

Research Committee

Minutes of 17th April 2003

Present: Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), John Dillon, Deirdre Savage, Jim Sexton, David Dickson, Sheila Greene, Margaret O'Mahony, Dylan Scammell, John Saeed, Hilary Tovey, Doris Alexander, Michael Coey

In Attendance: Maria Treanor

Apologies: Dermot Kelleher, Clive Williams

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 7th March 2003

Minutes approved and signed by Chairman.

2. Matters Arising

Andrew Mayes proposed that the new Professor of Theology be allowed to apply for start-up funding, and this was accepted by the Research Committee on condition that it not be seen as setting a precedent.

The research element of the proposed new College Strategy will be guided through by the Research Committee.

3. Maintenance Grants 2003

Each Maintenance Grant application was evaluated by two members of the Research Committee. Many applicants and evaluators were not aware of the re-introduction of the College Travel Grant, and the whole evaluation process was discussed at length in relation to the fairness of the marking system given that many had requested travel money. Given the difficulties associated with re-evaluating applications to take into account the re-introduction of the travel grant, it was agreed that M Gibney would review all the applications and evaluations, award a flat rate to all eligible applications, and make a decision on late / incomplete applications.

4. Research Information Database

Nine universities have agreed to support an all-Ireland portal for a Research Information Database, and most bought into InfoEd. In College, a committee has been working on providing an internally-developed system which would link into the portal as well as into other College databases. All that will be required from staff will be a standard CV with publications, interests, memberships, editorships, etc. Only the staff number of each individual will be kept private so that it can be used to link to other internal databases. It is important that all College databases are compatible with each other so that they can “talk” to each other and so that no duplication of data and hence inconsistencies could occur.

It is possible to buy bibliographic data from the last 25 years for approximately €15,000 in order to start to populate the publications sections of the CVs. This will not provide a complete record for the whole of College but will have a substantial amount of what is needed. The server needed for this will cost approximately €10,000 i.e. a cost to the Research Committee of €25,000. In addition, a person will be needed for four to six months to get this working. If the Research Committee makes €25,000+ available, it may also be possible to obtain some extra funding from the Provost.

In relation to maintaining the timelines of the data, the information on each individual will be kept up-to-date if it is a requirement for applications for College schemes / promotions.

5. Life Sciences Strategic Plan

As D Kelleher was not able to attend the meeting, the Life Sciences Strategic Plan was held over.

The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College Green, at 2 p.m. on Thursday 15th May 2003.

Signed: _____

Date: _____