

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

11:00, Tuesday 4 May 2021

Zoom

MINUTES

**Attendees**

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research (Chair)

Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research

*Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business

Professor Orla Flanagan, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts

Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education

Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English

Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities

Professor Clemens Ruthner, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies

Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law

Professor Redmond O'Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology

Professor Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences

Professor Zohar Hadromi-Allouche, Director of Research, School of Religion

Professor Peter Stone, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Professor Eoin O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy

*Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*

Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology

Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry

Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics

Professor Gareth Bennett, Director of Research, School of Engineering

Professor Jane Farrar, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology

Professor Stefan Sint, Director of Research, School of Mathematics

Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences

*Faculty of Health Sciences*

Professor Jeff O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science

Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine

Professor Joan Lalor, Director of Research, School of Nursing & Midwifery

Professor Lidia Tajber, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

*Trinity Research Institutes*

Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN

Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub

Professor Aideen Long, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Professor Kingston Mills, Directory of TBSI

Mr. Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation

Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association

Ms Gisele Scanlon, President, Graduate Students Union

*In attendance:*

Dr Raquel Cabral Harper, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation

Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library

Dr Geoff Bradley, Director of IT Services

Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director of European Engagement, Trinity Research & Innovation & Global Relations

Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

**Apologies**

No apologies received

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<b>Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval</b>	
<b>A.1</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b> Minutes for the meeting of April 13<sup>th</sup> were circulated in advance and approved as read.</p>
<b>A.2</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>  <b>RS/20-21/2 HEA Support for COVID-19 Related Research Costed Extensions:</b>            applications for the final round of funding were opened on April 30<sup>th</sup> with a hard deadline of May 17<sup>th</sup>. The committee was advised that funding in the final round was very limited and those who have not previously received support from the fund would be prioritised. Applications would be assessed once the deadline passed.</p> <p><b>RS/20-21/12 Post-award support review:</b> Committee was advised that a feedback form had been added to the post-award resources page. Feedback and suggestions could be submitted any time. It was noted that feedback from the Research Committee made it clear that post-award support based in TR&amp;I would be welcomed. ODRS would be prioritising policies and guidance relevant to the post-award space in its general review of research-related policies.</p>
<b>A.3</b>	<p><b>RS/20-21/4 Research Ethics Application Management System</b>            Prof. Gabrielle McKee and Penny Storey</p> <p>Prof. McKee and Penny Storey joined the meeting to present an update on the REAMS project and to seek approval for the REAMS technical specifications and descriptive workflows. Documents outlining the descriptive workflows and technical requirements were circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting and Prof. McKee summarised the main points.</p> <p>Committee was advised that the preliminary business case was approved by CRG in January 2021, and the Procurement Office and Office of Government Procurement were notified of the intention to proceed to tender. Committee was advised that the tender would be published mid-May in order to identify prospective suppliers, with the hope to return to CRG to seek Gate 3 approval to appoint a provider in August.</p> <p>In response to questions from the committee, Prof. McKee confirmed that end of project and data destruction reports would be available, and that an override option would be built into the system so that applications could be assigned to the correct REC. Dr Raquel Harper noted that with the imminent launch of RPAMS2 a unique identifier number that worked for both systems would be useful.</p> <p>Prof. Sint asked about projects that do not require ethics approval and it was noted that REAMS was not going to be used as a record of all research in Trinity. Only projects that require ethics approval would have to engage with it. Prof. Stone asked if the system could screen applications at the beginning of the process to confirm whether ethics approval would be required. Members of the committee noted that REAMS should not be used as a record of all research activities and cautioned against any mission creep.</p> <p>Prof. O’Sullivan noted that what was being sought was essentially a workflow system and noted that it could be beneficial for the project to consider proposals outside of existing ethics systems.</p>

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	<p>Leonard Hobbs noted that the transition to RPAMS2 had been more difficult than expected. Prof. McKee noted that some applications would have to be completed manually before the new system was online.</p> <p>Dr Bradley noted that the College Records Management Committee has a schedule for data retention/destruction. Also noted the positive aspects of unique identifiers should projects need to engage with Trinity systems. Noted that how to integrate existing systems was being examined.</p> <p>The committee approved the documents.</p>
<b>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</b>	
<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>Update from Associate Deans of Research</b> Prof. Lorraine Leeson, Prof. Andrew Bowie</p> <p>Congratulations were noted to Prof. Danny Kelly, Prof. Jennifer McElwain, and Prof. Seamus Martin who were all awarded ERC Advanced Grants. Congratulations also noted to all colleagues who secured awards from the Disruptive Technologies Fund.</p> <p>Prof. Bowie provided an update on SFI-related matters. With regard to <b>RS/20-21/8</b> All-island Funding, it was noted that £2-3 million had now been ringfenced following a meeting of Deans of Research in Northern Ireland. Prof. Bowie noted that there was now a real sense of urgency to use the fund this year, and the DORs in NI expect that SFI would handle any related call. Prof. Bowie noted that no update had been received from SFI or govt here but a call was expected soon. In response to questions from the committee Prof. Bowie noted that there was no indication of yet of favoured themes.</p> <p>There was some discussion among the committee about recent communications regarding postdoctoral pension contributions. The ADORs advised that clarification would be circulated to the committee once it was received.</p> <p>Prof. Leeson noted that the committee was required to complete a survey in line with its Terms of Reference each year and that this would be circulated to members via email after the meeting.</p>
<b>B.2</b>	<p><b>RS/18-19/19 NORF</b> Prof. Declan O'Sullivan</p> <p>Prof. O'Sullivan reminded the committee of the deadline for feedback. Also noted that a drop-in session had been held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. 35 people attended which was good given short notice of the event. It was noted that working group members appreciated the feedback received.</p> <p>Committee members were asked to provide key points their schools would like to see in a College-level response. Thanks were noted to the six schools who had provided feedback. Prof. O'Sullivan reminded the committee that individuals could provide feedback directly to NORF and asked that if this was done to also share that feedback with Trinity's working group members.</p> <p>It was also noted that Prof. Leeson had been co-opted on to the steering group representing all the Deans of Research from various universities. This would provide an extra voice for Trinity at that level.</p>

