

Research Committee

Minutes of 9th October 2001

Present: Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Clive Williams, John Saeed, David Dickson, John Dillon, Hilary Tovey, Sheila Greene, Dermot Kelleher

In attendance: Maria Treanor

Apologies: Deirdre Savage, Doris Alexander, John Fitzpatrick, Brian MacSharry, Margaret O'Mahony

1. Welcome and Introductions

New members: John Saeed, Sheila Greene, Dermot Kelleher and Margaret O'Mahony.

2. Minutes of meeting 25th June 2001

Minutes approved and signed by Chairperson.

3. Matters Arising

The timetable for the Start-up Fund, Berkeley Fellowships and Maintenance Grants was agreed as follows:

Start-up Fund – call immediately; deadline Friday 23rd November 2001; decision mid-December 2001

Berkeley Fellowships – call immediately; deadline Friday 23rd November 2001; decision end February 2002

Maintenance Grants – call April 2002; deadline end May 2002; decision June 2002

Notification will be by email to all academic staff and information will be posted on the web site for the Dean of Research.

The Committee noted that money allocated in one financial year for spending in the next is an issue for the Treasurer. It may be necessary to pay on the double one year or to skip a year. Spending for Year 3 will have the proviso that evidence is provided for money spent with the onus on the department.

The issue of research centres should return to the agenda.

4. Research Committee Budget

There is an acute need for an additional person in Innovation Services to take responsibility for Intellectual Property (IP) and the creation of such a post was part of the recommendations of the research committee. The cost of an appropriate person with a legal background is £60k to £80k per annum but this could be a joint appointment between TCD, UCD and DCU. College could then appoint a generalist in Innovation Services to review and promote IP, and provide training programmes. The budget available to the Research Committee is £1.15m but spending for the last two years has exceeded this amount. Cash from the Iona Fund usually exceeds £150k by approximately £30k, and the £1m budget could be index-linked to an average 2% i.e. £20k per annum. The Committee agreed that, within these parameters, a post which will focus on IP could be created for the research and Innovation systems. A condition for the Director of Innovation Services will be the necessity to increase the contribution to non-Science faculties in terms of funding. The Research Office will find a strategy for this. The possibility that good IP personnel could generate some wealth for College was noted. This income now goes to the *Cista Communis* but individual departments may be able to benefit in future.

5. Good Research Practice

In future, many donors will not grant funding if there is no evidence of good research practice e.g. Wellcome from 1st October 2002. They will be looking for evidence of integrity, openness, supervision, training, primary data and good publication practice. Health Sciences and BESS have ethics committees in place but otherwise the system is haphazard for the rest of College. Broad guidelines and principles are needed. M Gibney will contact Maynooth and find out about the work they have done in this area, and will provide five or six examples of good practice from the internet in advance of the next meeting. The Wellcome Trust will be informed that information will be available for them by 2002.

The issue of academic freedom was discussed. It was agreed that principles should be broad; a statement will be made regarding who determines these principles; and they will go to Board and Council.

6. Research Support System

The research support system will provide instant recognition of academic expertise in College. This expertise will be verified by an independent expert. The Dean of Research will discuss with the Director of IS Services the possibilities for hiring a manager to install and run the research support system for six to twelve months.

7. PRTL I Present and Future

The overall PRTL I budget was oversubscribed by £100m in Cycle 3. Results are expected in mid-November 2001. The donor may sit in on all the assessment, and has been good at providing feedback to College. The Provost has asked the Committee to

prepare a strategy for Life Sciences and Humanities. D Kelleher will provide M Gibney with a strategy document from his area. College received seven out of the 11 SFI awards made, and the Provost is committed to growing an institute out of this. M Gibney will discuss future funding with the Provost and report back to the committee.

8. Research Manpower Analysis

The Provost's vision of College is of a research-led university. M Gibney will discuss with P Daly, Staff Office how to identify research staff on the payroll, and will look at the guidelines needed to support staff working in College who are not on the payroll. He will report back to the committee on progress.

9. AOB

Each of the Berkeley Fellows 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 is required to give a public lecture as part of the fellowship. They will be asked to form a committee and come up with a lecture schedule. This could be a one-day event or a fortnightly evening lecture over two terms. It could also be recorded on video or for the radio. The committee is aware that some extra administrative work would be necessary to publicise this.

The next meeting will be at 2 p.m. in No. 1 College Green (Board Room) on Friday 9th November 2001.

Signed: _____

Date: _____