

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

**Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 06 April 2006**

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

**RS/05-06/27 Minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2006**

The Minutes were approved and signed.

**RS/05-06/28 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

RS/05-06/18: Membership of Business and Industry Sub-committee of Research Committee. Draft terms of reference and procedures deferred pending the appointment of the new Director of Research and Innovation Services.

RS/05-06/24: Renaming of and Plans for Enterprise Centre. The Site & Facilities Committee, chaired by the Bursar, deals with procedural issues such as the use of 'Campus' in 'Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus'. The Director of Buildings is currently responsible for operation and management issues. It was suggested that an Enterprise Centre development group should also be put in place.

RS/05-06/25: Establishment of CRANN as a Trinity Research Institute. The committee noted feedback from the Heads of School Committee that there are still issues to be resolved between CRANN and the Schools of Physics and Chemistry.

RS/05-06/26: Research Committee Budget. The provisions of the Fixed Term Workers Act have an impact on the College's financial commitments. Most Irish sponsors have not agreed to make provision for the Act and the resulting liability for College for this year will be approximately €7 million.

## SECTION A: Policy/Implementation

### RS/05-06/29 **Review of the Research Element of the TCD Strategic Plan**

The Research Element of the TCD Strategic Plan has been presented to meetings of all four strands. It is possible that a fifth strand, such as Transport, Energy & Environment, could emerge from some of the more diverse pillars over the next few years. The Committee would now like to get the views of Heads of Schools.

*Action: the Dean of Research will send the Development of the TCD Research Strategy, March 2006 to the Heads of School Committee for inclusion on the agenda of their next meeting.*

### RS/05-06/30 **Review of the Research Element of the TCD Strategic Plan**

Jane Ohlmeyer presented the review of Research Theme 4: Contributing to a deeper understanding of culture and the creative arts in Ireland and the world. About 90 Principal Investigators are associated with Theme 4, and they are keen to build on existing strengths. 19 major programmes have been identified with over 200 projects, some of an interdisciplinary nature. At the implementation process, it is hoped that funding will come from a variety of sources. College has an important contemporary history archive which is currently in storage. When the 1937 Reading Room has been extended, this archive would be incorporated. Ian Cooper, Finance Director of the Royal Society, could advise about valuing the collection and getting finance based on that value. The upgraded 1937 Reading Room would also be a centre for postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and visiting academics. Running costs will be a major issue.

Philip Lane presented the review of Research Theme 3: Contributing to the development of public social policy and to the understanding of the dynamics of globalisation across societies and nation states. 50 staff participate in the Institute for International Integration Studies. There are four levels of research: generic; Europe itself and as a model; Ireland and lessons learned; and a national centre of excellence in the area. The first level of capital expenditure is complete and the next step is to deal with implementation issues such as future recruitment in Schools; space organisation and restraints; and physical proximity of schools. As globalisation and ageing overlap, it was suggested that the working group for this theme should meet with TILDA (The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing) to discuss common areas of interest.

*Action: J Ohlmeyer will contact Ian Cooper, Finance Director of the Royal Society, for advice about valuing the contemporary history collection currently in storage.*

*Action: P Lane will arrange a meeting between the Theme 3 working group and TILDA to discuss common areas of interest.*

**RS/05-06/31 Establishment of a Working Group to Review, Agree and Articulate College Policy on Service Contracts and Contract Research Activities**

A working group will be set up to review, agree and articulate College policy on service contracts and contract research activities. The Bursar, a nominee from the Treasurer's Office, Prof. John Donegan and Prof. Charles Normand will be invited to participate, and it will be chaired by the Associate Dean of Research.

*Action: The Associate Dean of Research will present a paper from the working group to the Committee at the meeting on 29 June 2006.*

**RS/05-06/32 Criteria and Approval Process for Trinity Research Centres**

Centres are approved by Council and Board. They must fulfil the criteria for size, internal governance and School support. Those which have already been granted Centre status by Board will automatically be entitled to an initial three-year period with Centre status but will have to submit mandatory governance and financial agreement documentation. Other Centres will have to apply for status as a Research Centre. They should have a presence on the web and an entry in the College Calendar. Each Centre must have a director or academic champion who is a full-time member of staff on a contract of more than three years. The principal researchers must be members of staff on at least a three-year contract or contract of indefinite duration.

*Action: The Dean of Research will send a memo to Board asking them to approve the Criteria and Approval Process for Trinity Research Centres*

**RS/05-06/33 Nomination to Research Committee of Associate Dean of Research**

It was agreed that the Associate Dean of Research should be invited to become a full member of the Research Committee pending consultation with the Registrar.

*Action: The Dean of Research will find out if there is a maximum number of members for College committees.*

**RS/05-06/34 Establishment of TCIN as a Trinity Research Institute**  
Withdrawn

## SECTION B: Implementation Decisions

**RS/05-06/35 Establishment of a Trinity College Human Research Ethics Approval System and College Wide Human Research Ethics Committee**

Terms of reference for a human research ethics approval system and College-wide human research ethics committee will be drafted by a sub-committee of the Research Committee. Once established, the Ethics Committee will be independent of the Research Committee. The sub-committee will consider the information already available from international ethics' committees, and will have access to legal advice.

*Action: J Edmond will convene an ethics sub-committee which will present draft terms of reference at a future meeting of the Research Committee.*

**RS/05-06/36 Nomination of Exceptional External Candidates to Personal Chairs**

The Dean of Research presented formal procedures for appointing exceptional external candidates to personal chairs within TCD. The first stage is a letter to the Dean of Research jointly signed by the Heads of School wishing to host the incoming Professor. The Dean of Research then presents this to Executive Officers. If the candidature is accepted, a panel is convened by the Provost and includes the Dean of Research, the Senior Lecturer, representatives of the sponsoring schools/institutes and others at the discretion of the Provost. If the candidate is acceptable to the Provost and panel, the Provost nominates the candidate to Council.

The Research Committee approved these formal nomination procedures.

*Action: The Dean of Research will send the procedures to Board and Council for approval.*

**RS/05-06/37 Criteria for Research Activity**

Deferred

**RS/05-06/38 Sub-committee: Business and Industry**

Because of the commercial sensitivity of the minutes of the Business and Industry meetings, they will be distributed in the form of notes.

*Action: The Associate Dean of Research will co-ordinate distribution of the Business and Industry minutes.*

**Section C: Items for Noting**

**RS/05-06/39 ARAM**

The Dean of Research and the Treasurer have requested a meeting of policy groupings to discuss research proxy measures.

*Action: J Edmond will prepare a presentation for the next meeting.*

**RS/05-06/40 HEA PRTL4**

The next PRTL4 call will be no earlier than the end of May 2006.

**RS/05-06/41 EU Framework Programme 7**

Deferred

**RS/05-06/42 AOB**

The Graduate Students Union and the Dean of Graduate Studies are liaising to ensure that postgraduate students are kept informed about research opportunities and the availability of grants and scholarships. The Directors of Research in each School are responsible for publicising this information.

*Action: D Alexander will ensure that all Directors of Research are on the email listing for Research Focus.*

Signed: .....

Date: .....