More than 250 colleagues from across the University attended the launch which served as a celebration of the culmination of an intensive consultative and collaborative process and as an opportunity to celebrate research and the vital role it plays in the life of Trinity. The event featured brief presentations from researchers at all stages of their careers – undergraduates, postgraduates, early career researchers, senior principal investigators – and it showcased musical compositions from Trinity researchers to emphasise that research takes many forms and happens in myriad ways.
The development of the Charter and Strategy reinforced that the work of a university in standing up for research is never finished ...
Through engaging the whole Trinity community, the Charter and Strategy belong to everyone in the University...

The Research Charter: seven core principles
The Research Charter and the Living Research Excellence Strategy are the result of a highly collaborative process that started in early 2018. Hundreds of different inputs were received from across Trinity.

A team from the Office of the Dean of Research, headed by the Dean of Research, Professor Linda Doyle, reviewed the contributions. They identified a real desire, across the university, to reassert and affirm core principles around research and to clearly articulate what matters in terms of how and why we research. The team crystallised the inputs into the seven core principles which form Trinity's Research Charter:

1. Cherish academic freedom, diversity of scholarship, and pursuit of truth.
2. Position research at the heart of Trinity.
3. Foster and grow research talent.
4. Harness our collective expertise for the greater good.
5. Broaden our local and global impact.
6. Engage profoundly with our publics.
7. Stand up for research.

Living Research Excellence Strategy: actions
The next phase of the process involved identifying how to ‘live’ the core principles. What kind of issues might prevent researchers from ‘living’ these principles? How could the principles become reality? The team embarked upon several months of discussion during which ideas were collected and approaches mapped. This ultimately resulted in the broad actions captured in the Living Research Excellence Strategy:

1. Stimulate and build strategic research collaborations.
2. Make it easier to do research.
3. Generate the research funding and resources we need.
4. Radically revise how we do research communications.
5. Join the dots on all policies relating to our research.
6. Be bold in planning our long-term research future.

Standing up for research
The development of the Charter and Strategy reinforced that the work of a university in standing up for research is never finished. We need to constantly and persistently ensure that adequately resourcing excellent research is always on the agenda of politicians and decision-makers. This is not just about accessing the necessary resources to conduct excellent research; it’s about showing how and why research matters to the wider society.

We have to constantly make the case for basic research as well as applied research. We must show how all the different elements of research are part of an interdependent system. We need to make the case for working outside the constraints of limited priorities and allowing discovery to follow its own path. In short: we need to stand up for research. By creating Trinity's first Research Charter and Living Research Excellence Strategy, we are reaffirming our commitment to do just that.

The word ‘LIVING’ was deliberately chosen and included in the strategy’s title in order to reflect that this is not a static document, but one that is dynamic and flexible and designed to adapt to the rapidly changing research landscape in which Trinity operates.
To read the full publication, please click here