

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 19 October 2006

Present Ian Robertson (Dean of Research, DoR), Alison Donnelly, Jane Ohlmeyer, Patrick Prendergast (Dean of Graduate Studies), Clive Williams (Bursar), Amanda Piesse, Martin Mullins, Ruth Palileo

Apologies Colm Kearney (Senior Lecturer), David Lloyd (Associate Dean of Research, ADoR), Brian Sweeney

In attendance Grace Dempsey (Treasurer), Doris Alexander, Maria Treanor

RS/06-07/01 Minutes of meeting held on 29 June 2006

The Minutes were approved and signed.

RS/06-07/02 Matters Arising from the Minutes

RS/05-06/31: Martin Mullins will convene a meeting to receive inputs on service contracts and contract research activity. The DoR, Bursar, Treasurer or Nominee and Doris Alexander will attend.

RS/05-06/54: Following the Audit Committee Report, membership of the Research Committee has been reduced to 10 with three in attendance. The DoR welcomed new committee members Amanda Piesse, Martin Mullins and Ruth Palileo.

Action: M Mullins will convene a meeting to receive inputs on service contracts and contract research activity, and will report back to the Committee.

SECTION A: Policy/Implementation

RS/06-07/03 Research Committee Members Representing the College Community

The Committee agreed that it was important that the full range of research in College is represented. Ideally there should be a representative from each of the strategic research strands. Dermot Kelleher and Philip Lane were proposed as the two representatives of the College community. For more complete representation, John Donegan should be invited to be in attendance.

Action: DoR will send a memo to Board proposing D Kelleher and P Lane as members representing the College community.

SECTION B: Implementation Decisions

RS/06-07/04 Trinity College Human Research Ethics Committee

An ethics procedure which is compatible with the one in St James's Hospital is needed for TCD staff carrying out clinical trials. However, the new structures in College should be agreed before progress takes place, and the Research Committee is postponing changes to ethics procedures pending discussions about the reorganisation of College and the Academic Medical Centre. The Dean of Research and the Treasurer met the Chief Executive of St James's Hospital in July 2006, and briefed the Director of Research and Innovation.

Action: M Mullins will bring proposals to a future meeting of the Research Committee.

RS/06-07/05 HEA PRTL4

The call for PRTL4 is now expected at the end of October 2006 with submission of a 25-page application by January 2007. Applications will be based on each university's strategic plan, and matching funds will probably be required. It is likely that there will be a bigger cap for national rather than institutional programmes. The Provost will make the final decision on what is to be included in TCD's submission. The Research Committee will endorse an internal process when the call comes out.

RS/06-07/06 ARAM – Research Proxies

The Research Committee has an important role in considering the issue of ARAM research proxies. 30% of the core budget is allocated according to research activity but the current criteria need some further consideration. DoR will prepare a discussion paper for the next meeting. He will circulate this and a paper by Terence Brown before the next meeting. It was noted that there are issues regarding what is counted as research.

Action: DoR will circulate a paper on ARAM research proxies and a paper by Terence Brown to the Committee before the next meeting.

RS/06-07/07 MOUs with Other Universities

Before the call for PRTL4 comes out, it would be useful for all the universities to know the strategic priorities of each Irish university. TCD now has an MOU with University College Cork with, for example, nutrition delineated as one of UCC's priorities and immunology and infection as one of TCD's priorities; a number of areas of joint prioritisation such as nanoscience and telecommunications are outlined. The MOU with University College Galway has a focus on arts and humanities while a third MOU with the Royal College of Surgeons has a wider reach and includes collaborations in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. Offers to make similar MOUs

have been made to the other universities. One expected result is a strong linkage between Irish universities.

An overall MOU on movement of staff between universities was signed by all the universities.

RS/06-07/08 Subcommittee: Business and Industry Committee

The Research Committee noted that membership of the Business and Industry Committee has remained unchanged for a long period of time, and the Terms of Reference need to be updated. Internationally, a model is emerging which tries to include a dimension to Business and Industry Committees where membership includes potential philanthropists who tend to be very interested in ensuring that the IP of a university is properly managed.

