

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 18 April 2017

Present:

Professor John Boland, Dean of Research (DoR)
Professor Martina Hennessy, Associate Dean of Research (ADoRMH),
Professor Peter Gallagher, Associate Dean of Research (ADoRPG)

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Professor Stephen Minton, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Roja Fazaeli, Director of Research, School of Languages
Literatures and Cultural Studies
Professor Mark Bell, Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Lorraine Leeson, Director of Research, School of Linguistic,
Speech and Communication Sciences
Professor Ruth Byrne, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Gaia Narciso, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences
and Philosophy
Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work
and Social Policy
Professor Jacob Erickson, Director of Research, School of Religions,
Peace Studies and Theology

Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science
Professor Adrian Bracken, Director of Research, School of Genetics
and Microbiology
Professor Jane Stout, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences

Faculty of Health Sciences
Professor Gary Moran, Director of Research, School of Dentistry
Professor Seamus Donnelly, Director of Research, School of Medicine
Professor Geralyn Hynes, Director of Research, School of Nursing and
Midwifery

Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
Mr Shane Collins, President, Graduate Students Union

In attendance:

Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research
and Innovation
Mr David O'Shea, Director of Financial Services, Financial Services
Division
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT
Services
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian, Library
Dr Oonagh Kinsman, Trinity Research and Innovation, Secretary to the
Committee

Apologies:

Professor Ruth Barton, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film
and Music

Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities
 Professor Emma Creagh, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
 Professor Sergey Frolov, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
 Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
 Professor Orla Hardiman, Director, TBSI
 Professor Orla Sheils, Director, TTMI
 Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer

Not present:

Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business
 Professor Sam Slote, Director of Research, School of English
 Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
 Professor Doug Leith, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics
 Professor Luiz Da Silva, Director of Research, School of Engineering
 Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics
 Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director, CRANN
 Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director, TCIN
 Professor Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies
 Mr Michael Cooke, Acting Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association

Actions arising / on-going:

Agenda Item	Owner	Action	Status
RS/15-16/63	Dean of Research	Seek final criteria for Measuring Research Productivity and Excellence from FEMS Faculty.	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/49	Dean of Research	Feedback on progress with Research Career Framework policy from Tony McMahon	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/57	Dean of Research	Seek information on number of PhD students paying EU and non-EU fees and the source of funding	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/62	Associate Dean of Research	Report to the Research Committee with policies on bio-banking, data retention and stem cells	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/04	Dean of Research	Continued discussions on allocation of SFI overheads	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/10	Dean of Research	Feedback any information on SFI research integrity audits	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/13	Dean of Research	PIQA tool: Feedback from the trial will be discussed with the Head of Schools prior to roll-out	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/20	Dean of Research and President of Graduate Students Union	Consider postgraduate representative forum as a mechanism to raise research concerns in the Dail	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/23	Dean of Research	Provide details of internal programmes to promote visiting academics and external ERC applications on internal web	<i>In progress</i>

RS/16-17/28	Dean of Research	Through the IUA, contribute to a response on SFI's proposed governance model for Centres	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/39	Dean of Research	Raise the possibility of part year PhD fees where funding was provided for less than 4 years with the Dean of Graduate Studies	<i>In progress</i>

RS/16-17/40 Matters arising from the minutes

The criteria for Measuring Research Productivity and Excellence for the FEMS faculty is with the Faculty Executive Committee. A final version is sought. (RS/15-16/63).

The PIQA tool was trialled in 4 Schools and one Research Institute. Overall it was thought to be a very useful tool and there is a recognition that analysis of information is helpful. It is appreciated that outputs are missed due to limitations of Scopus. Self-correcting is required with input items uploaded from RSS. There is also a requirement to annotate and contextualise the data. There is currently a 5 year window of analysis and some areas eg Mathematics have requested a more historical approach. The DOR is presenting to the Heads of Schools plans for the further roll out. (RS/16-17/13).

Uptake of the Trinity Visiting Academics Programme call has been disappointing with 4 applications, 3 of which are from the Faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Science. This scheme was intended to support future ERC applications. The DoR will consider additional applications. (RS/16-17/23).

The DoR reported that SFI Centre Governance proposals is being raised by the IUA Council. The branding proposals are still in dispute as the SFI brand should not overshadow the TCD brand and is not appropriate to include in staff members whose salary is not funded by SFI. The Trinity branding regulations are being explored to counter these proposals. Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth is the interlocutor with SFI. (RS/16-17/28).

The allocation of SFI overheads within Trinity and the implementation of the overhead policy is being developed at the same time as the ABC model to ensure that strategic resources are available for research development. (RS/16-17/04).

RS/16-17/41 Update from the Dean of Research

The DoR commented on the new IRC Laureate funding which included Starter Awards and Consolidator Awards in this call and Advanced Awards planned for next year. The Director of the Long Room Hub commented on the scope of the first call. There are likely to be a minimum of 24 awards valued between €400k and €600k. The initial allocation of up to 2.5 million refers to the initial allocation but does not include projected funding allocated in subsequent budget years. This is likely to be oversubscribed and if proposals are submitted at the post-doctoral level these require 50% funding of salary from the host institution so this will require agreement of support at School level for any such applicants.

