

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Audit Committee, Friday 4 October 2002

Present Mr David Kingston (Chairman), Dr M J Carroll, Dr S Allwright, Professor J McGilp

(ex officio) Internal Auditor, Assistant Secretary |

2002/24 Minutes The Minutes of the meeting of 27 September 2002 were approved and signed subject to the following amendment:

2002/21 Audit issues The word 'Committee' was replaced with 'Committees' on line 12 of the penultimate paragraph.

2002/25 College's financial position (see Minute 2002/20 of 27 September 2002) The Committee, discussing the College's financial position for the current year, expressed grave disquiet at the financial risks to which the College is potentially exposed arising from the late notification by the HEA of the College's recurrent grant and the unexpected retrospective reduction in the College's grant for the period January- September 2002.

The Committee, noting the relatively high proportion of the recurrent grant allocated to pay costs which, together with the requirement to break-even on income and expenditure each year, reduces the flexibility available to the College to address unexpected financial circumstances, agreed that, following a review of the situation in recent years, the Chairman would write to the Board advising of the risks and recommending that discussions take place with the HEA as a matter of urgency.

2002/26 Report to the Board on College Governance (see Minute 2002/21 of 27 September 2002) Dr Allwright advised the Committee that nominations had been sought from the representatives of the constituencies at Board to meet with the Chairman and the Internal Auditor to discuss the governance report to Board. The Committee noted that the Chairman had met with the Executive Officers and that the broad thrust of the report had been well received. The Committee agreed that following completion of the consultation process the final draft report would be considered at its next meeting and that it would be submitted to Board for consideration on 20 November 2002.

2002/27 Draft report on the Haughton Institute The Internal Auditor invited the Committee's attention to the draft report on the Haughton Institute which had been tabled at the meeting of the Committee held on 27 September 2002 and to a summary of the main findings and recommendations which had been tabled. The Committee noted issues raised in relation to:

- (i) the funding, management and control of research activities;
- (ii) the lack of an agreement on intellectual property between the Institute and its constituent partners;
- (iii) the funding of the Institute and the level of direct and indirect contributions made by the College and the two member hospitals;
- (iv) the financial performance of the Institute and the College's potential liabilities;
- (v) the relationship between the Institute and the Graduate School of Health Sciences;
- (vi) governance issues and possible conflicts of interest on the part of College nominees in their role as directors of the Institute and representatives of the College;
- (vii) the proposed development of major new Institutes and projects under the control of the Haughton Institute;
- (viii) risks arising from clinical trials and professional indemnity in an environment over which College has limited control.

In discussing the draft report the Committee agreed that there is a lack of clarity as to the precise operational role of the Haughton Institute and its relationship with existing or proposed College structures and that the College appears to be carrying an unacceptably high level of risk – financial, reputational and legal – under the current arrangements with the Institute

It was agreed that the Internal Auditor would complete the report and that it would be circulated for factual correction to the Provost, Vice-Provost, Dean of Health Sciences, Secretary and the Treasurer prior to submitting it to Board for consideration and that the Director of Research and Innovations would be consulted in regard to research issues.

2002/28 Future meetings of the Committee The Committee noted that the following meetings of the Committee have been scheduled to take place on:

- ?? Friday 1 November 2002 at 3.00pm in the Boardroom
- ?? Thursday 12 December 2002 at 9.00am in 1 College Green
- ?? Monday 13 January 2003 at 2.30pm in 1 College Green with the external auditors and the Treasurer in attendance

Signed:

Date: