

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE
11:00, 8 April 2022 via Zoom

MINUTES

In attendance

Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, Dean of Research (Chair)
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 Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities
Professor Irene Walsh, 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 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 Sergey Mozgovoy, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
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 Aideen Long, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute
Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub
Mr. Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation
Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association

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 for European Engagement, Trinity Global and TR&I
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

Apologies

Professor Maria Brenner, Associate Dean of Research
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies
Professor Deirdre Ahern, Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN
Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Kingston Mills, Director of TBSI
Ms Siobhán O'Shea, Senior HR Specialist, Human Resources
Professor Hal Duncan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
Dr Raquel Harper, Head of Research Development, Trinity Research & Innovation

Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	Minutes Minutes from meeting of March 15 th were circulated in advance and approved as read.
A.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes Any matters arising would be addressed in the Dean's update.

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Trinity College

Section B - Items for Discussion Only

B.1

RS/18-19/19 NORF

Immo Warntjes

Following on from the publication of the draft National Action Plan on Open Research, Associate Dean of Research Immo Warntjes presented an overview of the process and the draft plan to the committee. The NORF working group conducted a scoping exercise and then developed the draft action plan. It was noted that Trinity was represented at all the working groups and consultation over the last 18 months. It was also noted that the timeline for the consultation process for the draft action plan was not ideal but there had been significant delays.

The draft action plan outlines an implementation period that now goes to 2030. It was noted that the governance process was not very clear. The HEA had made €1.75million available for this calendar year but no decisions had been made as to how this would be used yet. It was also noted that there was no commitment for similar funding in subsequent years. The importance of engagement with the consultation process and continued academic input was emphasised to the committee. The committee was advised that a townhall discussion would be organised by the ODRES.

In response to questions from the committee the following points were noted:

- Monographs are a major part of publication in AHSS disciplines. It was noted that a final version of a manuscript (prior to publisher intervention) uploaded to an institutional repository would be considered green open access. It was also noted that there would be no restrictions on where academics could choose to publish but that academics would be encouraged to consider working with publishers who have open access agreements.
- EU grants require publications to be open access. Uploading to TARA or similar repositories currently satisfies this requirement.
- Concerns around how ownership of data and how data is organised and stored were noted again as a serious issue for College.
- Some members of the committee expressed concerns around the use of narrative CVs and suggested that traditional metrics could temper the risk of exaggeration.
- College would be reviewing hiring and promotions processes soon and this would present an opportunity to define what metrics mean for College. This was also coming at the same time as European levels to reform research assessment.
- It was agreed that the draft was quite short but it was noted that it is a draft action plan, and not an implementation plan. It was noted that NORF was very open to feedback.
- Concerns were noted about long-term funding for any national-level initiatives such as repositories and the risk to these should funding run out.
- Preservation of academic freedom was crucial.
- Funding agencies would have to be on board with any plan in order for it to be successful.
- Significant culture change would have to happen for any move toward open scholarship to be effective.
- The EU Digital Services Act could potentially have an impact on non-private sector digital repositories.

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Trinity College**

	<p>It was emphasised that the draft action plan was a starting point, not an implementation plan. The committee noted that there were still significant issues around how much College would have to do in this space. As part of his presentation to the committee, ADOR Warntjes outlined a plan to establish a number of working groups for specific areas in the draft National Action Plan: Open Access, Open Data, Open Education, Skills, and Rewards. Membership of groups was still to be finalised but would have a wide range of expertise and include faculty representation. The committee also noted that ADOR Immo Warntjes had done great work to develop groups and consider the actions those groups would need to take. The committee also noted that the work around open scholarship would eventually need to be given a specific “home” in College.</p>
<p>B.3</p>	<p>European Researchers’ Night 2022 Jennifer Daly</p> <p>The committee was advised that a MSCA and Citizens grant had been secured to run European Researchers’ Night activities for 2022 and 2023. Dr Jennifer Daly in the Office of the Dean of Research will be the coordinator. The grant also included RCSI and ADAPT as event partners and Qualia Analytics as an impact assessment partner. A comprehensive suite of communications training workshops for researchers had been developed in association with British Council Ireland. The committee was advised that call for participants would be circulated in May with main events to take place in September.</p>
<p>B.3</p>	<p>Update from Dean of Research Dean of Research</p> <p>The committee was advised that the QS Subject Rankings had been published. The strong performance of English and Pharmacy was noted. It was also noted that the QS subjects do not align exactly with Trinity’s schools. ACTION: circulate ranking factfile to the committee.</p> <p>The committee was advised that Teagasc had issued a letter stating that the Teagasc Walsh Fellowships would now be taxed. The issue was raised at the IUA where it was suggested that Revenue was possibly misinterpreting the scholarships and that the sector would seek to have the decision overturned. It was noted that universities would take no action in relation to the scholarships until the issue was resolved.</p> <p>RS/21-22/13 It was noted that the proposed public-private PhD scheme had still not been announced. The committee noted several concerns relating to how the scheme might be structured and administered. It was noted that the CRT model that could be used does not align with College’s usual processes and is not standardised across the sector.</p> <p>RS/21-22/15 It was noted that a ‘helpdesk’ would be hosted by Maynooth University to process incoming students and researchers from Ukraine. This would provide a central point of contact and provide a consistent response in terms of documentation requirements etc.</p>
<p>Section C – Items for Noting</p>	
<p>C.1</p>	<p>Items for Noting</p>

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	<p>RS/21-22/16 Updated Legal Signatories for noting and approval</p> <p>The committee approved the following update to the College signatories for staff members in the Contracts Office:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Senior Clinical Legal Counsel – Signatory for all contracts awarded to and by College;2. Irish & International Project Manager - for contracts awarded to College requiring internal sign off;3. SFI/KICS Project Manager - for contracts awarded to College requiring internal sign off.
C.2	<p>Items for future discussion</p> <p>RS/18-19/2 Review of the Policy, Practice and Regulations on Intellectual Policy Leonard Hobbs <i>Samantha Williams and Gordon Elliott joined the meeting for this item</i></p> <p>A memo was circulated to the committee in advance in relation to the current review of the Policy, Practice and Regulations on Intellectual Property. The updated version would be brought to the committee at the May meeting. At this point, feedback was sought on two items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- establish a minimum of 10% equity from spinouts (up from 5% currently).- a proposal to share proceeds of company sales with the relevant schools. At present proceeds go to College. <p>The DOR welcomed the proposal to share proceeds with schools as did other members of the committee. Some members of the committee noted concerns with raising equity stake from 5 to 10% and asked if this could be seen as disincentivising activity. Leonard Hobbs noted that 10% would be very competitive and that recent agreements have been around 10% so it would not be a shock to the system. It was noted that having a clear policy would protect the interests of the university.</p>
C.3	<p>AOB</p> <p>No other business.</p>