

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

**Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 21 February 2008**

Present: John Kelly (Chair); David Lloyd (Dean of Research, DoR and Acting Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, DoTRI), Alessio Frenda, Philip Lane, Carol O'Sullivan (Dean of Graduate Studies), Bursar, Brian Sweeney, Dermot Kelleher, Jane Ohlmeyer

Apologies: Senior Lecturer, Alison Donnelly

In attendance: Maria Treanor, Jennifer Edmond, Deirdre Savage, Niamh Brennan

**Section A: Policy/Implementation Issues**

**RS/07-08/19 Minutes of meeting held on 13 December 2007**

The Minutes were approved and signed.

**RS/07-08/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

RS/07-08/08 & 13 Draft Terms of Reference for Trinity Research Institute Directors: P Lane reported on the review of Social Sciences scheduled for 13/14 June 2008. The internal review document should be ready for the reviewers by 10 May 2008.

RS/07-08/14 Report from Dean of Research: Trevor Kerley will send DoR a report from the Procurement Office on the tendering procurement process for the HEA Equipment Grant.

RS/07-08/15 Researchers-related Employment Issues: The Joint Research Committee/PAC sub-group has met and may have a report for next meeting of the Research Committee.

RS/07-08/18 Meeting with Directors of Research: The Committee discussed the issue of distribution of overheads in College, and agreed that clear guidance and policy are needed. It will be discussed by the Research Overhead Sub-committee, and committee members should write to this sub-committee with any opinions. The Bursar will provide a document and bring this issue to the attention of the Acting Treasurer.

DoR will call another meeting with the Schools' Directors of Research following the HEA PRTLTI call.

*Action: distribution of overheads will be discussed at the next meeting of the Research Committee.*

*Action: Trevor Kerley to send DoR a report on the tendering procurement process for the HEA Equipment Grant.*

*Action: Bursar will provide a document on the distribution of overheads, and bring this issue to the attention of the Acting Treasurer.*

*Action: DoR to call another meeting with the Directors of Research following the HEA PRTLl call.*

**RS/07-08/21 Report from Dean of Research**

College has applied for €11.2 million from the HEA Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme. This scheme supports refurbishment or conversion of facilities for research purposes. The TCD bid which was limited to three proposals provides for additional research work spaces. These included: Centres Enhancement Scheme (Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus) providing a bespoke facility for advanced microscopy and including equipment for an existing biological immunology research laboratory complex; Sir Patrick Dun's laboratories refurbishment (St James's Hospital campus) for translational research; and Arts Technology Research Laboratory (Trinity Technology and Enterprise Centre) providing a dedicated postgraduate media and arts technology research facility.

Feedback from SFI on TCD applications for funding underlined the importance of quality and completeness of applications.

**RS/07-08/22 College Ethics Policy**

The Research Committee Report on Good Research Practice was approved by Board in 2002 and reviewed by the Research Committee in 2006. It was agreed that College urgently needs an ethics committee. The hospitals have their own ethics committees but there should also be a College oversight committee. The Committee will approve terms of reference for an ethics committee at their next meeting.

*Action: The Committee will approve terms of reference for an ethics committee at their next meeting.*

**Section B: Implementation Decisions**

**RS/07-08/23 HEA PRTLl**

The Provost, DoR and Director of Buildings met with representatives of the HEA to discuss PRTLl5. The next call is expected at the end of March 2008.

The HEA is encouraging four-year PhDs with generic skills included. This could also include industry placements. The Committee agreed that this was acceptable up to a certain level but that Schools should still have the flexibility to structure their PhDs so that everyone may participate.

**RS/07-08/24 Research Committee Budget and Internal Funding Schemes**

It was agreed that internal funding elements of the Committee should be wholly devolved to the Research Development Office, with budget transferring to Trinity Research & Innovation when a scheme has been approved by the Committee. The Committee agreed to fund the Start-up Grant scheme with a budget of approx. €250k.

The Committee discussed the problem for Arts & Humanities of finding smaller funding grants for this area. They also considered some of the other internal funding available to researchers. DoR will discuss this with the three Deans of Faculty and find out what is required in each faculty. They will also discuss peer-to-peer review. D Savage will check what the uptake has been over the last three years for other internal funding schemes.

*Action: Committee to publish call for Start-up Grant 2008.*

*Action: DoR to discuss faculty funding requirements with the three Deans of Faculty. They will also discuss peer-to-peer review.*

*Action: D Savage to check what the uptake has been over the last three years for other internal funding schemes.*

**RS/07-08/25 Research Support System**

Niamh Brennan made a presentation on the Research Support System (RSS) which has developed largely in response to the needs of the College community. It is CV-driven and aims to avoid duplication in college systems. It can be used to produce reports, including the list of new publications for the College calendar. By making their papers freely available on the web, academics increase access and the likelihood of citations. A copy of the presentation will be circulated to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the value of the RSS to College and the need to resolve issues regarding the provision of funding. This will be on the agenda of the next Committee meeting.

*Action: RSS presentation to be circulated to the Committee.*

*Action: funding of the RSS to go on the agenda of the next meeting.*

**RS/07-08/26 Research Centres and Schools Liaison Committee**

The Research Committee agreed with the recommendation of the Research Centres and Schools Liaison Committee, and approved six

TCD centres: Centre for Post-Conflict Justice; SPARC (Social Policy and Ageing Research); Pharmaceutical Research Centre; Oscar Wilde Centre; Centre for Global Business Systems; and Centre for Global Health.

They thanked J Edmond for her work on this committee and noted that J Ohlmeyer will step down as Chair at the end of this academic year.

Any issues arising will be discussed at a future meeting of the Research Committee.

**RS/07-08/27 Any Other Business**

Researchers would like to have a policy on hosting conferences in College.

*Action: Committee to draft policy on hosting conferences in College at the next meeting.*

**Section C: Items for Noting**

**RS/07-08/28 Centre for Microscopy and Analysis**

The Centre for Microscopy and Analysis (CMA) Annual Report 2006/2007 was circulated to the Committee. The Chairman remarked that that over the years the CMA had provided an excellent service to researchers throughout the College and that it was important that if they were to be relocated to new space, they should retain a separate identity.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will take place in the Large Conference Room, O'Reilly Institute, College at 11.00 on Wednesday 12 March 2008.

Signed: .....

Date: .....