

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 04 October 2007

Present: John Kelly (Chair); David Lloyd (Dean of Research, DoR and Acting Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, DoTRI), Alessio Frenda, Alison Donnelly, Dermot Kelleher, Jane Ohlmeyer, Clive Williams (Bursar); Philip Lane

Apologies: Brian Sweeney, Carol O'Sullivan (Dean of Graduate Studies)

In attendance: Maria Treanor, Treasurer

Section A: Policy/Implementation Issues

RS/06-07/51 Minutes of meeting held on 10 May 2007

The Minutes were approved and signed.

RS/06-07/52 Matters Arising from the Minutes

RS/06-07/36 Service Contracts and Contract Research Activity

Action: DoTRI to review definitions of research and service.

RS/06-07/37 Research in the Arts and Humanities

The reviewers' report on research in the Arts and Humanities went through Council in June 2007. It was noted that for this review, 130 people participated voluntarily. The Research Directors managed the process along with an Administrative Officer and Jennifer Edmond from Research Development. The final report was no longer than 100 pages.

Although there have already been a lot of reviews throughout College, the review of research in the Social Sciences and Business Studies area will go ahead under Michael Marsh and John Murray. It should be ready for the new Dean next year.

The next planned review of the Strategic Plan for the College will probably be an update in 2008. The DoR will clarify this with the Provost.

Action: J Ohlmeyer to bring Committee Members up-to-date on the review of research in Arts and Humanities at the December 2007 meeting.

Action: J Ohlmeyer to send the reviewers' report to Heads of School.

Action: P Lane will ensure that the review of research in the Social Sciences and Business Studies area is ready for the new Dean next year.

Action: DoR to clarify details of the next planned review of research with the Provost.

RS/06-07/40 Sick Leave Policy for Researchers

Action: Dean of Graduate Studies will circulate the document on the issues associated with the development of job title labels in the College, and will update the Committee at the next meeting.

RS/06-07/43 Trinity Long Room Hub

The requested changes were made to the Trinity Long Room Hub governance document. This was approved by the Research Committee, and also accepted by Heads of School. The Trinity Long Room Hub is now advertising for staff.

It was noted that Board has requested that Trinity Research Institutes should have financial arrangements in place, and that these should apply equally to all Research Institutes.

RS/06-07/45 HEA PRTL

DoR will report to Board on TCD's Phase 2 PRTL proposal before the next Committee Meeting.

Action: DoR to request comments on PRTL process by email from Committee Members before reporting to Board.

RS/06-07/47 Subcommittee: Business and Industry Committee

The revised Business and Industry Committee terms of reference were approved by Board.

RS/06-07/48 Research Committee Terms of Reference

The Research Committee terms of reference were approved by Board subject to review following the academic and administrative and services restructuring exercises next year.

RS/06-07/49 Research Committee Funding Schemes

The Research Capacity Building Scheme was not run last year due to budget constraints. It was agreed that this scheme was missed especially by people in Arts and Humanities, and that a mechanism is needed to bring funds to areas where they are needed. The Committee expressed a desire to implement schemes such as Research Capacity Building later this year depending on the available budget.

Section B: Implementation Decisions

RS/06-07/53 Review of College Statutes

It was recommended that the Dean of Research should be part of the Statutes Review Working Party. The Committee would like to use a copy of the first draft of the report as a mechanism for making proposals.

Action: Committee Members' comments to be sent to Eoin O'Dell.

RS/06-07/54 Draft Terms of Reference for Trinity Research Institute Directors

The Finance Committee has now expressed its views on the draft terms of reference for Trinity Research Institute Directors, and it was agreed that the Committee should read the latest document (June 07) before addressing this item. The Committee agreed that the terms of reference must be put in place for all current directors, and sent to directors of aspirant research institutes for information.

Action: June 07 document to be circulated and discussed at the next Committee meeting.

RS/06-07/55 Transition Plans for Trinity Research & Innovation (TRI)

Martin Mullins resigned from TCD in July 2007, and DoR is Interim Director of TRI. It was agreed that this could not continue beyond six months especially since there is no Associate Dean of Research. It was felt that the new DoTRI would find a "roadmap" of the department very useful to help understand the department and processes in place.

The department has undergone an external review of its status, activities and procedures, and the review report will be discussed at the next meeting of Executive Officers.

Ten TRI posts have been advertised. When the Director is in place in November 2007, the nine other TRI posts will be filled. It is hoped that all staff will be in place by January 2008 at the latest.

Action: DoR to prepare for the next Committee meeting a "roadmap" of TRI staffing, processes, responsibilities and areas which may need attention.

RS/06-07/56 AOB

The Committee extended an invitation to Jennifer Edmond to attend future meetings.

The Committee noted TCD's participation in the recent HEA Equipment Grant Scheme, and thanked Oonagh Kinsman and Jennifer Edmond for the support they provided to the Pro-Dean.

If TCD does not have a Full Economic Cost (FEC) schedule in place by 2010 which is acceptable to and auditable by the EU, the overhead on EU projects will decrease. The Treasurer invited Committee Members to attend a meeting on FEC Scoping with J&M Consulting at 2 p.m. on 30 October 2007 to discuss the issues. The next step will be to develop a potential model for each of the seven Irish universities with a view to getting an acceptable schedule in place by 2010.

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), with the support of IDA Ireland, is investing up to €14.6m in a collaboration with the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN) and NUI Galway on a major Research & Development programme for the discovery of new therapies to treat Alzheimer's Disease.

Action: Jennifer Edmond to be invited to attend future Committee meetings.

Action: Committee Members invited to attend a Full Economic Cost Scoping meeting with J&M Consulting at 2 p.m. on 30 October 2007.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will take place in the Conference Room, College Green, at 11.00 on Thursday 25 October 2007.

Signed:

Date: