

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**11:00, 18 January 2022 via 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 Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities  
Professor Clemens Ruthner, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies  
Professor Deirdre Ahern, Director of Research, School of Law  
Professor Redmond O'Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology  
Professor Eburne 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 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 Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN  
Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub  
Professor Rhodri Cusack, Director of TCIN  
Mr. Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation  
Gisele Scanlon, President, Graduate Students Union  
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies  
Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association

*In attendance:*

Dr Raquel Cabral Harper, Head of Research Development, 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  
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

*Apologies*

Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences  
Professor Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences  
Professor Sergey Mozgovoy, Director of Research, School of Mathematics  
Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English  
Professor John Divers, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Development, Office of the Dean of Research

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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 December 14<sup>th</sup> were circulated in advance. Helen Shenton noted an amendment that was included and the minutes were then approved.</p>
<b>A.2</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> No matters arising.</p>
<b>A.3</b>	<p><b>RS/21-22/8 Proposal to establish Trinity Centre for Forced Migration Studies</b> Dr Rachel Hoare</p> <p>A proposal to establish the Trinity Centre for Forced Migration Studies was circulated to the committee in advance. Dr Rachel Hoare presented an outline of the proposal and ambitions for the centre to the committee. It was noted that Trinity had recently joined the University of Sanctuary network making the proposal very timely. RH advised the committee that the proposal grew out of a Trinity elective, that she had also recently been awarded an IRC New Foundations grant for work in this area, and was currently directing the inclusive curriculum project.</p> <p>Prof. Eve Patten noted some possible overlap with the work of the Trinity Centre for Resistance Studies and asked for clarification on where the centre would be institutionally located. RH confirmed that she had been in contact with Balazs Apor, the director of the TCRS, and that the TCFMS would be based in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. Dr Clemens Ruthner, Director of Research for the SLLCS, noted the school’s strong support for the proposal and that it fully endorsed it.</p> <p>In response to further questions from the committee, it was noted that opportunities with NGOs and government agencies were being explored, researchers connected to the centre would be encouraged to apply for external funding, and that should the proposal be approved the centre would be expected to be up and running in 2023/24.</p> <p>The committee noted that further discussion should take place with the TCRS and Trinity Long Room Hub to clarify overlap and identify opportunities for collaboration. The committee approved the proposal to establish the Trinity Centre for Forced Migration Studies.</p>
<b>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</b>	
<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>RS/21-22/9 4<sup>th</sup> phase of the Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative (TTSI)</b> Leonard Hobbs, Barbara Harvey Carroll</p> <p>A draft of the proposal for funding as part of the Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. Leonard Hobbs presented an overview of the activities that are facilitated by this programme and invited feedback from the committee ahead of the submission of the proposal.</p> <p>The committee was advised that this phase of funding placed emphasis on high-potential start-ups, volume of licences, research collaboration agreements and improving quality in service. Existing headcount should be utilised with no additional staffing.</p> <p>In discussion with the committee about the proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that Trinity’s record on spinouts and start-ups was very good, but Trinity and other universities perform poorly in licensing and royalties. Barbara</li> </ul>

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	<p>Harvey Carroll noted that this may be a result of a lag effect from changes that were put in place at the start of the third phase of TTSI when the process of negotiating licences was professionalised. It was noted that Trinity now has a licencing manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee noted that the contribution of research to education should be a more defined metric as it helps to produce the talent needed for these initiatives.</li> <li>• It was noted that projects highlighted in the presentation and proposal were all led by male PIs. Committee suggested that if female PIs had been supported they should be included, and if not it should be highlighted as something to address.</li> <li>• It was noted that the direction from the funder was to submit sole applications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B.2</b></p>	<p><b>RS/21-22/7 Global Workforce</b> Eimear Reilly, Deputy Director, Human Resources</p> <p>As a result of an issue raised at a previous meeting, Eimear Reilly, Deputy Director of HR, was invited to make a presentation to the committee about the process for employing staff who are not based in Ireland.</p> <p>The committee was advised that as Trinity is part of the public sector it is bound by guidelines that employees must be based on the island of Ireland in order to be considered available for work. When employees are based in another jurisdiction external expert advice must be sought to determine tax, pension, social insurance obligations etc and separate payrolls must be established, all of which is expensive. It was noted that rules had been relaxed during the most severe lockdown restrictions as people were unable to travel but this was no longer the case. ER advised the committee that Trinity is not unusual in this regard and all employers face similar issues. ER also noted that Trinity has a responsibility as an employer to represent the interests of the employee and employer appropriately. The committee was advised that this is an ongoing issue and HR hoped to find a longer-term solution, but College had to first decide how much of a priority a global workforce would be.</p> <p>In response to questions from the committee it was noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the expense of employing consultants would be prohibitive for those holding relatively small grants.</li> <li>• if an individual had an existing employment agreement with a university or similar institution in another jurisdiction then it might be possible to invoice Trinity for costs of employment as all tax, social insurance obligations etc would be covered.</li> <li>• Early engagement with HR was crucial to finding a solution.</li> <li>• The mobility of researchers already based at Trinity (such as postdocs etc) was not impacted by this issue at present.</li> <li>• Trinity signed up to the EU Charter and Code of Conduct with other Universities in 2006. However, it has not fully implemented a researcher recruitment process in compliance with the Code of Conduct to achieve the HRS4R Award, which all of the other Universities have done.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B.3</b></p>	<p><b>Update from Dean of Research</b> Dean of Research</p> <p><b>RS/21-22/10</b> DOR advised the committee that the Dean of Graduate Studies was leading the <b>Postgraduate Renewal Project</b> which would begin with a consultation</p>

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	<p>phase. DOR noted that this was a very important initiative for College and presented a huge opportunity. DOR advised the committee that the Dean of Graduate Studies had been invited to make a full presentation to the Research Committee at an upcoming meeting. Members of the committee noted that other large projects such as TEP may have suffered from a lack of early engagement and communication with the wider college community. DGS noted that a survey would be circulated to the whole college community and encouraged everyone to participate.</p> <p><b>RS/21-22/11</b> DOR advised the committee that the issue of <b>Academic Integrity</b> had been identified by the University Council as an important topic for review. This had arisen from ongoing concerns around plagiarism and cheating and had been raised by the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Senior Lecturer. It was noted that plagiarism was a particular issue but the topic of integrity was much broader. DOR noted that the Office of the Dean of Research managed research integrity and misconduct cases which can be very complicated. The committee was advised that groups were being established to review the academic integrity space and updates would follow. In response to questions from the committee, the DGS noted that there had been an increase in plagiarism at a student level which was of concern because this could lead to a bigger problem with research misconduct in subsequent years.</p> <p>DOR noted that Prof. Jane Ohlmeyer’s term as Chair of the Irish Research Council had concluded. DOR noted congratulations to Prof. Ohlmeyer and advised the committee that the IRC was accepting applications for two vacancies on its board.</p>
<b>Section C – Items for Noting</b>	
<b>C.1</b>	<p><b>Items for Noting</b> No items for noting.</p>
<b>C.2</b>	<p><b>Items for future discussion</b> DOR noted that the Dean of Graduate Studies would present a full update to the Research Committee about the Postgraduate Renewal Project at an upcoming meeting.</p>
<b>C.3</b>	<p><b>AOB</b> It was noted that LERU would launch its Framework for Researcher Assessment on January 27<sup>th</sup>.</p>