

## **Research Committee**

### **Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2002**

**Present:** Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Deirdre Savage, Dylan Scammell, Dermot Kelleher, Hilary Tovey, Jim Sexton, Margaret O'Mahony, Doris Alexander, Sheila Greene

**In Attendance:** Maria Treanor

**Apologies:** John Dillon, David Dickson, John Saeed, Clive Williams, Michael Coey

#### **1. Welcome**

The Committee welcomed Dylan Scammell, President GSU, who is replacing Elizabeth Drew.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2002**

Two corrections were made: late receipt of progress reports for the Maintenance Grant will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances such as illness (item 8); and the spelling of TCHPC (items 3 and 4).

#### **3. Matters arising**

M Gibney will circulate staff on a number of issues relating to research collaboration with China. He noted that an agreement has already been signed regarding student exchanges between Ireland and Hong Kong.

#### **4. Present financial position and the Research Committee budget**

- The Financial Review Advisory Board (FRAG) will make recommendations to the Provost. The current budget available for internal College schemes this year is approx. €600K. The first call on this will be the Technology Transfer Manager's salary.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed that approx. €250k each will be allocated for the Start-up and Maintenance Grant schemes, and that no funding will be available for Berkeley Fellowships this year. Applicants for the Maintenance Grant will be able to request amounts between €1k and €3k each. They will have to make a strong case for this Grant if they are already in receipt of research monies or explain why no other funding is available to them.

It was noted that expenditure should occur primarily within the year in which the grant is awarded which impacts on the financial results for the scheme.

Those already in receipt of Maintenance Grants will be asked to spend their grants as soon as possible.

- It was noted that Irish funding bodies, particularly the Councils, will have less funding available than in previous years. The only exception is SFI which has a ring-fenced budget.
- It was agreed that the Research Office will sign off only on the sections of proposals for which there may be a risk to College, such as intellectual property and space. The onus will be on Heads of Departments to deal with the logistics for costs. M Gibney, D Alexander, D Savage and the Treasurer have arranged to meet and discuss this situation.

**5. Berkley Fellowship applications for 2003/4**

M Gibney will write to all this year's applicants for Berkeley Fellowships immediately to advise them that no funding is available to pay for the scheme in the current year.

**6. Start-up grants**

The Start-up Grant application form will be modified and sent to the Committee for approval.

**7. Task force on centres**

M Gibney will draft a detailed questionnaire to all Directors of Centres in College requesting information at all levels. It will be reviewed by the Committee before it is sent out in the New Year. Those involved in education in the Centres will also be consulted.

**8. Strategic plans for designated areas**

The Provost wishes to receive a strategic plan from designated areas of research. D Kelleher is working on life sciences where different disciplines have met together and looked at areas which might need to be developed. It was suggested that each area could write up one or two slides which together would give a more composite view of life sciences in College or institutes and key departments could create a forum to meet on a regular basis. M Gibney and D Kelleher will meet with the Provost to discuss further what is needed in order to develop the plan for life sciences.

**9. Freedom of Information**

The Committee discussed whether it should make its minutes available on the College's external web pages. However, it was felt that the minutes should stay on the College local web pages

for the moment as some issues discussed are of strategic importance to the College. M Gibney will write to the Freedom of Information Officer and invite him to attend the next Research Committee meeting and clarify the situation regarding Freedom of Information and ongoing research strategy.

10. **Good Research Practice**

The Good Research Practice document has been approved by Board. M Gibney will write to the Secretary about two issues – restructuring the original medical ethics committee and the procedure for dealing with research fraud and misconduct.

11. **Review of HPC**

The high performance computer, which is essential for the TCHPC, will not be available unless the HEA comes through with PRTL funding. However, the general feeling is that the evaluation of the centre should proceed. J Sexton will come back to the Committee with the names of people – two or three commercially-oriented, two or three end-users – who could serve as reviewers for the TCHPC. He will also provide a few lines of text on each person.

12. **SFI Walton Visitor Awards**

The Committee agreed that all three applications for SFI Walton Visitor Awards should proceed.

13. **AOB**

It was agreed that the College as an institution will need to focus on entrepreneurial development. This could start as a suite of one-hour web-based programmes for students and work up to more intensive training.

J Sexton will prepare a sample Berkeley Fellowship web site and preparation for the proposed afternoon of talks will be deferred until further notice.

The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College Green, at 2 pm on Friday 10 January 2003.

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

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