

**The University of Dublin**  
**Trinity College**

**Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 08 December 2005**

- Present        Ian Robertson (Dean of Research, DoR), Doris Alexander, Nigel Biggar, Alison Donnelly, Dermot Kelleher, Jane Ohlmeyer, Patrick Prendergast (Dean of Graduate Studies), Ryan Sheridan (President of the Graduate Students' Union), Clive Williams (Bursar), Marina Lynch, Mike Coey
- Apologies     Philip Lane, Deirdre Savage, David Lloyd, Brian Sweeney, Colm Kearney (Senior Lecturer), Jane Grimson
- In attendance  
(ex officio)   Maria Treanor, Jennifer Edmond

**RS/05-10/01    Minutes of meeting held on 27 October 2005**

The revised Minutes were approved and signed.

**RS/05-10/01    Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Ryan Sheridan is to join the Research Centres and Schools Liaison Committee, and the relevant documents are to be amended (RS/05-06/04).

*Action: Jennifer Edmond to amend Research Centres and Schools Liaison Committee documents.*

**SECTION A: Policy/Implementation**

**RS/05-10/03    Research Centres and Schools Liaison Committee**

The Directors of Research have nominated three people to represent the different areas in College. There have been two informal meetings: one with the Directors of Research and one with the Heads of the Research Centres. Both meetings were well-attended. There will be two meetings of the committee in January 2006 to discuss communication and criteria for becoming a research centre.

**RS/05-10/04    Research Groupings**

The text under the heading "Staff" in the *Policy on Research Groupings within TCD Report* will be reviewed in the context of the wide spectrum of the Fixed Term Workers Act. How to deal with naming centres will be discussed at sub-committee level. It was noted that institutes such as the Institute of

Molecular Medicine which is wholly within the School of Medicine and does not have the same governance problems as centres which sit between two or three schools. This will be taken into consideration when deciding on governance.

It was noted that 'cost centre model' is an accounting term and 'independent cost model' is to be used in the document. Details and purpose of the independent cost model and the school umbrella model were discussed, and the document was approved subject to some requested changes being included. In particular, in Section 4.2.1, it was agreed that the following sentence should be deleted: 'If there are multiple Principal Investigators from different schools, their percentage involvement in the work is noted at sign-off of the proposal, and ARAM credits divided accordingly.'. Where there are multi-school applications, agreement needs to be reached internally by the Heads of Schools / Institutes of the leading PIs as to their percentage involvement, and it will be assumed that this has been done before the proposal is brought to the Research Office for endorsement.

**RS/05-10/05 Review of the Research Element of the TCD Strategic Plan**

It was suggested that the Dean of Graduate Studies should join the Research Strategy Review.

The health strand implementation plan will be presented at the next Research Committee meeting. It was noted that MDs will be implicitly recognised as a component of the research element of the TCD strategic plan, and that this should be thus included in these minutes rather than amending the document again.

*Action: Dermot Kelleher to bring the health strand implementation plan to the next Committee meeting.*

**RS/05-10/06 Separate Legal Entities in the context of Inter-Institutional Collaboration in Research**

The Research Committee will prepare a memo of understanding for the Audit Committee.

## SECTION B: Implementation Decisions

**RS/05-10/07 Research Centres and Schools Liaison**

Discussed under RS/05-10/03 above.

**RS/05-10/08 First Benchmark Review of Bioscience**

The Provost recommended that the Committee invite some international experts to participate. Using an informal process, Peter Doherty, University of Melbourne and Stephen O'Rahilly, University of Cambridge gave their insights into developing life sciences at TCD, the use of the former An Post site and how to focus the new Biosciences building. This was an extremely useful exercise.

**RS/05-10/09 Brief on Strategic Plan to 2006-2009**

Discussed under RS/05-10/05 above.

**RS/05-10/10 TCD Nominee to CRANN Institute Board**

The Committee approved the selection of Prof. Kingston Mills, School of Biochemistry and Immunology to the Board of CRANN.

**RS/05-10/11 Establishment of CRANN as a Trinity Research Institute**

As Mike Coey is a director of CRANN, he absented himself for this item.

The Committee discussed the process in detail as it was felt that this might be taken as the model for all future applications. The phrase "subject to TCD's Intellectual Property regulations" should be part of the application.

The Committee agreed that additional information was needed before a decision could be made on CRANN i.e. appropriate financial statement; formal sign-off / letters of support from the relevant Heads of School; outline of a plan for longterm sustainability / contingency plan.

*Action: Mike Coey and Diarmuid O'Brien to include the requested information and resubmit the CRANN proposal to the Research Committee by 06 January 2006.*

**Section C: Items for Noting**

**AOB**

**RS/05-10/12 SFI Walton Visitor Award Scheme**

The five candidates nominated by the Committee for the SFI E.T.S. Walton Visitor Award scheme were put forward by Physics (2), Genetics (1), Pharmacology and Therapeutics (1), and Chemistry (1). The announcement of the results is expected in March 2006.

**RS/05-10/13 Future Meetings of the Research Committee**

The next six meetings of the Committee will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College, at 11.30 a.m. on 12 January 06; 23 February 06; 16 March 06; 06 April 06; 18 May 06; and 29 June 06.

Signed: .....

Date: .....