

Research Committee

Minutes of 5th December 2003

Present: Michael Gibney (Dean of Research), Dermot McAleese, Clive Williams, Sheila Greene, Deirdre Savage, Doris Alexander, Jim Sexton, Michael Dowling, Dermot Kelleher, John Saeed

In Attendance: Maria Treanor

Apologies: Michael Coey

Not Present: David Dickson, Margaret O'Mahony, John Dillon

1. Minutes of the meeting of 07 November 03

Minutes approved and signed by Chairman.

2. Welcome

The Committee welcomed Prof. Dermot McAleese, Deans' Representative and Michael Dowling, Graduate Students Union.

3. Matters Arising

Good Research Practice (Whistle-blowing & Investigation of Allegations of Malpractice)

M Gibney has written to the Staff Secretary to find out whether new staff members should sign a statement that they have understood the good research practice process and how allegations of malpractice are handled.

Research Information Database

M Gibney has circulated an email urging people to test the prototype of the Research Information Database on 08 December 2003.

The library post has been approved at a cost of approximately €25k, so population of the database should start soon.

College Computer Subnets and Contractual Obligations

In relation to the current IS Services policy of not allowing any further subnets in College, M Gibney wrote to the Treasurer regarding the consequential risk to College from the Trinity Centre for High Performance Computing's inability to meet its contractual obligations if this policy is implemented. He has received a reply from her, and has also met with the Bursar. The TCHPC has contacted Eircom and will also talk to ESAT about acquiring a temporary external subnet service for the Centre. J Sexton will provide information on the cost of such a service.

In addition to the TCHPC, Philip Lane would be interested in having a subnet for swapping and discussing papers in the area of globalisation. It may be necessary for the Research Committee to set up a sub-committee to try to find a general solution for the problem rather than for a particular group. Nominations could include M Gibney, J Sexton, C Williams, Philip Lane and John Pethica or John Boland.

M Gibney will discuss this with John Nolan.

4. Research Budget 2003/2004

The College budget should be finalised by the end of January 2004 with an estimated €370k available for the Research Committee. Some of this money, however, is already committed (database employee, Technical Transfer Manager, research database server, buying bibliographical data for the database, start-up funding for new Professor of Theology). For the remainder, it was felt that there is a genuine need for start-up funding for new lecturers. In addition, although money is still available from College for conference travel, more might be needed. It would help if an emergency fund were available from the Research Committee through Heads of Departments.

M Gibney will talk to the Provost and Executive Officers and will send a proposal to members of the Committee by email.

D Alexander will find out the potential number of new lecturers for 2003/04.

5. Strategic Plan: Implementation of the Research Element of the Plan

The final part of the health element of the strategic plan will be delivered next week. The four themes of the strategic plan need a structure to integrate them with both the faculties and the

Research Committee. Themes should be justified e.g. directors reporting to the Research Committee and to the faculties. It is very important that there is a connection to faculties but that it is not locked into any one faculty, as themes are cross-faculty.

The Senior Lecturer will have this put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Deans' Committee.

6. Research Overheads

Research overheads were considered again by the Committee.

M Gibney will meet with C Williams and Tony Kavanagh to find out more about the list of allowable costs which has been drawn up for Science. Tony Kavanagh met with other heads of departments whose departments have large SFI grants, and he consequently drew up a list of eligible items for which overheads could be used.

M Gibney will also meet with the Treasurer and Bursar to discuss the possibilities for rewarding departments from overheads.

7. Any Other Business

Framework Programme 6 (FP6)

This item will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

SFI Walton Visitor Awards

Nine candidates wished to apply for the SFI Walton Visitor Awards but only five nominations are permitted from any one third-level entity. As all applications were excellent, a decision had to be taken on which five to nominate. A decision was made to exclude four: two of the application areas from Physics have just received CRANN funding; Prof. Vij has previously hosted an SFI visitor; and a three-month visit to the Institute of Neuroscience was felt to be too short.

The five candidates going forward are:

- Prof. Robert O'Doherty, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, USA (Clinical Medicine / J Nolan);

- Dr Robin Morris, NASA Ames Research Centre, USA (EEE / A Kokaram);
- Prof. John Conery, University of Oregon, USA (Genetics / K Wolfe);
- Alexander Baranov, S.I. Vavilov State Optical Institute, Russia (EEE / A Moore); and
- Prof. Kathleen Tanner, Queen Mary University of London (MME / P Prendergast).

The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College, at 2 p.m. on Friday 6th February 2004.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____