

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

19 February 2019, 11:00-13:00
Arts Building Conference Room 2026, Arts Building

Attendees

Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research (DOR, Chair)
Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research
Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Professor Ruth Barton, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities
Professor Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Studies
Professor Daniele Pevarello, Director of Research, School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology
Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science
Professor Emma Creagh, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor Declan O’Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Cairíona Lally, Director of Research, School of Engineering
Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
Faculty of Health Sciences
Professor Gabrielle McKee, on behalf of Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Trinity Research Institutes
Professor Orla Sheils, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute
In attendance
Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research (Secretary to the Committee)

Apologies

Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research
Professor Brian Brewer, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy
Professor Sinéad Ryan, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
Professor Jeff O’Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine
Professor Maria Brenner, Director of Research, School of Nursing & Midwifery
Professor Redmond O’Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub
Mr David O’Shea, Director of Operations, Trinity Development and Alumni

Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	Minutes Minutes of last meeting on 22 January 2019 accepted with an amendment to the attendance list.

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A.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes Any matters arising would be addressed during the meeting.
A.3	Update from the Dean of Research DOR noted that Prof. Mary McCarron was given the HRB Impact award for her work. Reminded the committee to share news of awards and honours with DOR so that proper recognition can be given. There was some funding success since the last meeting. SFI Centres for Research Training had not yet been formally announced but funding has been awarded to Trinity for one centre based on an application led by Professors Carol O'Sullivan, Declan O'Sullivan, and Vinny Wade. Trinity is also a partner on other CRTs that have been funded. This should see an increase in PhD student numbers. Trinity also did well in the SFI TIDA awards with Yuri Gunko, Stephen Maher and Rocco Lupoi all funded. The Science Gallery, Code+, Kids Code, Lowfire were also funded. DOR noted that these were not large awards but still important. A dip in SFI funding is still expected in the future however. DOR noted that the first Unboxing Open Scholarship event was held (RS/18-19/10). Helen Shenton noted that the event was a success with a wide range of opinions shared, and good feedback was received. Follow-up events are planned. SFI strategy consultation asked Trinity to do a focus group on education and public engagement. Following this an informal group has been established in Trinity to bring together those involved in engaged research, research stories etc to work more strategically. Science Gallery has agreed to facilitate the group. DOR informed the committee that Prof. Mary McCarron organised a meeting about health regulations and GDPR. It was noted that the issues raised at the meeting had implications wider than health. DOR is now chairing a taskforce to examine the impact GDPR is having on research. In relation to the new THE Impact ranking of Sustainable Development Goals (RS/18-19/7), DOR informed the committee that a decision was taken to make a return for this ranking. FK and the Registrar did comprehensive analysis of what was involved in the ranking and found that significant work was being done across the areas in Trinity. As a result, it was decided to submit data and participate in the ranking. DOR noted that it is not primarily about research. DOR invited committee to suggest nominations for the 2019 Balzan Prizes which give a cash award in four areas including Film Studies and Islamic Studies. DOR discussed Health KICs and noted that Trinity has been successful in the areas of climate and health. ACTION: DOR will invite Barbara Harvey Carroll from TR&I, the new head of Tangent Ken Finnegan, and Quentin Crowley to address committee about these KICs. With regard to item RS/18-10/6 , DOR confirmed that no update has yet been received from the Dean of Graduate Studies in relation to the matters discussed.

