

Research Committee

Minutes of 9th November 2001

Present: Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Doris Alexander, Deirdre Savage, Hilary Tovey, John Saeed, Margaret O'Mahony, John Dillon, Sheila Greene, Elizabeth Drew (GSU), Dermot Kelleher

In attendance: Anthea Lees

Apologies: Clive Williams, John Fitzpatrick, David Dickson

1. Minutes of meeting 9th October 2001

Minutes approved and signed by Chairperson.

2. Matters Arising

Info Ed Data

M Gibney met with IS Services regarding use of Info Ed data. He is going to look at UK universities and see what systems they use. He will also find out if Info Ed can write a programme to integrate everything or the administration costs to set this up. M Gibney will have a second meeting with IS Services and will report back to the Research Committee.

Research Centres

The Research Office will look at previous minutes of the Research Committee to ascertain what exactly was agreed about research centres. Heads of Centres should be contacted as some are not recognised as cost centres. D Savage will provide the Research Office with a copy of the research centre document. The Dean of Research, Senior Lecturer and Treasurer have considered the issue of cost centres and recommend that "Centres, with separate cost centre arrangements, would have to constitute a 'Major Centre' with a minimum research funding of £200,000 recurring on an annual basis". It was suggested that problems with cost centres might be better solved at Dean's level. The Children's Centre has been running for six years and is now undergoing external review. It is a cross-faculty institution with good experience but it is not clear how it fits into College Research Policy. Some people in Research Centres were not asked to submit a Five-year Research Plan and may have felt excluded. It was suggested that they might be included next year.

Finance

The budget was overspent by 10% in the last two years so this year's budget will be smaller. M. Gibney would like to put a finance document on the web to ensure better communication.

Maintenance Grant Scheme

There was a discussion about requirements for the Maintenance Grant Scheme. M Gibney agreed that he would respond to any outstanding queries.

3. Good Research Practice

Good research practice should include integrity, openness, guidance to professional bodies, leadership and cooperation, supervision, code of responsibility of supervisors, training, primary data, samples retained, ethical practice and publication practice. It was suggested that the Glasgow document might be adopted with additions from some of the other documents. The Research Committee decided to pick a few of the documents and set up a Good Research Practice Working Group. M Gibney will report back to the Research Committee. The following people will be contacted: Sean O'Briain, Brian Torode (Sociology), Fiona Newell (Psychology), Cyril Smyth (Senior Dean), Kingston Mills, Elizabeth Drew (will find a postdoctoral student), Anne Molloy, Tom Turpin (FOI officer) and Doris Alexander. Results will be put up on the web.

4. HEA Study of Universities' Management of Research

It was stated that with increased funding coming into College, administration is coming under increasing pressure. CHIU and the HEA would like to compare research offices and management of research in different institutions. However, it was observed that structures differ for each institution and it is therefore difficult to find common ground. One way around this might be to consider the total administrative support for research effort which would include the Dean of Research's Office, Management Information Systems and Financial Offices. The Research Committee will monitor the results of the CHIU meeting on 16th November 2001.

5. Start-up Fund

The Research Office will send out the Start-up proposals to members of the Research Committee for evaluation. If there is a large number from one faculty, these will be divided up and sent around to everyone.

It was decided that Mark Brown, Zoology is eligible for Start-up Funding as he has already signed a contract with the College. Clinical teachers are not eligible because they do not meet the criteria. However, they may appeal.

6. AOB

The Registrar has suggested that the Research Committee needs one more member. Bill Harris, SFI or Jim Ryan, CIRCA were suggested as possibilities for an external member. Dermot Kelleher will report back at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. in No. 1 College (Board Room) on Friday 14th December 2001.

Signed: _____

Date: _____