

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 12 March 2008

Present: John Kelly (Chair); David Lloyd (Dean of Research, DoR and Acting Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, DoTRI), Alessio Frenda, Alison Donnelly, Philip Lane, Carol O'Sullivan (Dean of Graduate Studies), Jane Ohlmeyer, Senior Lecturer

Apologies: Brian Sweeney, Dermot Kelleher, Bursar

In attendance: Maria Treanor, Doris Alexander, Deirdre Savage

Section A: Policy/Implementation Issues

RS/07-08/29 Minutes

The Minutes were approved and signed.

RS/07-08/30 Matters Arising from the Minutes

RS/07-08/18 Meeting with Directors of Research: the Research Overhead Committee will present a draft policy on the distribution of overheads at a future meeting of the Research Committee.

RS/07-08/22 College Ethics Policy: the Committee agreed that a sub-committee should be set up. Membership will include the Director of TCIN or nominee; Vice Provost for Medical Affairs or nominee; Director of the Children's Research Centre or nominee; representative of the Graduate Students' Union; nominee from the Trinity International Development Initiative (TIDI). Committee members should send any other nominations to DoR by 20 March 2008. The sub-committee should meet before 17 April 2008.

RS/07-08/24 Research Committee Budget and Internal Funding Schemes: the Committee approved funding for Start-up Grants and a Research Capacity Building scheme. It was noted that the uptake on the Research, Training and Conference Travel Scheme (http://www.tcd.ie/Treasurers_Office/finresources/fin_conftravel.php), which is offered to academics as part of their contracts, was approx. 48% for 2005 and 2006, and 35% for 2007.

RS/07-08/25 Research Support System: issues regarding the provision of funding for the RSS will be on the agenda of a future Committee meeting.

RS/07-08/26 Research Centres and Schools Liaison Committee: the Committee noted that in addition to the six centres approved for three years, two other centres were each provisionally approved for one year – Centre for War Studies and Centre for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development.

Action: Research Overhead Committee to present draft policy on the distribution of overheads at a future meeting.

Action: nominations for College Ethics Policy Sub-committee to DoR by 20 March 2008. Sub-committee to meet before 17 April 2008.

Action: Start-up Grants and a Research Capacity Building scheme to be advertised by Research Development Office.

RS/07-08/31 Report from Dean of Research

Planning permission has been approved for the An Post site for two buildings totalling approximately 29,000 square metres. Work will begin on the biosciences building on 14 April 2008.

The results of TCD's applications to the SFI Strategic Research Clusters Programme will be known in about six to eight weeks' time.

Section B: Implementation Decisions

RS/07-08/32 Hosting Conferences in College

Conferences held in College can raise the profile of TCD and are also a major forum for publication in many disciplines. Chairing a prestigious conference can often be viewed as at the same level as editing a journal. Most conference organisers try to keep registration costs at a minimum to facilitate participants with high travel costs but College charges a 10% overhead on all self-financing activity including any registration income. Priority is not given to staff members hosting conferences. There is a small discount available to them for the use of College facilities although they may apply to the Senior Dean to have an event classed as an education meeting with no registration fee. There used to be a College Conference Committee but now decisions are made purely on a business level. The Committee agreed that the Bursar should convene and chair a Working Group on College Conferences.

Action: Bursar to convene and chair a Working Group on College Conferences.

RS/07-08/33 Restructuring Implementation Oversight Group

The Senior Lecturer briefed the Committee on the draft report and recommendations of the Restructuring Implementation Oversight Group (RIOG) on Revised Committee Structures. The RIOG

recommends that each of the eight Principal Committees review their remit and the remits and functions of their sub-committees and associated committees/working groups and make recommendations to the RIOG on a future structure and terms of reference of the Principal Committee and, if appropriate, the sub-committees and associated committees/ working groups.

Following receipt of proposals from the Principal Committees, the RIOG will consider the effectiveness of the proposals with a view to ensuring that processes are clear, efficient and transparent allowing for timely decision-making, and that there is no duplication or overlap across principal committees and management groups. The outcome of reviews by the Principal Committees will be considered by the RIOG in preparing a final report and a set of recommendations on committee structures for decision by Council and Board in Trinity Term 2008.

The Committee noted that the Draft Report to Council on Annual Officers on the College restructuring website recommends that DoR should be a member of Council. They agreed that it is critical that the Research Committee continues to be a principal committee. They will review the remit of the Research Committee and the remits and functions of its sub-committees, and will decide on recommendations to the RIOG on future structure and terms of reference at their next meeting. Committee members should email their recommendations to DoR by 19 March 2008. It was noted that the Research Committee must be chaired by an elected member of Board, and that this is not a reflection on the status of the Dean of Research.

Action: Committee members to email their recommendations on reviewing the remit of the Research Committee and sub-committees to DoR by 19 March 2008.

RS/07-08/34 Procurement for 2008 HEA Equipment Grant

The Committee welcomed the detailed report from the College Procurement Officer identifying the significant savings made to College as part of the procurement exercise carried out in respect of the recent HEA 2008 Equipment Call. The Committee was advised that the procurement section on the Treasurer's Office website has been updated since this exercise and is now clearer regarding the process.

RS/07-08/35 Any Other Business

Cycle 2 of the HEA Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF2) is providing €97 million for a range of projects in Irish third-level institutions. Of the €97 million, €40 million has been allocated to the Dublin Region Higher Education Alliance (DRHEA) which is made up of the four

universities and four Institutes of Technology in the Dublin region. In addition to the €7 million, another €3 million has been reserved for two projects. One is on internationalisation and the other on systems. If the project on systems is approved, it is expected to receive approximately €30 million. The project on internationalisation is an application on behalf of the DRHEA. The project on systems is the kernel of the TCD SIF bid and if funded would, with the internalisation project, provide approximately €27m to TCD.

Section C: Items for Noting

RS/07-08/36 College Contract Authorised Signatures

The Committee noted that the Contracts Manager and the incoming Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation have both been authorised as College signatories for contract acceptance.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will take place in the Board Room, No. 1 College, at 11.00 on Thursday 17 April 2008.

Signed:

Date: