

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**11:00, 14 December 2021**

**Zoom**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance**

Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, Dean of Research (Chair)  
Professor Maria Brenner (Associate Dean of Research)  
Professor Brian Broderick (Associate Dean of Research)  
Professor Immo Warntjes (Associate Dean of Research)  
Professor Joseph Roche, Director of Research, School of Education  
Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English  
Professor Clemens Ruthner, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies  
Professor Deirdre Ahern, Director of Research, School of Law  
Professor John Saeed, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences  
Professor Redmond O'Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology  
Professor John Divers, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
Professor Eurne Garcia Iriarte, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy  
Professor Zohar Hadromi-Allouche, Director of Research, School of Religion  
Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology  
Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics  
Professor Gareth Bennett, Director of Research, School of Engineering  
Professor Marta Martins, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology  
Professor Sergey Mozgovoy, Director of Research, School of Mathematics  
Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences  
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of Research, School of Physics  
Professor Hal Duncan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science  
Professor Ursula Fearon, Director of Research, School of Medicine  
Professor Sharon O'Donnell, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Professor Lidia Tajber, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Professor Kingston Mills, Director of TBSI  
Professor Aideen Long, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute  
Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub  
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN  
Professor Rhodri Cusack, Director of TCIN  
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies  
Mr. Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation  
Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association

*In attendance:*

Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Initiatives, Office of the Dean of Research  
Dr Raquel Cabral Harper, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation  
Ms Elaine Sharkey, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division  
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services  
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library  
Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director of European Engagement, TR&I and Trinity Global  
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

*Apologies*

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

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<b>Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval</b>	
<b>A.1</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b> Minutes from the previous meeting on 16 November 2021 were circulated in advance and approved as read.</p>
<b>A.2</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> Any matters arising would be addressed in the Dean’s update.</p>
<b>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</b>	
<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>RS/18-19/19 NORF</b> Immo Warntjes</p> <p>Associate Dean of Research Immo Warntjes provided an update to the committee on recent NORF developments. IW noted that the last NORF meeting was not very satisfactory, and an updated version of the national action plan had yet to be seen. It was also noted that it was unclear what has happening at a national level and an institutional level. The committee was advised that a draft of the national action plan was now expected around January 10<sup>th</sup> for public consultation until the end of February. IW advised the committee that every effort would be made to include as many people as possible in Trinity’s internal consultation and asked Directors of Research to help publicise the plan once the draft was available.</p>
<b>B.2</b>	<p><b>RS/21-22/5 Portal</b> Mark Bennett, Innovation Hub Director</p> <p>Mark Bennett joined the meeting to provide the committee with an update on Portal and an overview on how the initiative will work. The committee was advised that the hope is to have a mix of freelancers, start-ups, entrepreneurs and academics using the space. MB noted that programming would be very important to ensure a meaningful connection to Trinity and the community. It was noted that the purpose is not to have companies based there permanently but to provide space for them to improve and then move on.</p> <p>In response to questions from the committee, it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portal would be more appropriate for desk-based work and there would be no lab spaces within that building. It was also noted that agreements are in place with law firms in the area to provide office hours and free supports.</li> <li>• Any companies seeking access to Trinity would be expected to take a desk in the space.</li> <li>• There would be some intricacies and legal issues around providing access to Library resources, particularly UK legal deposit electronic resources.</li> <li>• The intention would be to make those who can pay for space do so in order to enable access for those who can’t.</li> <li>• The project’s governance was part of Trinity East and was part of a workstream with Prof. Vinny Wade, and the steering group also has academic participation.</li> </ul>
<b>B.3</b>	<p><b>Update from Dean of Research</b> Dean of Research</p> <p>DOR advised the committee of the following <b>funding updates</b>:</p>

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1. SFI-IRC Pathway Programme for postdoctoral researchers: 7 successful applications; 3 STEM; 4 AHSS (institutional applications restricted to 16 STEM-led 8 AHSS-led)
2. HRB Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDA): Miriam Galvin: €1.5 Million.
3. European Innovation Council Pathfinder Grants: 2 successful application coordinated by School of Engineering & Physics CRANN/AMBER; value to TCD *ca.* €2 million.
4. EPA Research Call 2021: 3 awards to Trinity in E3-related subject areas; Schools of Engineering & Natural Sciences; value to TCD: *ca.* €1.5 Million.
5. International Portfolio (Faculty of Health): Alzheimer's Association (US); Foundation for Prader Willi Research; Sleep Research Society Foundation; *ca.* €300k
6. 6 x SFI Industry Fellowships

It was also noted that 301 applications from Trinity were submitted to the IRC Postgraduate Scholarships and Postdoctoral Fellowships (171 Postgrad applications and 130 Postdoc applications). Both programmes had the same deadline and overlapped with other funding calls.

