

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

11:00, 8 October 2024
Boardroom, Trinity Business School

MINUTES

In attendance

Professor Sinéad Ryan, Dean of Research (Chair)
Professor Brian Broderick (Associate Dean of Research)
Professor Nicholas Johnson, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor Joseph Roche, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Pádraic Whyte, Director of Research, School of English
Professor James Hanrahan, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Nathan Hill, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Professor Sonia Bishop, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Benjamin Wold, Director of Research, School of Religion, Theology and Peace Studies
Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor Mathias Senge, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
Professor Marco Ruffini, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Michael Monaghan, Director of Research, School of Engineering
Professor Frank Wellmer, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor Andrei Parnachev, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
Professor Yvonne Buckley, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Ortwin Hess, Director of Research, School of Physics
Professor Hal Duncan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Laure Marnignol on behalf of Director of Research, School of Medicine
Professor Eilish Burke, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Anne-Marie Healy, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Kingston Mills, Director of TBSI
Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub
Professor Rhodri Cusack, Director of TCIN
Dr Michelle Olmstead, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies

In attendance

Dr Sally Smith, Director of Research, Trinity Research
Dr Fiona Smyth, Interim Head of Research Development, Research Development Office
Ms Elaine Sharkey, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division
Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director - European Engagement, Trinity Research
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy and Policy Manager, Trinity Research

Apologies

Prof. Padraic Fallon; Prof. Immo Warntjes; Prof. Sarah Doyle; Prof. Paula Mayock; Prof. Stefano Sanvito; Prof. Aideen Long; Michael Reilly; Dr Rory Connolly; Helen Shenton; Prof. Lindsey Earner-Byrne; Dr Gordon Elliott.

Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	Minutes Minutes of September 10 th were circulated in advance and approved.
A.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes DOR noted in relation to the College statement on AI that the new Senior Lecturer, Prof. Vinny Wade, was revising the statement at the moment and that it would be going to GSC for discussion. DOR proposed that once the statement was further developed that the Senior Lecturer would be invited back to Research Committee for an update.

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A.3	<p>Update from Secretary on ethics approvals (for discussion only) Victoria Butler, Secretary to the College</p> <p>The Secretary to the College joined the committee to provide a brief update on matters relating to ethics approval for research. VB advised the committee that the Secretary's Office had reviewed a number of issues over the summer following on from discussions with the Dean of Research and also the Dean of Graduate Studies. Concerns had been raised in relation to the length of time it was taking to process some ethics applications with a bottle neck forming around DPO approvals. The committee was advised that the team had been tasked to prioritise the clearing of any backlogs as soon as possible and that funding had been secured for extra resource. VB noted that ADOR Padraic Fallon had offered some practical suggestions for process improvements. It was also noted that the Secretary was engaging with the FHS ethics committee to resolve remaining issues with REAMS and JREC. VB noted that there is a compliance issue with the FHS REC not using REAMS and this needs to be resolved. A pilot programme will be put in place to see how best this might work for all involved.</p> <p>DOR thanked VB for updating the committee and for taking on board all of the feedback. DOR noted that a lot of work was ongoing to find constructive solutions for the delays people were experiencing. In discussion with the committee the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some issues regarding amendments and attachments in REAMS were raised. It was agreed that these would be followed up offline.• There is a cross-Faculty Animal Research Ethics Committee (AREC) that operates at College level and handles complex ethics issues, but there is no College level Human Research Ethics Committee, so each School or Faculty handles their own human research ethics process. Researchers in the School of Natural Sciences have experienced significant delays with complex human ethics cases and it was suggested that perhaps college now needed a human research ethics committee that operated across all faculties. DOR welcomed the suggestion and advised that it would be examined.• The Secretary advised that research involving patients that would usually have been routed through JREC for approval should continue to do so. DOR also noted the issue with JREC is that Trinity does not have oversight of any approvals it grants but that work was being done to resolve this.
A.4	<p>Open Scholarship sub-group – TORs and membership Dr Sally Smith, Director of Research</p> <p><i>Christoph Schmidt-Supprian, Head of Content Management & Open Scholarship, joined the meeting for this item</i></p> <p>DOR noted that Librarian could not attend but noted her strong support for the sub-group and the proposed membership and terms of reference.</p> <p>SS noted that along with CSS and ADOR Immo Warntjes a lot of work had been done to review best practice at other institutions while drawing up the TORs and membership for the sub-group. It was noted that the aims of the group were very broad and included bringing together colleagues across college working on open scholarship as well as assessing obligations from sectoral and external perspectives such as NORF, DORA and COARA. It was noted that the composition of the group would need to be delivery-focused but still represent all of the research community. SS acknowledged that the Dean of Graduate Studies had flagged the absence of a postgraduate representative as part of the group's proposed membership. The CIEO also noted that Trinity Innovation &</p>

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	<p>Enterprise owned the intellectual property policy which intersects with issues of open scholarship. It was agreed that an appropriate way to incorporate TI&E representation would be found.</p> <p>The committee approved the TORs and membership. DOR noted that once the subgroup was up and running it would be reporting regularly to the Research Committee. DOR also noted thanks to SS, CSS, and IW for all their work to date.</p>
<p>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</p>	
<p>B.1</p>	<p>Spotlight: School of Creative Arts Prof. Nicholas Johnson, School of Creative Arts</p> <p>Prof. Johnson presented an overview of the activities of the School of Creative Arts to the committee. During the presentation the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school operates across multiple sites including House 5 and several locations along Pearse Street. It has extensive engagement with the Trinity Long Room Hub, two conservatoires (the Royal Irish Academy of Music and The Lir Theatre), and also collaborates with TCIN and the Global Brain Health Institute. It has high-impact engagements with local communities, hospitals, prisons; human interaction was central to much of the school’s outputs. • For its small size, the school has a significant volume of outputs as well as some of the highest student contact hours. It also has one of the highest staff-student ratios which is a legacy of the hiring freeze. • Many artistic outputs and awards are not captured by more traditional research metrics. The school has €1.7million in grant funding over recent years, but also has a number of significant artistic grants that are not captured in RPAMS etc. • The exceptional quality of undergraduate Capstone research projects was noted. These projects were public facing and go through ethics approvals processes if there is human participation. • The school was one of the pioneers some years ago in working to expand the kinds of outputs that were captured by RSS, and had recently worked with the Research Informatics unit to develop a new module to enhance the visibility of different types of outputs; the module was currently only visible to Creative Arts and the School of English. • Two large emerging strands for the school are arts + technology and arts + health. Already have some funding successes in these areas and some “valiant” funding attempts. It was noted that the school was part of the only humanities groups to apply to the SFI centres call, and while it was not successful the school sees real merit in pursuing the collaboration in some way. • The school’s strategy was to consolidate all research activity into a centre for the creative arts that would be open to the public. It was also noted that the school had a significant footprint in three distinct locations internationally – USA, Europe and the UK – but had a responsibility to try and connect with communities beyond those locations as well. <p>In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was anxiety in the school about the vulnerabilities for practice-based research in light the new national funding agency and developments in EU funding programmes. It was also noted that the school’s work intersects significantly with issues around open scholarship and copyright. It was also noted that creative arts or art-based research was often added on at the end of a research project as the “happy thing” to include rather than being fully

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	<p>embedded as a genuine part of an interdisciplinary research project from the outset.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative arts outputs have the same rigour as more traditional monographs and articles. It was important to note that not all creative arts events are research, but those that are have ethics approval, academic integrity and rigour.• The recently developed RSS module had not been presented to the Research Committee for review and it was noted that if it was to be incorporated into promotions processes, for example, it should have the imprimatur of the committee. <p>DOR noted thanks to Prof. Johnson for the presentation and also for his work on the committee during his time as Director of Research as he had recently taken up a different role within the school.</p>
B.2	<p>Update from the Dean of Research Prof. Sinéad Ryan, Dean of Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOR noted congratulations on recent funding successes. Eleven researchers across multiple disciplines of health science research were awarded funding in the Health Research Board's (HRB) most recent Investigator-Led Projects (ILP) award scheme. Each project will be funded for a maximum of four years. (11 awards went to Trinity out of 29 nationally)<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prof. Joanne Lysaght2. Prof. Aisling Dunne3. Dr Lucy Norris4. Prof. Ursula Fearon5. Dr Sharee Basdeo6. Dr Mary Canavan7. Prof. Eleanor Molloy8. Prof. Lorina Naci9. Dr Colm Cunningham10. Dr Emer Guinan11. Prof. Rose Anne Kenny• The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) was recently designated a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Longitudinal Studies on Ageing and the Life Course. This prestigious designation recognises the ongoing collaborative efforts between TILDA and WHO in supporting research and initiatives to promote healthy ageing across the life course. This new WHOCC is the first in Trinity, one of four in Ireland and one of only 15 out of 800 centres worldwide that focusses on ageing. DOR noted that Prof. Rose Anne Kenny would be presenting an update on TILDA as part of the spotlight series at the next meeting of the committee.• Congrats to School of Medicine and School of Nursing & Midwifery for the Child Health Research Festival, and the Trinity Long Room Hub for the Arts & Humanities Research Festival. DOR noted that the events – as well as the main European Researchers' Night events - were a huge success.• Taighde Éireann/Research Ireland: DOR advised that there had finally been an update on the protracted SFI centres call. There were 25 applications across the sector. The call allowed a mix of new centres and existing centres to apply to the one pot. 15 proposals have moved to full proposal stage. Of the 15, 7 are led by Trinity which is an astonishing achievement by many different groups. 7 out of 8 submitted by Trinity have moved to the final stage. DOR noted that a significant amount of work would be involved in moving these proposals forward with a

