

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

19 March 2019, 11:00 – 13:00

Arts Building Conference Room 2026, Arts Building

Attendees

Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research (DOR, Chair)

Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities

Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law

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 Declan O’Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics

Professor Caitriona Lally, Directory of Research, School of Engineering

Professor Adrian Bracken, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology

Professor Sinéad Ryan, Director of Research, School of Mathematics

Faculty of Health Sciences

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 and Midwifery

Trinity Research Institutes

Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub

In attendance

Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation

Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services, Innovation and Digital Platforms, IT Services

Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library

Dr Oonagh Kinsman, Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation

Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research (Secretary to the Committee)

Apologies

Professor Orla Sheils, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation

Mr David O’Shea, Director of Operations, Trinity Development and Alumni

Professor Emma Creagh, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology

Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	Minutes Minutes of meeting of 19 February 2019 were circulated in advance and accepted as read.
A.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes No matters arising.

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A.3	<p>Update from the Dean of Research</p> <p>Dean of Research updated the committee about recent successes: Trinity researchers secured 6 out of 12 of the IRC’s Advanced Laureate Awards which is an amazing result, with a further c. 13 on the reserve list. DOR noted thanks to all who applied and all the support staff who worked on the applications. Centres for Research Training were officially announced at DCU. Trinity is involved in 5, leading on one. DOR also confirmed that two nominations had been submitted for the Balzan Prizes.</p> <p>DOR advised the committee that SFI’s relaunched individual investigator programme had caused some issues for Trinity. Ussher professors were not deemed eligible to apply. HR and Trinity adjusted the Usshers’ contracts in order to comply with eligibility. DOR also discussed standing up for research plans around engagement with government departments.</p> <p>RS/18-19/12 A GDPR taskforce has been established which the DOR is chairing. DOR advised the committee that there are plans to hire a deputy DPO for Research who will be responsible for managing research-related GDPR issues and addressing health-research regulation (HRR) challenges. They would also be responsible for systematising advice and producing guidance for Trinity. There was some discussion among the committee of issues related to external training that had been provided within some schools and differences of opinion over the materials included in the training. The problems caused for researchers, particularly in health-related areas, by the very narrow national interpretation of GDPR regulations were noted again. There was some discussion of the benefits of lobbying, but it was also noted that it is very difficult to find out who is doing what on this issue. DOR noted that part of the taskforce’s plans will be to clarify this. The committee also discussed internal supports for writing data management plans which are required under GDPR and open scholarship.</p> <p>Re RS/18-19/15 DOR informed the committee that the Science Direct negotiations had been resolved for this year. Helen Shenton advised that Elsevier had agreed to a 0% increase for this year, and that the negotiating group will continue to work for the open access requirement. HS noted that he negotiating team had done an excellent job as this was a classic David v Goliath situation. DOR noted that the UC system in the United States had abandoned negotiations with Elsevier and broken off agreements with them. It was also noted that funding for Altmetrics has been secured and it will be available very soon. Jane Ohlmeyer noted thanks to HS for securing Altmetrics.</p> <p>Re RS/18-19/10 recent Unboxing Open Scholarship events were noted. DOR noted that there is a slow, but steady increase in interest. Various initiatives such as more regular events or a newsletter are under discussion.</p>
Section B - Items for Discussion Only	
B.1	<p>Spotlight on the School of Medicine Prof. Louise Gallagher</p> <p>Prof. Gallagher presented an overview of the activities of the School of Medicine which currently has six themes: population health; cancer; genetics; neurosciences; immunology; molecular medicine. Noted the diversity of activity in the school and the broad range of these activities span across institutes such as TTMI which is wholly within the school, and also TCIN and TBSI. The school is also home to many of Trinity’s</p>

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	<p>highly-cited researchers such as Clare Kelly, Michael Gill, Aiden Corvin, and Padraic Fallon.</p> <p>LG summarised some of the research projects currently underway within the school. Stephen Thomas is the lead PI on Sphere, a HRB funding scheme to provide doctoral level training for people in population health. Jacintha O’Sullivan leads Gold-drug which is developing nano particles to treat cancer. Dara Meldrum won a commercialisation award for Verti-Genius which is developing sensors to rehabilitate people with balance disorders.</p> <p>LG also discussed where the school sources income noting that 40% of funding comes from the HRB. Also receives charitable donations. Noted that the school does not do well in Wellcome Trust competitions but is working to address this and also prepare more ERC applications and diversify its overall funding sources – it has already doubled Horizon 2020 funding the last year. The school has many strong internal and international collaborations, its strong links with the UK are of concern as a result of the impact Brexit might have.</p> <p>DOR thanked LG for the presentation and noted that it is important for schools to have a sense of what others are doing.</p> <p>The committee discussed the presentation, and out of this went on to discuss the possibility of funding for medical researchers to do work with FEMS, and also encouraging broader interdisciplinarity. JO noted that major European funding was recently secured for the SHAPE ID project to look at how AHSS can be at the heart of these types of projects. The project will be reporting directly to Europe which is a great opportunity to influence policy. ADOR Bowie noted great interaction through TBSI – hoping to open TBSI up to people who aren’t necessarily in the building. TTMI and TBSI are now talking very closely</p> <p>ACTION: Jane Ohlmeyer to present to committee on SHAPE ID in the future ACTION: Blanaid Clarke to present overview of School of Law at next meeting</p>
B.2	<p>DORA – San Francisco Agreement (RS/18-19/14) Prof. Lorraine Leeson</p> <p>ADOR Leeson provided a brief overview of the discussion at the last meeting. Feedback had been requested from all schools but only three submissions were received. LL noted thanks to those who did respond for the thoughtful and detailed feedback. School of Histories & Humanities responded to say they were fully in favour of Trinity signing up, and LL noted that her own school had similar feedback. Considered response from Computer Science & Statistics stated the need to make a thoughtful move.</p> <p>The committee discussed the implications of signing up to DORA and what this would mean for appointment processes, whether it is possible to adopt DORA without embracing an open scholarship model, and the need for the behaviour of journal publishers to change. The committee noted the complication of removing impact factors from appointment processes, observing that many alternatives would still be subject to bias. It was also noted that most Early Career Researchers new to Trinity are very supportive of reducing the dependence on journal impact factors and h-index and looking at different ways to quantify research impact.</p>

