

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 10 May 2007

Present: Ian Robertson (Dean of Research, DoR), Martin Mullins (Director of Research and Innovation, DoRaI), Ruth Palileo, Alison Donnelly, Dermot Kelleher, Jane Ohlmeyer, Clive Williams (Bursar)

Apologies: Doris Alexander, Philip Lane, Colm Kearney (Senior Lecturer), Patrick Prendergast (Dean of Graduate Studies), Amanda Piesse

In attendance: Maria Treanor, John Donegan, Eoin O'Dell (RS/06-07/44), David Lloyd (Associate Dean of Research, ADoR), Treasurer

RS/06-07/41 Minutes of meeting held on 08 March 2007

The Minutes were approved and signed.

RS/06-07/42 Matters Arising from the Minutes

RS/06-07/27 ARAM – Research Proxies: The Fellows' recommendations were circulated. The Committee agreed that no further action is required.

RS/06-07/28 Trinity Centre for Health Sciences: As the Institute of Molecular Medicine is largely within the School of Medicine, D Kelleher will request that a transitional governance structure is put in place with a board and student committee.

RS/06-07/29 Research Centres and Schools Liaison Committee: The Committee thanked J Ohlmeyer and J Edmond for their work on the Research Centres and Schools Liaison Committee. It was agreed that Research Centres must be recognised as such on the College website and in the Calendar.

RS/06-07/36 Service Contracts and Contract Research Activity: It was agreed that the broad OECD definition of research approved at the last meeting was useful but that Research and Innovation Services should have a more detailed definition for implementation. It may be

necessary to re-define service. DoRaI will review this and consider if guidelines are needed.

Action: DoRaI to review definitions of research and service.

RS/06-07/37 Research in the Arts and Humanities

Action: DoR and J Ohlmeyer will send a copy of the reviewers' report and the action plan to Council.

Action: P Lane will bring to the next Research Committee meeting a proposal for a review of Research in the Social Sciences and Business Studies area.

RS/06-07/40 Sick Leave Policy for Researchers

Action: Dean of Graduate Studies will circulate the document on the issues associated with the development of job title labels in the College, and will update the Committee at their next meeting.

Section A: Policy/Implementation Issues

RS/06-07/43 Trinity Long Room Hub

The Trinity Long Room Hub should have a physical presence and a budget following College's submission to HEA PRTLI.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposal to grant the Trinity Long Room Hub status as a Trinity Research Institute subject to two changes – that the board will have three external members including the chair, and that core costs are included along with space and other ARAM charges. It was also agreed that they will have to get explicit agreement from the Schools for their administrative posts.

Action: J Ohlmeyer will make requested changes to the proposal and circulate it to the Committee for final approval.

Action: J Ohlmeyer will circulate the Heads of Schools re. agreement for administrative posts in the Long Room Hub.

Section B: Implementation Decisions

RS/06-07/44 Review of College Statutes

Eoin O'Dell, Statutes Review Working Party, made a presentation to the Committee. The College Statutes date from 1911 and need to be updated to recognise the role of research, and the existence of the Research Committee and the Dean of Research. The Statutes assume that there is a research community but not that College is a research-

led institution. The Committee should consider how research should be portrayed in the Statutes.

Action: Committee Members to send their comments to M Treanor before the next meeting.

RS/06-07/45 HEA PRTL

The feedback from the HEA on TCD's Phase 1 PRTL proposal has been positive, and we have been asked to prioritise and submit for Phase 2. Humanities, Bioscience and Nanoscience will be ranked as high; Environment as low and all the others as medium. Areas which do not receive funding may apply to the next round in approximately 18 months' time.

RS/06-07/46 Joint PAC / Research Committee Working Group on Research Contract Staff

P Lane and the Dean of Graduate Studies were nominated to attend meetings of the joint PAC / Research Committee Working Group on Research Contract Staff.

RS/06-07/47 Subcommittee: Business and Industry Committee

It was agreed that the Business and Industry Committee would formulate policy and would not have an executive function. It was also agreed that Research and Innovation Services will recommend approval of campus companies to the Business and Industry Committee following a set of guidelines to be developed by the Committee. Anything falling outside the guidelines will go to the Business and Industry Committee for discussion.

The terms of reference should deal with the aspect of oversight of Research and Innovation Services. DoRaI will revise the terms of reference and bring them to the next meeting.

Action: DoRaI to revise the terms of reference and bring them to the next meeting.

RS/06-07/48 Research Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee approved the Research Committee Terms of Reference on condition that two changes are made to the text: 'gender' should be included in 2.3 and 'new' should be deleted from 4.8.

Action: Terms of Reference to go to Board

RS/06-07/49 Research Committee Funding Schemes

There were 32 applications to the Start-up Fund 2006/07 requesting a total of €443k. DoR and D Alexander will review the Research Committee funding schemes and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

Action: DoR and D Alexander to review funding schemes and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

RS/06-07/50 Future Resourcing of the Dean of Research Office

The DoR has a number of functions including running internal reviews and fostering long-term development of research. It is therefore essential that he has a budget to meet these obligations. The Committee agreed that, if available, €50k p.a. should be allocated from Research Committee funds.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will take place in the Conference Room, College Green, at 11.00 on Thursday 14 June 2007.

Signed:

Date: