The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 19 June 2008

Present: John Kelly (Chair); James Callaghan (Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADoTRI and Secretary), Alessio Frenda, Philip Lane, Carol O'Sullivan (Dean of Graduate Studies), Bursar

Apologies: David Lloyd (Dean of Research, DoR), Jane Ohlmeyer, Dermot Kelleher, Brian Sweeney, Senior Lecturer, Alison Donnelly

In attendance: Maria Treanor, Deirdre Savage, Ronan Hodson

Section A: Policy/Implementation Issues

RS/07-08/47   Minutes 08 May 2008
The minutes were approved and signed but as the meeting was not quorate, they will be circulated to the rest of the Committee for approval.

Action: Minutes of May 2008 meeting to be circulated for approval.

RS/07-08/48   Welcome
The Chair welcomed Ronan Hodson, incoming President of the Graduate Students Union.

RS/07-08/49   Matters Arising from the Minutes
RS/07-08/40: The Research Committee terms of reference were sent to the Restructuring Implementation Oversight Group (RIOG) on Revised Committee Structures but there will be no change to the way the Committee functions during 2008/09.

RS/07-08/43: The Chair has contacted the Staff Secretary regarding the Working Group on Research Careers, and will follow-up on this for the next Board meeting.

Section B: Implementation Decisions

RS/07-08/50   HEA PRTLI 5
No announcement has been made yet.

RS/07-08/51   SFI Programmes
There were 27 submissions for the SFI Principal Investigators scheme in April 2008. The next call opens in September 2008. Principal Investigators are no longer allowed to charge their own salaries or the salaries of lead applicants to projects under this scheme.

There were eight applications to the SFI Strategic Research Clusters scheme. TCD is leading two and is co-applicant on six. The deadline for resubmission to this scheme was 13 June 2008.

It was noted that Lisa Keating, Enterprise Ireland, is going to meet with the staff of Trinity Research & Innovation to present some Enterprise Ireland research funding schemes. She will make the same presentation to TCD PIs later in the year.

RS/07-08/52   College Overhead Policy and Trinity Research Institutes Policy
The Committee members present approved the TCD Indirect Costs Policy subject to some minor modifications. The revised document will be circulated to all members for approval. The paper will then be sent to Board for noting.

Marina Lynch, Director of TCIN, asked the Committee to consider making some changes to the TCD policy on funding Trinity Research Institutes (TRIs) with regard to the distribution of overheads and input from Principal Investigators. After much discussion, it was decided that as Prof. Lynch's concerns are covered by the agreed policy and may be negotiated, this policy document should remain unchanged. It was suggested that the Bursar could be the final arbiter should any disputes arise. DoR will provide feedback to Prof. Lynch. It was agreed that this document should now go to Board for noting. In addition, the Committee should review this policy within three years.

Action: Funding paper to be sent to Board for noting.
Action: DoR to provide feedback to Director of TCIN.

RS/07-08/53   Good Research Practice / Ethics
Members have been identified for the Ethics Sub-committee but a chair has not yet been appointed.

RS/07-08/54   **Research Webpages**
The Committee noted that although there is no direct link for postgraduate students from the main College webpage, this will be changed and will link to a list of postgraduate opportunities.

RS/07-08/55   **Any Other Business**
The Social Sciences Review took place on 13/14 June 2008, and DoR was present. It was noted that the College Research Support System proved very helpful in generating reports and bibliometrics for the review. The Review report, which will be available in late July 2008, should go to the first 2008/09 Board meeting.

Members were briefed on the Trinity Exploration Campus memorandum which DoR presented to Board on 18 June 2008. Hugh O'Regan owns property in Kiltiernan part of which will become a business park with halls of residence, lecture halls which could be used for small conferences, and a science and technology campus. This will be on the agenda of the next Committee meeting.

Action: Trinity Exploration Campus to go on the agenda for the next meeting of the Research Committee.