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	<p>DOR suggested that this is a decision that will take some time to make. SFI have been asked to come to Trinity to talk about how they evaluate differently having signed DORA. IRC and HRB will also be invited.</p> <p>It was noted that even among the committee there were widely differing opinions on whether Trinity should be signed up. It was also noted that in signing the declaration the university must then be committed to implementing the necessary changes.</p> <p>ACTION: SFI, IRC, HRB etc to be invited to present on evaluations post-DORA ACTION: Schools to send feedback to LL</p>
<p>B.3</p>	<p>National Statement on Research Integrity in Ireland (RS/18-19/16) Dean of Research</p> <p>The IUA recently updated the National Statement on Research. The draft statement was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting and the DOR asked for any comments.</p> <p>Blanaid Clarke noted that the updated document stated that errors must be intentional but later in the same document included computational errors which created an inconsistency. It was noted by the committee that how the cost of research data storage and management would be borne is not addressed. The committee also noted that the updated statement contradicts some existing Trinity policies. DOR noted that updating policies and providing clarity about existing policies will be worked on over coming months and items will be brought to the Research Committee as required. It was also noted that national research councils would be recognising the statement so Trinity would have to bring its own policies in line. Some members of the committee suggested that the language in the statement was tentative, that it could be more forceful in setting out what researchers “must” do as opposed to what they “should” do. DOR suggested that this latitude was a good thing as it allows for Trinity to be more rigorous in its own policies.</p> <p>DOR advised committee that she would respond to the IUA with the committee’s feedback and would note that in principle Trinity has no issue with the strategy but given the current funding landscape it is extremely difficult to fully implement.</p>
<p>B.4</p>	<p>Research Strategy: Stimulate and Grow Collaborations (RS/18-19/3) Dean of Research</p> <p>DOR noted that in approving the strategy, Board asked that each school/discipline engage with it.</p> <p>As part of the discussion around this section of the strategy, the DOR noted that a light touch review would be conducted of the research centres to determine which are still active, or in need of refreshing or closing. Noted that there are some excellent centres and better use could be made of them. DOR noted sincere thanks to Andrew Bowie for his work on the TBSI renewal. An academic director should be appointed soon and it is expected that there will be a relaunch. AB noted that TBSI is a great global brand, and there were significant difficulties in resolving the many issues it faced but that it is now moving in the right direction.</p>

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	<p>DOR noted that TRI sustainability should mean more than just financial matters. If institutes are important to Trinity then sustainability should focus issues such as strategic value, succession plans, and relationships with the Schools. The committee discussed various issues facing TRIs.</p> <p>DOR updated committee on various other initiatives. E3 continues to make progress, and a new governance structure will facilitate a deep dive into the research aspects. DOR also noted that creating the business plan for the cancer institute is underway. It was noted that Trinity plans to do much more in the area of clinical trials. DOR discussed the formation of a Sustainable Development Goals hub and noted its importance for ensuring readiness for Horizon Europe.</p> <p>The committee discussed ideas around a research policy interface noting that Trinity entities such as TILDA were significant influencers of international policy but there is huge scope for Trinity to be more effective in research policy translation area. It was noted that a number of other universities have dedicated units to this kind of activity. There was also discussion of seed funding for “Impact Officers” in the faculties to assist with translating research for external audiences. It was noted by the committee that Trinity’s definition of knowledge transfer is very narrow compared to other international examples such as Australia and the UK. It was suggested that Trinity needs richer definitions of impact, and also needs to consider social and cultural entrepreneurship in equal measures to the more traditional business definition.</p> <p>The DOR noted that the hiring process for chairs is under review, to maximise success, take advantage of potential joint hires among other things. It was noted by the committee that other Irish universities have availed of joint appointments and that Trinity should do so too. The committee also discussed the government’s Senior Academic Leadership Initiative that will begin soon.</p>
Section C – Items for Noting	
C.1	<p>Items for Noting No items for noting</p>
C.2	<p>Items for future discussion</p>
C.3	<p>AOB</p> <p>DOR confirmed that no update had been received in relation to the PhD fees issues that were raised at an earlier meeting (RS/18-19/6). Noted that it will be a slow process. It was noted that many schools are going to have real problems if the issue is not resolved soon.</p>