It was suggested that a small taskforce would examine peer institutions and come back with terms of reference for a restructured Business and Industry Committee. The new Committee would deal with strategic issues as well as particular projects and how to commercialise them. These terms of reference would be reviewed at the end of the first six months.

The Committee agreed that the Business and Industry Committee be put into abeyance pending the appointment of a restructured committee. There are no current issues, and any which arise in the interim will be brought directly to the Research Committee. Outside experts will be invited to attend particular meetings if needed.

Action: M Mullins will put together a strategy committee and will bring terms of reference to the Research Committee at the end of the first quarter 2007.

RS/06-07/09 EU Framework Programme 7

The Treasurer and Research and Innovation Office prepared a document on the impact of the proposed EU Framework Programme 7 rule changes. This was revised following recommendations made by the Finance Committee.

FP7 will run from 2007 to 2013, and the budget is expected to be in the order of €50 billion. It will be open to all discipline areas, and it is important that Irish universities participate, particularly as a number of Irish sponsors are now seeking evidence of leverage funding from international sources.

Currently, the Additional Cost Model (AC) is used to fund FP research in universities. It provides 100% funding of "additional" direct costs, including 20% to cover indirect costs. It is also the model used by most Irish sponsors. For FP7, the Commission is going to use the Full Economic Cost Model (FEC) providing 75% of full cost, including actual indirect costs. If the indirect costs cannot be determined by an EU-auditable accounting system, a flat rate of approx. 50-60% will be used. In order to reach direct cost cash income parity

with FP6, costs for academic staff time should be declared. It will be necessary for College to consider auditable time recording systems. In addition, a proportion of the overheads may be required to be utilised by the relevant research accounts for cross-subsidisation of direct costs.

Universities in the UK have already moved to the FEC model, and UK sponsors are in line with that move. If Irish education institutions decide to move to this model, it will take from five to seven years to implement the move to an EU-auditable research accounting system. It was suggested that colleagues in the UK should be contacted to find out how the model is working.

Action: DoR will discuss the FEC model with the Senior Lecturer with a view to getting it on the agenda for Heads of School at a later date.

RS/06-07/10 OIP Submission Update

TCD made its 2007 OIP submission to SFI and requested 40% (30% plus an additional 10%) i.e. €7.9m. Approximately 19% of the 30% has been requested for allocation to school / departmental funding, and is an increase of 34% on last year's allocation to that area.

The Committee agreed that SFI-related issues should be on the agenda of the next meeting.

RS/06-07/11 TCIN

As DoR is involved in the TCIN, he left the meeting for this item. The chair was taken by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Prof. Marina Lynch and Dr Judith Murphy made a presentation and answered questions.

TCIN consists of people from seven Schools, with primary loyalty to the School. Finance currently comes from a large PRTL3 grant which ends in September 2007. They are also dependent on the outcome of ARAM. Applications are currently being prepared for large grants from IDA, SFI (CSET) and PRTL4. They are due to receive VAT back (approx. €120k) on one large piece of equipment associated only with research. In addition, the second MRI scanner is likely to generate future income. It was noted that TCIN has a good scientific advisory board.

TCIN has verbal support from all of the Schools involved but they have not yet agreed financial arrangements. TCIN will use CRANN as their model in this regard. Both are very supportive of the activities of TCIN, and have identified neuroscience as important in their strategic plans. If TCIN becomes a TCD institute, an agreement will need to be worked out with the Schools.

The Committee fully endorsed the academic and research success of TCIN. The Committee requested that an executive summary be attached to the

TCIN document, along with letters of support from Heads of Schools. These will be required before the document can go to Board.

Action: M Lynch to provide a two-page executive summary and letters from the Heads of School for the next meeting.

Action: The Treasurer and Bursar will bring an update on ARAM to the next meeting of the Research Committee.

SECTION C: Items for Noting

RS/06-07/12 Results of Research Capacity Building and Start-up Schemes

There were 34 applications to the Research Capacity Building Scheme 2006, and €122k was awarded. There were also 34 applications to the Start-up Fund 2006, and €196k was awarded.

The budget for next year is not known yet but it was agreed that the current schemes appear to be working well. This will be discussed at a future meeting of the Research Committee.

The next meeting will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College, at 11.00 on Thursday 14 December 2006.

Signed:

Date: