

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE
11:00, Tuesday, 9 June 2026
Boardroom, Trinity Business School**

MINUTES

Prof. Sinéad Ryan (Chair); Prof. Brian Broderick; Prof. Pádraic Fallon; Prof. Joseph Roche; Prof. Stefanie Van de Peer; Prof. Mary Rogan; Prof. Adina Preda; Prof. Nicola Carr; Prof. Tomás Ryan; Prof. Frank Wellmer; Prof. Andrei Parnachev; Prof. Susan Murphy; Prof. Ortwin Hess; Prof. Hal Duncan; Prof. Sarah Doyle; Prof. Éilish Burke; Prof. Anne Marie Healy; Prof. Patrick Geoghegan; Prof. Eoin O'Sullivan; Vincent Coole; Dr Chris Keely; Prof. Martine Smith; Dr Laure de Tymowski
In attendance: Dr Sally Smith; Tadhg Caffrey; Dr Fiona Smyth; Elaine Sharkey; Emma Treacy Matunga; Dr Geoff Bradley; Helen Shenton; Michael Reilly; Dr Jennifer Daly; Aoife Kelly

Apologies: Doris Alexander; Prof. Mark Little; Prof. Ed Lavelle; Prof. Michelle D'Arcy; Prof. Valentina Colasanti; Prof. Mathias Senge; Prof. Marco Ruffini; Prof. Joanne Banks; Prof. James Hanrahan; Prof. Bidisha Ghosh; Prof. Clare Clarke

Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	Minutes Minutes from the May meeting were accepted as circulated.
A.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes • DOR advised that the updated policy on Trinity Research Institutes would come back to the committee for final approval early in 26/27. • The committee was advised that the lead PIs for the LONGLIFE Trinity Research Institute proposal have been advised of committee's feedback and have been asked to submit a memo by Sept 1st for final approval. Specific actions to be addressed that have been communicated to the PIs: ○ Individual meetings with leadership in the following schools and TRIs to be held to discuss the proposal and identify potential for involvement and collaboration: School of Natural Sciences, School of Nursing & Midwifery, School of Engineering, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, TRiSS, TBSI, TTMI. ○ A clear articulation of how LONGLIFE complements the activity of existing TRIs, especially in the HS space, rather than duplicating activity. ○ terms of reference for the proposed leadership/steering group.
A.3	Export Control Policy, Procedures and Internal Compliance Programme (ICP) Mary Tracey, Joey Gaynor <i>Mary Tracey and Joey Gaynor joined the meeting for this item.</i> The committee received a presentation on the Export Control Policy, procedures and Internal Compliance Programme. During the presentation the following points were noted: • Export controls were general trade laws which had not been designed with university activity in mind. However, universities were bound to comply with them and were obliged to ensure compliance. • the ICP established a structured framework to ensure compliance with legal obligations relating to export controls, which was a recommendation following an audit conducted by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) in February 2024. • The policy outlines roles and responsibilities, screening and classification processes, and reporting routes. • Export controls apply not only to physical outputs but also to intangible outputs (e.g., software, data sharing, communications).

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

	• Academic freedom and collaboration remain priorities; however, all activities must comply with relevant legal frameworks. Early consideration in research planning is essential. In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted: • Members noted the increasing compliance burden on universities and the necessity of implementing such frameworks. • Clarification was sought on what activities fall within scope or whether a definition would be provided. It was noted that the EU Dual-Use Items List (Annex I) was the reference in this respect. • Responsibility for identifying activity rests with researchers, supported by institutional training and guidance. It was noted that should there be uncertainty around activity or whether a licence was required, the Knowledge Security Manager should be contacted in the first instance. • Concerns were raised regarding: ○ Risks relating to unintended end-use (“catch-all” clause). ○ Implications for international collaboration, conference presentations, and cloud-based services. ○ Research security risks associated with students and data handling. • The importance of training, awareness, practical guidance, and case studies was emphasised by members of the committee. • It was noted that compliance requirements should not become so burdensome as to hinder research activity. The committee endorsed the policy and ICP for further approval at the relevant College committees and groups. DOR noted that a follow up presentation would be requested focusing on the training, guidance, and awareness raising activities. <i>Mary Tracey and Joey Gaynor left the meeting.</i>
A.4	Living Research Excellence Strategy Dean of Research, Tadhg Caffrey The DOR outlined the engagement with Schools, TRIs and stakeholders to refresh the Living Research Excellence Strategy (LRES), and efforts to align it with the College strategic plan, Thrive. The committee received a brief presentation providing an overview of the updated strategy, including the strategic context, proposed implementation plan, and alignments with other Trinity strategies and initiatives. It was noted that there would be a separate innovation strategy. DOR also noted that some actions are not within Trinity Research’s remit but it would be working closely with colleagues in other units on those. In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted: • Members of the committee emphasised the importance of research culture, including health and wellbeing for research staff, career progression, and job security, particularly for research staff and PhD students. • Further engagement with the Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA) and postgraduate worker representatives was requested. • It was noted that the Research Culture Action Plan would be co-developed and informed by stakeholder input from across Trinity. • The role of research excellence in recruitment was noted.