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	<p>Helen Shenton noted that the drop-in session was very helpful and that individual researchers were now approaching the Library for advice in relation to options with publishers as a result.</p> <p>Prof. Leeson thanked Prof. O’Sullivan for his work. Noted that there was still time to make a contribution, and that it was important to make views known and voices heard.</p>
<b>B.3</b>	<p><b>RS/20-21/13 SFI/IRC Postdoc funding call Pathway Programme</b> Dr Raquel Harper</p> <p>Dr Harper provided the committee with an overview of the new Pathway Programme which would be jointly run by SFI and IRC, with specific detail on the internal nomination process that had to take place in Trinity before candidates could be put forward to the funding agencies. There would be 16 candidates for the STEM stream and 8 for AHSS. No more than half of each could be male candidates. Once applications were submitted all would be considered equally at that point.</p> <p>The call was launched on April 30<sup>th</sup>, expressions of interest had to be received by May 14<sup>th</sup>, with Trinity’s nominations sent to SFI by May 20<sup>th</sup>. Full proposal deadline would be in June. Given the tight deadlines, it had been agreed that each faculty would shortlist its own nominees before a panel meeting with the ADORs.</p> <p>It was noted that SFI had recommended using DORA style CV templates. It was agreed that a template would be circulated to the committee. The committee discussed various issues around the call including what would be considered senior author publications, whether COID would be an issue given ongoing issues with HR and postdoctoral contracts, while a number of committee members suggested that the gender requirements discriminated against male applicants. Other members of the committee expressed concerns with definitions of impact and how this could act to exclude certain disciplines.</p>
<b>B.4</b>	<p><b>RS/20-21/7 TR&amp;I Research Expansion Funding Strategy</b> Leonard Hobbs</p> <p>The committee was advised that the current priority was on getting hiring in place with a focus on 15 positions. Sizing was complete for 9 of the new roles. The committee was advised that 10 roles would be prioritised this year with offers to be made in July. It was hoped that interviews for the final batch of roles would take place in September.</p> <p>Prof. Bowie advised the committee that a steering group was to be set up. Leonard Hobbs noted that the group would be advisory and include external members. It was expected that the first meeting of the group would take place in November.</p>
<b>B.5</b>	<p><b>RS/20-21/14 IReL update</b> Arlene Healy</p> <p>Arlene Healy joined the meeting to provide an update on the IReL Open Access Publisher Agreements. The IReL Consortium provides a number of Irish higher education institutions with access to over 40,000 e-journals and other information resources. IReL’s collective approach to negotiation, supported by national funding, delivers economies of scale as well as underpinning research and teaching.</p> <p>The committee was advised that IReL had concluded open access publishing agreements with Elsevier, Wiley, Sage, Oxford University Press, Springer Nature and</p>

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	<p>others, with more in the pipeline for 2021. With IReL OA publisher agreements the consortium will pay a fixed subscription amount per year to access journal articles and make articles from corresponding authors at Irish Universities OA to the world by default with no author-facing charges. It was also noted that the Library has developed an Open Access Guide which provides information on publisher agreements and routes to achieving open access. Researchers can contact Library staff with queries on the open access agreements, and open access more generally, via a dedicated e-mail account.</p> <p>Members of the committee welcomed this development. It was noted that there was a limit on the number of articles covered by the agreement, and that there was no specific allocation for each university within the consortium. It was suggested that the Library could develop a tool that would enable authors to check if where they intend to publish is covered by the transformational agreement. It was also noted that the agreement only covers article processing charges with the assumption that other publishing costs could be covered by grants.</p>
<b>Section C – Items for Noting</b>	
<b>C.1</b>	<p><b>Items for Noting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Policies/Agendas influencing Horizon Europe and other initiatives</li> </ul> <p>Information relating to EU policies and agendas influencing Horizon Europe and other initiatives was circulated to the committee on behalf of Doris Alexander who noted the significant impact of the Green Deal, as well as microcredentials, and the higher education transformation agenda.</p>
<b>C.2</b>	<p><b>Items for future discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response to a question from the committee regarding whether Ussher awards and 1252 awards were still fit for purpose, the committee was advised that the Dean of Graduate Studies was currently examining these awards.</li> </ul>
<b>C.3</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RS/18-19/9</b> The committee was advised that a new agreement was in place between IUA and Epigeum, with course content being updated and tailored for Irish audience. Expected the new version would be available by September 2021. It was also noted that there was a “grace” period on the existing agreement so anyone who got an access token still had time to complete the current iteration of the training.</li> <li>• Leonard Hobbs thanked Prof. Leeson and Prof. Bowie for stepping up in the absence of a DOR over the last year. The ADORs in turn noted their thanks to the committee for their patience, collegiality, and support.</li> </ul>