

# **Research Committee**

## **Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2002**

**Present:** Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Deirdre Savage, Doris Alexander, Sheila Greene, David Dickson, John Dillon, John Saeed, Margaret O'Mahony, Elizabeth Drew

**In attendance:** Maria Treanor

**Apologies:** Michael Coey, Dermot Kelleher, Hilary Tovey, Jim Sexton; Clive Williams

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies noted.

### **2. Minutes of meeting 7<sup>th</sup> June 2002**

Minutes approved and signed by Chairman.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Research Information Database**

It is hoped to have something in place for the College internal schemes by October 2002. Funding would allow more work to be done more quickly. Intertrade Ireland will provide funding for an all-Ireland portal. TCD could participate in this if the information is in a format from which Intertrade Ireland are able to draw down.

#### **3.2 Review of High Performance Computing Centre**

The HPC Development Committee was unable to meet in June 2002. They will meet in July 2002.

#### **3.3 Research Centres – Recommendations to the Committee from Council**

M Gibney processed his report through Council. It was well received, and got a mandate to report back on Centres. A change in the College governmental structure will be required.

### **3.4 SFI Fellow Outreach**

M Gibney will ask J Sexton to report to the Committee at the next meeting.

### **3.5 Nursing and Maintenance Grants**

The School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies will have a significant non-pay budget element from the Department of Health and Children for its B.Sc. Course. 70 new staff members are expected to be covered by this funding and they would not be eligible for the Maintenance Grant. However, as there are already 20 fulltime permanent staff on their books who do not receive support, these 20 will be permitted to apply for the Maintenance Grant this year.

## **4. Allocation of Maintenance Grants**

The Research Committee allocated €1,460 to each applicant i.e. €556,260 to a total of 381 staff. These figures do not include numbers from the School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies. This brings the Committee over budget, and the balance will be paid from monies available from the Iona fund. The new Technology Transfer person will also be funded through the Research Committee budget and so it is foreseen that very little, if any, surplus will be available.

It was noted that there was little, if any, funding available from organisations such as the HEA and SFI when the scheme began. Now that the funding landscape has changed considerably, College needs to use its resources more carefully. In future, applicants for the Maintenance Grant in receipt of SFI or PRTLTI funds will have to justify their requests for funding, and the budget will be limited. The Committee will review the whole area and revise the criteria for next year. M Gibney will visit all the faculties early next term to explain the situation to them. The Committee agreed that they will need to discuss the issue of sabbaticals next year after the Deans meet.

## **5. Policy Document on Good Research Practice**

The Good Research Practice document is being sent to Board on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July and in September 2002, they will be asked to adopt the policy on Good Research Practice. They will have an opportunity to read the document during the summer, and make recommendations and changes before their next meeting. As reports should go to both Council and Board, an email will be sent to Council members indicating the web address for the document.

## **6. Workplan for 2002-3**

### **6.1 Research Budget**

The Committee will come up with a proposal regarding expenditure of their budget and bring it to Council and Board.

## **6.2 Research Centres**

M Gibney will continue to work on the Research Centres document. The Committee will look at issues regarding benchmarking of Centres. The Institute for International Integration Studies (IIS) and the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN) have been accepted by Board as cost centres.

## **6.3 Contract Staff**

M Gibney's offer to fund someone to work for the Staff Office next year on the issue of contract staff has been accepted by the Staff Office.

## **6.4 Outreach**

The Committee will look at issues regarding outreach and sabbaticals. They will consider how best to celebrate the Berkeley Fellowships and the College in general. It was suggested that evidence that the Berkeley Fellowships are productive should be built into the Calendar.

## **7. Dates for Meetings 2002-3**

The Committee agreed on a schedule of meetings for 2002-3. The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College Green at 2 p.m. on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_