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	<p>tight deadline of Feb 25th. It was also the agency’s board had its first meeting at the end of September, but there was not much more info available. DOR advised the committee that an invitation would be issued to the new CEO to visit Trinity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge security: DOR noted that DFHERIS had recently requested one representative from each HEI to attend a briefing on research security from a number of government departments. DOR noted that research security typically referred to scientific research, but does cover all types of research and is concerned with not just inappropriate use but also undue influence from outside/state actors. It was noted that this was now becoming an issue of concern. DOR noted that there was no particular action for the committee to take at this point but that it would be on the agenda at future meetings. DOR also noted that DFHERIS had asked for one point of contact in each HEI. It was noted that Trinity already had a Knowledge Security working group convened by the Chief Risk Officer which has representation from Trinity Research in its membership. DOR had offered the opportunity to DFHERIS to come to the committee to present an update once ready. <p>In discussion with the committee the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was not yet clear whether this would cause restrictions on collaborations. DOR noted that a common theme for the briefing was the importance of maintaining academic freedom and institutional autonomy but how this looked in reality was not clear. • The EU had already issued calls that had some limitations in relation to sensitive areas. It was noted that the European approach was not to “delink” but to “derisk”. • There was complexity around how to navigate obligations under open scholarship initiatives with broader knowledge security concerns. • In relation to Taighde Éireann/Research Ireland and the recent budget announcement it was noted that there was a commitment to uplift the funding for the sector but that it still fell short of the gap that the government itself had identified.
<p>B.3</p>	<p>Evidence Base for the Tertiary Sector Michael Foley, Civic Engagement for Societal Impact Manager</p> <p><i>Michael Foley joined the meeting for this item.</i></p> <p>DOR noted that a call from DFHERIS – ‘Evidence Base for the Tertiary Sector’ had recently been circulated. MF provided the committee with an overview of the call, during which the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFHERIS now has an Evidence for Policy Unit as part of its Research and Innovation Division under Deirdre Lillis and Trudy Duffy. It was also noted that the Minister for Health had also announced a research for policy programme. • While this call at first glance looked to be quite limited in scope, it has quite a broad scope in terms of making the sector and research itself more sustainable, with activity captured across engineering, environmental sciences, expanding access, EDI, labour market and skills development. • There are also two general questions related to ‘other relevant research’. It was noted that this was the first call of its kind from DFHERIS and they would be looking for information on other activity that might not fit within the more proscriptive parts of the call. It was noted that DFHERIS would hold contact details for future consultations as part of a database of relevant interested researchers.

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	<p>In discussion with the committee, it was noted that there was an opportunity to enhance engagement with government departments, civic society, programmes for government etc. It was also noted that institutional responses to these calls would show willingness to work with the sector, but that the timeline was too tight for this particular call. DOR noted that Trinity Research was examining how best to respond to these calls in the future.</p>
Section C – Items for Noting	
C.1	Items for Noting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Conor McGuckin has replaced Prof. Michael Shevlin as the Director of the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities.
C.2	Items for future discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doris Alexander, Associate Director for European Engagement, provided the committee with a brief overview of some items that would be included in a more detailed presentation at a forthcoming meeting of the committee. These included the Draghi report on EU competitiveness as well as the next multi-annual budget framework. It was noted that the next budgetary cycle begins in 2028 but the negotiation process was already well underway.
C.3	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was noted that the November 5th meeting of the committee would be online via Zoom as the boardroom is not available. December 3rd meeting would be the next in-person meeting.