

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

11:00, Tuesday 16 April 2019  
Arts Building Conference Room 2026, Arts Building

MINUTES

**Attendees**

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research (Chair)

Professor Andrew Bowie, 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 Sam Slote, Director of Research, School of English

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 Redmond O'Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology

Professor Agustín Bénétrix, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

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 Cairtriona Lally, Director of Research, School of Engineering

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

*Faculty of Health Sciences*

Professor Jeff O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science

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

*Trinity Research Institutes*

Professor Orla Sheils, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of 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 Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research (Secretary to the Committee)

**Apologies**

Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research

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

Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine

Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy

Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences

Professor Maria Brenner, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Professor Sinéad Ryan, Director of Research, School of Mathematics

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

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<b>Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval</b>	
<b>A.1</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b> Minutes of last meeting on 19 March 2019 were circulated in advance and accepted as read.</p>
<b>A.2</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b>  No matters arising.</p>
<b>A.3</b>	<p><b>Update from the Dean of Research</b>  Dean of Research was unable to attend the meeting as she was committed to an SFI review in Limerick – sent apologies and would give full update at the next meeting in May.  ADOR Leeson noted that congratulations of the committee to all recipients of the recently announced IRC Laureate Advanced Awards.</p>
<b>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</b>	
<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>Spotlight on the School of Law</b> Prof. Blanaid Clarke</p> <p>Prof. Clarke presented an overview of the activities of the School of Law. The school's nearest competitor is UCD. BC noted that UCD have two fulltime staff advising on research related matters and also have 3 dedicated events staff whereas the School of Law has no full time research administrator and no dedicated events administrator. This is an impediment in terms of events as staff have to focus on logistics instead of establishing new research contacts.</p> <p>BC discussed the publication record of the school and explained the significance of certain types of publications in the discipline. While important for research impact these are not fully captured by current metrics. The school's contribution to public policy was also noted, in particular its contributions to the Citizens' Assembly and providing advice to the European Commission on company law. The school is also heavily plugged into international research networks. Mary Rogan currently holds an ERC award. The school's sabbatical programme and research agenda meetings – between head of school, director of research and individual researchers – were noted, as particular strengths in facilitating staff's research.</p> <p>The school has a number of established research groups and BC noted that the Long Room Hub and TRiSS have been important in facilitating the school's research. Weekly research seminars are also run where discussions are encouraged on topics such as budgets and administering grants etc. BC noted that it is a strong school, and while it certainly has challenges it is doing its best to meet them.</p> <p>ADOR Leeson thanked BC for the presentation. The committee discussed a number of points including the school's sabbatical programme with many members of the committee noting that approaches to sabbaticals can vary significantly across schools. It was noted that successful sabbatical programmes are dependent on collegiality and negotiation.</p>

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<b>B.2</b>	<p><b>EIT KICs programme (RS/18-19/17)</b> Barbara Harvey Carroll</p> <p>BHC was invited to present to the Research Committee about the EIT Knowledge Innovation Communities. BHC provided an overview of what KICs are, how Trinity has engaged with them to date, and future opportunities for researchers within the KIC framework. KICs are not technically research but do fall under Horizon 2020, bringing together business, research, innovation etc. Each KIC has its own model but all have three pillars of activity: innovation, education and engagement, business creation.</p> <p>Funding into Trinity from KICs has grown in the last four years. Because the calls are only open to those in the partnerships there tends to be a higher success rate than in open calls (around 50%). BHC discussed two examples of successful Trinity engagement with KICs – Croívalve and WHAM mooc.</p> <p>BHC noted that KICs are also excellent opportunities to network and make good connections. It was also noted that leading universities are members of KICS; for example, 70% of LERU universities are in at least 1 KIC. Trinity is one of only three LERU universities in three KICs.</p> <p>BHC discussed the KICs in conversation with the committee and explained the types of projects that are funded, and how KICs are funded.</p>
<b>B.3</b>	<p><b>Research Misconduct – Proposed changes to Schedule (RS/18-19/18)</b> Prof. Eoin O’Dell</p> <p>The committee were asked to consider proposed changes to the Procedures relating to research misconduct which were circulated in advance of the meeting. Prof. O’Dell outlined the context behind the proposed changes which were brought to the committee by the Research Ethics Policy Committee. In 2010, Trinity adopted a commitment to research integrity on foot of RIA and IUA guidelines. Procedural aspects of that commitment were then incorporated in the statutes. Since then understandings around research integrity have developed significantly and practice on the ground has become more sophisticated. As a result Trinity’s rules in practice and guidelines need to be updated.</p> <p>Prof. Clarke asked for clarification of the phrase “entitled to representation” noting that it could be interpreted that representation would be provided. EOD confirmed that this would be clarified. BC also asked if there is enough protection for the person against whom a complaint is made. EOD noted that all parties would be made aware from the start of the process that a complaint had been made. The obligation to follow fair procedures is built in from the beginning.</p> <p>It was confirmed that there will be a step-by-step guide in plain English. Prof. Sheils noted that this has always been the intention but the groundwork of the procedures has to be finalised first.</p> <p>EOD was asked if there is a difference between misconduct and research misconduct, and if the statutes have been updated to note confidentiality, data protection etc as misconduct or if this is the first time that they have been listed as misconduct for academics. EOD noted that there has always been a general obligation to follow the laws of the land but this is the first time it has been specifically mentioned. The offence of plagiarism was also discussed. EOD noted that plagiarism has always been an offence</p>

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	<p>for students, but has only ever been understood to be an offence for staff and has not been particularised until now. This does not change anything but gives better statutory footing to something that is already understood.</p> <p>ADOR Leeson asked about the next steps. EOD noted that the updated document should go to Council, as well as EOG and Schedules Working Party noting that the Registrar has responsibility for the Schedule. EOD will make additional drafting suggestions based on the feedback received which the REPC chair can then circulate for electronic approval.</p> <p>ADOR Leeson noted her thanks to Eoin O’Dell, John Parnell, and Ken O’Doherty for all their work.</p>
<b>Section C – Items for Noting</b>	
<b>C.1</b>	<p><b>Items for Noting</b></p> <p>No items for noting.</p>
<b>C.2</b>	<p><b>Items for future discussion</b></p>
<b>C.3</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>NORF (RS/18-19/19)</b></p> <p>Prof. Dan Geary raised the issue of the HEA statement on Plan S and noted serious concerns with the statement in its current form. As it stands, anyone receiving public funding would have to sign up for immediate open access publishing with journals. DG noted that this does not seem to have thought through, particularly with regard to the implications for the humanities and social sciences in terms of appropriate publication venues. Concerns were also noted on the limited consultation that has gone into producing the statement.</p> <p>Prof. Jane Ohlmeyer noted that the statement has been developed by the HEA in partnership with SFI and HRB, but the IRC had refused to sign in because of the unintended consequences for humanities researchers. JO noted that an update had been received that morning incorporating revisions such that it will no longer be a national policy but a framework and would have a commitment to green access. However, the statement will go to Innovation 2020 and could become a national framework. The IRC has asked for broad consultation which has been agreed to if it will be implemented. At this point, the statement would have to come back to the committee for discussion.</p> <p>The committee noted general concerns with how much input Trinity has had to the development of the statement and where the request for initial consultation came from and went to.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> It was agreed that more information about the process and NORF in general would be gathered for the next meeting of the committee.</p>