The Research Development Manager had met with Peter Brown from the IRC and noted to him that the requirement to submit subsequently to the ERC may affect the topic selected for the Laureate award to ensure that the idea for the ERC is not jeopardised. The IRC scheme is based on the Veni, Vidi, Vici scheme in the Netherlands. The Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology welcomed this initiative for basic research requested that the Dean of Research make a public statement supporting the initiative and support further budget allocation and to state the potential impact of such awards. The DoR commented that it might be more beneficial if enterprise representatives supported this initiative to ensure talent development and retention in Ireland while self-advocacy is not so effective. For example the American Chamber of Commerce were making plans to support such basic research schemes to ensure the ideas pipeline is filled.

The overhead rate being applied by Irish funding agencies is under discussion by IUA Finance Officers who estimate the full economic cost is 68%. They are proposing that the overhead rate applied be increase to 40% for desk based research and 50 % for laboratory based research. They will take this up with the HERG group chaired by Mary Doyle but this is likely to be rejected by SFI.

Arlene Healy in the Library is rolling out training in tools such as Scival and InCites as a mechanism for schools to evaluate research performance and is asking that each School nominate one super-user who in addition to the Director of Research can provide advice. The Director of the Long Room Hub commented that the process helps with benchmarking, and identifying gaps which then can assist in appropriate measures being taken.

The DoR asked the Manager of the Research Development Office to comment on recent Horizon 2020 data. Latest figures from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation showed that TCD led in Ireland with drawdown of €63 million while UCC, the next ranked institution, had €37.7 million. The high figure for TCD is heavily influenced by ERC successes. We are still doing well in European comparisons although the ranking has dropped slightly (25th in all higher education institutions and 38th of all organisations). She emphasised that there was still scope for increase in Irish participation in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences but she was aware that countries who are successful in these areas have a greater national funding support base.

RS/16-17/42 Trinity's "Rosse Solar Terrestrial Observatory" at Birr Castle

The ADoRPG reviewed the activities of the Trinity Solar Physics and Space Weather Group drawing attention to the interactions with industry, and the European Space Agency. The Rosse Solar-Terrestrial Observatory was opened in Birr in 2014. The Rosse Observatory Facilities have been obtained on a 35 year lease which allows the siting of a number of instruments. The next step is to develop the I-LOFAR radio-telescope on this site as part of an Irish consortium to link with an international network. Funding has been obtained from a number of sources including SFI. Infrastructural funds are being sought from H2020 for Trinity to be

part of the development of a Solar Radio Array. There is huge public interest in astronomy and an Astronomy Education Centre will be completed this year in adjacent buildings with funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs through a Rural Enterprise Development Zone. There is further opportunity to make use of the Birr Technology Centre.

The Director of the Long Room Hub congratulated him on his achievements but pointed out that there was investment by IRC in astronomy. It was acknowledged by ADoRPG that the IRC had indeed funded the PhDs associated with the group. He was also asked if Brexit provided an opportunity for Ireland in this area.

RS/16-17/43 Trinity Centre for Creative Technologies and Media Engineering

Professor Aljosh Smolic, School of Computer Science, Professor Anil Kokaram, School of Engineering and Professor Frank Boland, School of Engineering presented this centre to be also known as CHIME. The outcome of the Creative Technologies theme review in 2015 identified the strengths in this area. Professor Smolic was also appointed as SFI Research Professor with a 5 year programme and over 20 researchers. The goals are to establish a world class centre of excellence in Creative Technologies & Media Engineering, research from capture to display with the whole media pipeline and to integrate research, teaching and industry relations. The centre is located in Stack B, in the IFSC and comprises approximately 100 researchers including 15 faculty members, PhD students and post docs. The goals and plans which are being defined include identity, strategy and mission; relationship to other centres and institutions; approach towards research funding and education; organization and modus operandi.

The DoR asked for a view of the pros and cons of being off campus. They emphasized that they need to maintain a strong link with the central campus. This was achieved by video-links and holding meetings on campus. The ADoRMH asked if they had set up a cost centre and which School it currently was held by. They currently operate from a number of different cost centres associated with two Schools and will investigate this requirement of a Centre. The ADorMH also asked that the web site be updated to reflect the changes from the former Centre for Creative Technologies.

RS/16-17/44 AOB

The Director of the Long Room Hub asked if Brexit could be on the agenda of the next meeting especially the research and education with regard to North South issues. She also asked that the rankings strategy could be discussed as an item on the agenda for the next meeting and feedback given from planned meeting with QS to discuss the ranking strategy for Arts Humanities and Social Sciences. The DoR informed that the next meeting of the Provost's Brexit committee was on 24 April.

The Librarian noted suggested a meeting of those officers involved with LERU to get feedback especially on cross group topics.