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	<p>DOR noted that the CHARM EU proposal was due to be submitted on the 28th of February. Doris Alexander noted that Trinity and Barcelona were taking the lead on finalising the proposal. DOR also noted that there will be another deadline next year.</p>
Section B - Items for Discussion Only	
B.1	<p>Application to establish the Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research (RS/18-19/13) Professor Cecily Begley</p> <p>Prof. Begley presented a proposal to establish the Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research to the committee. The centre would prioritise research around women and families. CB noted that the School of Nursing & Midwifery has a number of national and international partners, and has been involved in two COST actions in recent years. The centre would identify research questions of national and global significance in all aspects of women’s health and families, and would also work with the Traveller community and other minority groups. CB noted that this is the only research in Trinity that prioritises women’s health.</p> <p>CB listed the funding successes the School has had, including €2.5million for the MAMMI longitudinal study, and other funding from the IRC and HRB for specific projects. CB noted that there are currently 8 on the PhD programme. Most of the PhDs from the School so far have been mature students and it has been a problem for the school to attract younger scholars to do PhDs as they are mainly committed to clinical work. The School has identified that there will be a high turnover of staff in the next 10 years and succession planning is in progress to address this. CB noted that the School has an excellent national and international reputation and is highly visible and active, but the one place that it is not particularly visible is within Trinity because none of the research falls naturally under any of the identified Research Themes. Since the School opened in 1996 it has had to do major capacity building, and also deal with short staff numbers over the last 10 years. CB noted that a good senior/junior staff ratio is in place and they feel that the time is right for a centre with good strong senior staff who can lead on programmes. CB requested the support of the committee for the establishment of the centre.</p> <p>DOR thanked CB for the presentation and noted the impressive progress the School has made since its establishment. Also noted that some funding from SFI had recently been secured. CB was asked about internal collaborators in other areas in Trinity and noted that while there was a list included in the proposal the School is always open to establishing new internal collaborations. In response to a question about what success would look like for the Centre, CB noted that it is important to establish an entity around Midwifery as it is an extremely important discipline but does not have the recognition that it should. In response to a question about GDPR implications for the MAMMI study, CB noted that a barrister with the Rotunda had anticipated this and an extensive consent form has long been in place. Some issues have arisen around data sharing with Australian collaborators but this is being worked on. It was suggested that the new Centre and the School could engage with the Global Health initiative in Trinity and its work around women’s mortality, attendance at prenatal care etc. It was also suggested that even though none of the University’s Research Themes have “health” in their titles, there could still be opportunities for linking in to themes such as Identities in Transformation, Making Ireland etc. It was noted by the committee that the School of Nursing & Midwifery does need to be recognised more as an entity in its own right but that it could gain more traction within Trinity by linking in with some of the themes.</p>

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	<p>DOR also noted that the Sustainable Development Goals could cover a lot of the work that the School does.</p> <p>The Research Committee agreed unanimously to approve the establishment of the Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research.</p>
B.2	<p>DORA – San Francisco Agreement (RS/18-19/4) Professor Lorraine Leeson</p> <p>DOR noted that it was not clear if Trinity has ever actively signed up to DORA, or if it has passively been accepted given Trinity’s membership of LERU which has signed it. DOR informed the committee that the purpose of today’s meeting was discussion.</p> <p>ADOR Leeson noted that it is possible by virtue of membership of LERU that Trinity has “accidentally” endorsed DORA. There is no consistency across the other member universities in terms of who has specifically signed it. It was noted that major Irish funders have also signed up to it which has implications for Trinity.</p> <p>ADOR Leeson presented an overview of the DORA agreement to the committee, noting that the overarching theme is to end the use of journal impact factors etc as a measure of quality for promotions processes. It was noted by the committee that Trinity explicitly requests such information as part of the promotions process. ADOR Leeson noted that the European Commission published a document in 2017 that stated impact factors “make no sense.” It was noted that the open scholarship movement is creating an opportunity to develop alternative evaluation processes.</p> <p>The committee discussed the implications of the policy. It was noted that if Trinity is signed up to it as a member of LERU then analysis has to be done around how the university might implement it. It was noted that while removing impact factors could be a positive step, it raises the question of what to use in its stead.</p> <p>The committee noted that the implications of DORA feed into a broader discussion of what impact means for research. Members of the committee noted that in some schools there is a strong insistence that impact factors remain part of the process. This means that if it is decided that Trinity will sign up to it then very clear guidelines for alternative metrics have to be in place. There was some discussion of Altmetrics and it was noted that funding is being sought for this. It was noted by the committee that the principles of DORA represent a complete shift that is most beneficial and relevant to early career researchers. DOR noted that the BT Young Scientist winner had already placed all of the research for his project on an open archive.</p> <p>It was noted the baseline budget model uses specific research metrics to determine research activity so there would also be implications for the BBM if Trinity signed up to DORA.</p> <p>ACTION: Members of the committee agreed to raise the issue with their colleagues and send feedback to HS and ADOR Leeson.</p> <p>ACTION: An update will be provided at the next meeting of the committee.</p>