Section C: Items for Noting

RS/07-08/56   **Meeting with Directors of Research**
The Chair welcomed the Directors of Research to this part of the meeting. He introduced Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, James Callaghan, who briefly explained the work carried out by his unit. As a lot of TCD intellectual property is not being exploited, Dr Callaghan plans to look at policies and processes over the next six months, and will be asking Principal Investigators for their comments.

PRTLI 5: The HEA has made no announcement yet. It is expected that the total budget will be €300 million for capital and €100 million for a graduate education programme. They are currently reviewing the state of structured Ph.D. programmes. It was noted that although there may not be any funding for research programmes, the budgets of the two Irish Research Councils have increased considerably in the last year. DoR will meet with the Directors of Research when the announcement is made.

SFI Programmes: There were 27 submissions for the SFI Principal Investigators scheme in April 2008. The next call opens in September 2008. Principal Investigators are no longer allowed to charge their

own salaries or the salaries of lead applicants to projects under this scheme.

There were eight applications to the SFI Strategic Research Clusters scheme. TCD is leading two and is co-applicant on six. The deadline for resubmission to this scheme was 13 June 2008.

It was noted that Lisa Keating, Enterprise Ireland, is going to meet with the staff of Trinity Research & Innovation to present some Enterprise Ireland research funding schemes. She will make the same presentation to TCD PIs later in the year.

The Provost has held a meeting to consider whether College needs an energy initiative. It was agreed that this should not be restricted to Engineering and Science.

It was noted that PIs who apply for an SFI Principal Investigator (PI) award in September 2008 cannot apply to the same scheme in Spring 2009, which is before the end of the review process, or to the Research Frontiers Programme (RFP) in October 2008. However, as long as they take the reviewers' comments for their RFP applications on board, they may apply again to the RFP in October 2009. DoR was asked to look into this and provide any feedback from SFI.

College Overhead Policy: The Directors of Research made comments on the new policy and asked D Savage questions regarding the return of overheads to Departments / Schools.

Trinity Research Institutes Policy: This policy now has broad agreement and it was noted that the Research Committee had reviewed some concerns at the earlier part of the meeting. It was agreed that it is crucial to define the relationship between Institutes and Schools, and that more guidelines are needed regarding distribution of overheads. It was also pointed out that Directors of Research are not currently being consulted on research policy matters.

Good Research Practice / Ethics: The TCD Good Research Practice document was approved by Board in 2002. The Research Committee now wishes to review this document, and has agreed terms of reference for a sub-committee. Members have been identified for the Ethics Sub-committee but a chair has not yet been appointed. It was agreed that it is important to have an ethical oversight policy for the College. The Trinity Human Research Ethics Oversight System (THREO) Draft Terms of Reference for the Constituent Committees will also be brought to the attention of the Ethics Sub-committee.

Research Web Pages: The Directors of Research will provide any feedback to DoR. It was noted that some PIs use the email addresses of the hospitals where they work rather than their TCD email addresses.

Research Proxies: The Bursar is Chair of the ARAM Taskforce, and they have reviewed whether the two research proxies – Ph.D. students and expenditure on research – currently being used are an accurate enough indicator of research output. The ARAM Taskforce is looking for suggestions for a third proxy to ensure that all areas within college are represented. Input should be sent directly to the Bursar before the end of this academic year.

Any Other Business: The IRCHSS will launch a new Research Development Initiative Scheme on 20 June 2008. Their Research Project Grants Scheme should be announced later this year.

Action: DoR will meet with the Directors of Research when the HEA announces PRTLI 5.
Action: DoR to look into new rules preventing applications to both the PI Award scheme and the RFP at the same time, and to provide any feedback from SFI.

This was the final meeting of the Research Committee for 2007/08. The first meeting for 2008/09 will take place in September 2008 – date and venue to be decided.

Signed: ………………………….

Date: ………………………….