piece of work, and thanked the ADoR for taking the lead in its revision.

The most significant changes to the document reflect the recent changes in College research ethics policies and the recently approved national policy statement on ensuring research integrity in Ireland.

The ADoR also noted that new data protection legislation from the EU will likely inform future research data management policies in College.

In response to a question on copyright, the ADoR noted that this issue is covered under the College IP policy.

In conclusion, it was noted that section 5 of the document 'Supervision of Research' would be reviewed by the Dean of Graduate Studies while the College solicitor would also review the section describing the procedures for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct.

The document was conditionally approved (subject to any recommended changes from the Dean of Graduate Studies and the College Solicitor) to go forward to Council.

**RS/13-14/70 Policy on Trinity Research Centres**

The Committee noted a draft policy document, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

The policy was approved subject to some minor corrections.

The DoR thanked the ADoR for leading on this initiative.

**RS/13-14/71 Promoting and Encouraging Research Activity**

The DoR began by noting that the proportion of research productive staff across College shows a wide variation between Schools - it is as low as 39% in some areas, and as high as 100% in others. The average figure across College is 74%. The members were asked for their thoughts on how the proportion might be improved.

In response to a question, the DoR noted that it was important that all academic staff are engaged in teaching. The parameters should be defined by the Schools within the framework of their workload models.

The Research & Innovation document for the College Strategic plan refers to the possibility of having a separate career track for staff engaged solely in teaching. A member of the Committee posed the question as to whether it would be worth considering the option of current academic staff members moving to such a track?

One of the members suggested that it might be a worthwhile exercise to look at those Schools that are 100% active to see what can be learnt from them.

The DoR noted that although research outputs appear to be increasing, citation impact seems to be decreasing, which is a concern.

One of the Committee asked whether the weighting of multi-author publications might be re-examined, however, collaborative papers are very important and it might be worth revisiting the issue in the context of developing research excellence criteria.

Another member of the Committee pointed out that the lack of administrative support for researchers is quite a burden and that it may contribute to lack of research activity. The DoR agreed that for staff with large grants, the idea of centralised research administration support is something that might be considered.

**RS/13-14/72 Research IT Services Strategy 2014-19**

The Committee noted a discussion document, which was circulated in advance of the meeting. Dr Geoff Bradley, senior IT manager IS Services, gave a brief presentation. The document is intended to open the debate on the type and nature of research enabling IT

Services that ISS and others will provide to the research community. The document proposes a delivery model that recognises 4 continuous, iterative and overlapping phases in research: imagine; investigate/innovate; inform, and impact. Future IT services might include, for example: CRM; cloud services; and social media services.

**RS/12-13/73 Research Committee Self-Evaluation Survey**

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

**RS/12-13/74 Temporary Employment Guide**

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

**RS/12-13/74 AOB**

As it was expected to be her last meeting in the role, the Committee extended its thanks to Dr Camilla Kelly for her work as Minute Secretary to the Committee.