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B.4	<p>Research Strategy (RS/18-19/3) Dean of Research</p> <p>DOR noted that the strategy will be a permanent item on the agenda at future meetings to allow the committee to discuss its implementation and effectiveness. The strategy was being prepared for Board and once approved a formal launch will be organised. DOR noted that the Charter is the document aimed at external audiences and will be translated into Irish, Spanish, Chinese, and International and Irish Sign Language.</p> <p>The committee discussed various aspects of the communications element of the research strategy. DOR asked the committee to consider what Standing Up For Research means and what kind of actions and messaging could be developed around it that might be effective in influencing government policy for the sector. Noted that the IUA is making concerted effort to focus on this area, and the IRC is also working on a campaign as is SFI. The committee noted the urgency of communicating the importance of funding for the sector. The committee discussed the advantages of coherent messaging across the sector but noted the importance of maintaining Trinity's independence within such a campaign.</p> <p>The committee discussed the potential benefits of a coherent campaign to change the prevailing image of the academic sector. It was noted that sometimes Trinity's reputation can be a strength but can also be an impediment for further investment. All were agreed that the university has to improve outreach and the language it uses in communicating research and its benefits. It was noted that there are various examples around Trinity of how research can be communicated really well, and the challenge is to bring these together at an institutional level for political effect.</p> <p>It was noted that there could be difficulty in getting a consistent message across academic staff about what is the most pressing issue. There was some disagreement about whether research as a concept itself could ever resonate with the public on a consistent basis. It was noted that school students are important in this regard and other universities are good at targeting younger audiences in this way. It was also noted that there is a tension created by making an economic or instrumentalist argument to defend research, and it is important to stand up for research in its own right. Notable allies already in the political arena include President Higgins who is a vocal supporter of the sector.</p>
Section C – Items for Noting	
C.1	<p>Items for Noting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No items for noting
C.2	<p>Items for future discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No items noted for discussion
C.3	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScienceDirect Negotiations (RS/18-19/15) <p>DOR asked Arlene Healy to join the meeting to update the committee in relation to ongoing negotiations with ScienceDirect. AH provided an overview of what ScienceDirect covers and advised the committee that the current agreement had expired on 31st December 2018. Previous agreements had been negotiated as a consortium, and huge increases have been paid over recent years. As of the time of the meeting, no agreement had yet been reached with Elsevier to continue access. Trinity</p>

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and negotiating partners are looking for a deal that would move towards more open access for the content the universities provide but Elsevier are not open to this. Similar moves have been made elsewhere in Europe and the United States and subscription terminations have taken place when deals could not be reached.

AH provided background of the implications a loss of access will have, and a list of suggestions about how to work around this and find alternative access. Other institutions have attempted to mitigate loss of access by using inter-library loans, plugins that can find where content is freely available, contacting authors directly for preprints. AH noted that publishers are not recognising the changing trends in scholarship and access.

DOR noted that this resonated with much of what had already been discussed in the meeting. Ireland is a small market in a difficult situation, and larger countries like Germany and Sweden have already lost access. In response to a query about whether Elsevier and the journals it owns have experienced a backlash in terms of withholding peer review, editorial boards resigning in protest etc. AH noted that this has happened in some instances but not at any rate that would reflect the urgency of the issue.

ACTION: It was agreed that AH would update the committee at a future meeting.