

# **Research Committee**

## **Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2002**

**Present:** Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Deirdre Savage, Doris Alexander, Sheila Greene, David Dickson, Elizabeth Drew, Michael Coey, Dermot Kelleher, Hilary Tovey, Jim Sexton

**In attendance:** Maria Treanor

**Apologies:** John Dillon, Clive Williams

**Not present:** John Saeed, Margaret O'Mahony

### **1. Presentation on research opportunities in China**

Jinchen Chang, First Secretary (Science & Technology), Embassy of the People's Republic of China, made a presentation to the Research Committee on collaborative research opportunities and mechanisms for facilitating these collaborations in China. M Gibney will circulate copies to all the faculties before the next meeting. He will also organise a core group from which a visiting group may be assembled, and revert to Mr Chang for informal discussion in approximately six to eight weeks. In the meantime, D Alexander will find out if funding is available from the EU and Enterprise Ireland for exploratory visits to China.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies noted.

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

Minutes approved and signed by Chairman.

### **4. Matters Arising**

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

J Sexton will bring the report on the external review of the HPC Development Committee to the next meeting.

#### **4.2 Berkeley Fellowship Outreach**

J Sexton will report at the next meeting.

## **5. Overview of work for the forthcoming year**

### **5.1 Research Centres & Research Information Database**

The strategic document, which will soon be available, will identify research centres as a priority. These centres will need to be embedded in College structures. If College agrees with the recommendations made by the SFI working party on SFI centres, it will set up a sub-group to deal with research centres in general.

The Children's Centre is very successful and has received an offer of funding from Atlantic Philanthropy for five to six years before reverting to bringing in their own funding. They have a good record in this respect but the Treasurer's Office requires the Research Committee to act as guarantor for the centre should they fail to maintain their own funding base. This has implications for the Research Committee budget. The Committee agreed that a review of centres is needed, and a discussion on the Children's Centre is necessary.

As a result of the increased pressure on their budget, the Committee will have to find a way to increase research income to match the funding provided by Atlantic Philanthropy funding or prove to the Finance Committee that research is the way forward. M Gibney will consider the options and report at the next meeting.

The Provost is committed to development of a Research Information Database, and it has been written into the strategic document. However, as with other elements of the strategic document, there is an associated cost and it is uncertain when money might be made available for it. As many researchers are receiving funding through HEA and SFI, it may be necessary to reduce the funding they currently receive from the Committee so that the database may be paid for out of the Committee budget.

## **6. Berkeley Fellowship and Start-up evaluations**

Changes to the Berkeley Fellowship information were agreed. It was suggested that the Start-up Grant information would be discussed at the next meeting. A proposal was made that a group, nominated by the Research Committee, review the Berkeley Fellowship applications.

## **7. External nominees**

Instead of having external nominees at every meeting, it may be preferable to invite them for specific discussion areas e.g. policy. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College Green at 2 p.m. on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2002.

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

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