DOR noted congratulations to all the Trinity awardees in the **IRC Researcher of the Year** awards:

- Researcher of the Year: Yvonne Buckley (Natural Sciences);
- Early Career Researcher of the Year: Kathy Ruddy, (Psychology);
- Top-ranked postgraduate researcher in AHSS: Connor McCabe (supervisor Ailbhe Ni Chasaide, Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences);
- Highly commended in Researcher of the Year category: Poul Holm (Histories and Humanities);
- 7 Research Ally Prizes: Bahman Nasserolelami (Medicine), Chris Morash (English), Jacintha O'Sullivan (Medicine), Max Garcia Melchor (Chemistry), Sylvia Draper (Chemistry), Camilla Kelly (RDO), Maureen Burgess (RPO in TLRH).

DOR updated the committee about the following **research infrastructure** developments:

- Virtual Trinity Library – sponsored by Helen Shenton; aims to make collections accessible to the world. Vision is to conserve, catalogue, digitise research collections and then make them available.
- Establishment of the National Covid19 Biobank – coordinators are Colm Bergin (TCD) and Paddy Mallon (UCD). DOR noted that expected funding had been halved but a governance structure was now in place.
- AMBER ordered 5 new x-ray instruments that allow structural and compositional analyses and will be available to everyone in Trinity. It was not yet clear where they would be housed as space and cooling equipment was required.
- SFI Infrastructure Programme: One award to TCD (*ca.* € 2.2m) led by Physics/Engineering (sustainable energy/aviation fuels/E3). Two TCD infrastructure proposals on reserve list (Medicine and Biochemistry & Immunology).

**RS/19-20/3** DOR advised that progress on the issue of postdoc contracts and teaching had slowed. DOR noted the TRSA's proposal had been sent to Provost but no response had been received yet. DOR noted that Research Committee's approach had been to incorporate a new paragraph into new contracts for postdocs who want to do teaching. DOR noted that the Provost was supportive of this approach as was the VP who had

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	<p>also consulted with Heads of Schools. HR now want to discuss it in their own committee meeting. Members of the committee welcomed these developments and reiterated the importance of bringing this issue to a resolution.</p> <p><b>RS/21-22/3</b> State aid funding: DOR advised the committee that the IUA, EI, and SFI were now discussing the development of a unified national approach for industry projects. Noted that SFI seems to have changed its approach and would revise its industry collaboration form.</p> <p>DOR advised the committee that LERU would launch the <i>LERU Framework for the Assessment of Researchers</i> soon. Document relates to the assessment of academics beyond traditional bibliographic metrics including multidimensional perspectives such as research &amp; education, public engagement, and institutional engagement. Full document would be circulated to committee once it is launched. Doris Alexander noted that this was part of the renewal of the European research area and a scoping document had also been recently published.</p> <p><b>RS/21-22/6</b> Export Controls: DOR noted that EU had updated regulations in May 2021, with 280 pages of guidelines. National legislation was in the process of being updated and might have an impact on how research results are published and disseminated. IUA was working to provide guidance to universities and the government.</p>
<b>Section C – Items for Noting</b>	
<p><b>C.1</b></p>	<p><b>Items for Noting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RS/20-21/4 REAMS</b> Project Update (memo encl) – A memo was circulated to the committee with an update on progress. DOR noted that Prof. McKee had progressed the issues that were raised at the last committee meeting with a number of meetings and discussions. There was now recognition that ethical risks should not be generally judged in biomedical terms, and the professional judgment of the academic to decide if reputational damage would be an issue would be trusted. It was also recognised that while the approval process should be rigorous the administrative workload should not be so the majority of projects that use publicly available information will not need ethical approval. ADOR Maria Brenner advised the committee that any questions should be run through the REPC and noted that the consultation process had been very positive.</li> <li>• <b>RS/21-22/3 State Aid</b> (document attached) – a memo from the Technology Transfer Office was circulated to the committee outlining Trinity’s position with regard to State Aid.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C.2</b></p>	<p><b>Items for future discussion</b></p> <p>Prof. Zohar Hadromi-Allouche noted that there was an issue with recent changes to contracts for research collaborators located outside Ireland. PIs were now encountering difficulties in paying research collaborators based outside of Ireland and had been advised of expensive consultation costs to resolve the problem. DOR confirmed that this issue would be raised with HR and if possible a representative would attend Research Committee to provide some clarity on the issue.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Invite a HR representative to discuss this issue with the committee.</p> <p><b>RS/20-21/6</b> Prof. Lidia Tajber noted that RPAMS 2 was presented to committee in December last year but there had been no further update. Leonard Hobbs confirmed</p>

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	that RPAMS 2 was functional but had been kept internal to TR&I for the time being. It was hoped to be in a position to release it to the rest of college in 2022.
<b>C.3</b>	<b>AOB</b> DOR thanked all the members of the committee for contributions to ODRES initiatives over the previous months.  Meeting adjourned.