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

	- Ideas for the action to protect research time were still in development, with desk based research underway to identify similar initiatives at other institutions. It was noted that any initiatives in this area would be in collaboration with schools and would most likely begin as local pilot projects. - Members of the committee noted the importance of adequate resourcing to support implementation of the strategy. It was noted that some budget in Trinity Research had been identified to support strategic initiatives so while it would not be amply resourced there would hopefully be notable difference for people. DOR noted that further feedback would be welcome over the coming months. The committee approved the strategy to proceed incorporating its feedback.
A.5	Update from the Open Scholarship sub-committee Christoph Schmidt-Supprian <i>Christoph Schmidt-Supprian joined the meeting for this item.</i> An update memo from the sub-committee was circulated in advance. Approval was sought and granted for some minor changes to the Terms of Reference for the sub-committee. The committee discussed whether there was any appetite for an open access press at Trinity. It was noted that while it had been discussed at various points over the year, other more pressing priorities such as policy updates etc took precedence. It was noted if aligned with broader initiatives such as CoARA and DORA it could generate more momentum. Members of the committee noted that the concept of research excellence could be problematic for such an initiative given the current metrics by which research tends to be measured.
Section B - Items for Discussion Only	
B.1	Update from the Dean of Research Dean of Research It was noted that Prof. Denise Fitzgerald (School of Medicine) has been awarded €6.26 million Research Professorship funding from Research Ireland to investigate how ageing affects the ways the immune system helps repair brain tissue in illnesses such as Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Prof. Fitzgerald will lead a research team of ten based in Trinity and partnering with the FutureNeuro Research Ireland Centre for Translational Brain Science, St James's Hospital, and Beaumont Hospital. DOR noted the recent launch of the Post Award Helpdesk which is designed to help PIs navigate the non-financial mobilisation process for new awards, highlighting and signposting existing supports. The committee was advised that the Environment, Sustainability and Governance report had recently been approved and would come to Research Committee for noting. It was also noted that the committee would receive a presentation on sustainable procurement in early 26/27. The committee was reminded that the Trinity Research Excellence Awards were open for nominations until June 15th. DOR noted the importance of the nomination for boosting morale and making colleagues feel recognised.

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

	The committee was reminded about requests for research highlights to be included in the Dean of Research report. Deadline for submissions is August 31st. It was noted that the formal announcement of the new Research Ireland Research Centres would be announced on June 10th. DOR noted the recent open letter about the Research Ireland strategy, and also noted the Research Ireland statement in response. The committee was advised that the internal process for the INSPIRE proposal was now underway. All three Faculty Deans had been contacted on May 26th with a request to return a prioritised list by June 26th to facilitate the preparation of the institutional submission by the deadline of the end of July. DOR acknowledged the amount of work that was being done in the faculties for this process. It was noted that weekly check in meetings were held with the Faculty Deans and Associate Deans of Research to maintain progress.
B.2	Annual review of committee The committee was reminded that an annual survey reviewing the function of the committee over the last year would be issued following the final meeting. DOR encouraged all committee members to engage with the survey and share any feedback or suggestions for improved performance.
Section C – Items for Noting	
C.1	Items for Noting • Memo from Research Ethics Policy Committee was noted. DOR noted that a full update would be presented to committee early in the new academic year. • Minutes from the REPC meeting of 8 December 2025 were noted.
C.2	Items for future discussion No items noted.
C.3	AOB • The committee was advised that an email would soon be sent out to the community regarding the new process around researcher recruitment with a link to where all the details will be and will also include the support that will be available from HR. DOR noted thanks to committee for all their work and consultation in developing the framework. • DOR noted sincere thanks to all members of the committee for all their work over their last year. • DOR noted very heartfelt thanks to Brian Broderick and Padraic Fallon as they were both finishing up their terms as Associate Deans of Research. DOR noted that both were already in post before she took up the role and had been so helpful and constructive that it made the job a pleasure. • DOR also noted special thanks to committee members who were stepping down. Special mention was given to the Dean of Graduate Studies who would soon retire. Flowers were presented on behalf of the committee to thank her for all her contributions to both the committee and Trinity.