

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 06 April 2009

Present: Prof. Shane Allwright (*Board member and Chair*), Dr James Callaghan (*Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADoTRI and Secretary*), Dr David Lloyd (*Dean of Research, DoR*), Prof. R Stalley (*Heads of School representative*), Prof. Patrick Honohan (*representative of College research community*)

In attendance: Dr Camilla Kelly (*Research Development Office*), Ms Deirdre Savage (*Nominee of Treasurer*), Mr Tony McMahon (*Staff Office*) (for RS/08-09/23).

Apologies: Mr Ronan Hodson (*President of the GSU – ex officio*), Prof. Carol O'Sullivan (*Dean of Graduate Studies*), Dr Karen Walshe (*Board member*), Ms Doris Alexander (*Research Development Officer*), Prof. Dermot Kelleher (*representative of College research community*), Prof. Patrick Prendergast (*Vice-Provost*)

RS/08-09/20 Minutes of 29 January 2009

Changes were incorporated and the minutes were approved and signed.

RS/08-09/21 Matters Arising from the Minutes

RS/08-09/13 Any Other Business: DoR to circulate Indirect Costs Policy to all Heads of School.

RS/08-09/15 Research Ethics Board: DoR has identified and contacted people by email regarding the Research Ethics Working Group. DoR would like to convene three meetings within six weeks. Development of guidelines for stem cell research will be included. David McConnell has been asked to prepare a paper on this issue. The Chair will invite Deirdre Madden, UCC, to a future meeting of the Research Committee and/or Research Ethics Working Group. In the absence of College policy, the Committee agreed that the Research Ethics Working Group will be asked to make a recommendation on the substance and procedure of a specific request by a TCD academic to import an embryonic stem cell line. The Research Committee will make a decision on this specific case based on this recommendation.

RS/08-09/16 Update on Relationship between Research Centres/Institutes and Faculties/Schools (sub-committee): It was agreed that there is a need to clarify the reporting structures. Centres

currently lie outside the Schools structure. The Chair will email the Vice-Provost to request that the Research Committee be kept informed regarding the relationship between Research Centres/Institutes and Faculties/Schools (sub-committee).

RS/08-09/17 Research Committee Sub-committees and Working Groups: ADoTRI will circulate the minutes of the next Business and Industry Committee meeting to the Research Committee.

RS/08-09/19 DoR discussed options for additional meetings between Directors of Research.

Action: DoR to circulate Indirect Costs Policy to all Heads of Schools.

Action: Chair to invite Deirdre Madden, UCC, to a future meeting of the Research Committee.

Action: Research Ethics Working Group to make a recommendation to the Research Committee on the possible importation of an embryonic stem cell line by a TCD academic.

Action: Chair to email Vice-Provost to request that the Research Committee be kept informed regarding the relationship between Research Centres/Institutes and Faculties/Schools (sub-committee).

Action: ADoTRI to circulate the minutes of the next Business and Industry Committee meeting to the Research Committee.

Action: Suggest to Directors of Research that they organise to meet at Faculty level e.g. before or after executive meetings; or before or after Research Forum meetings.

RS/08-09/22 Any Other Business

College is moving towards an Open Access policy. DoR will propose an Open Access policy at the next meeting of the Research Committee. Niamh Brennan will be invited to the next meeting to present any issues relating to Open Access policies. DoR will also brief the Committee and Research Directors on the research strategic planning team.

Section A: Policy Items

RS/08-09/23 Working Group on Research Careers

Tony McMahon, Staff Secretary, summarised the Report of the Joint Research Committee/PAC Working Group. The Committee discussed possible issues such as: appointments at Research Assistant level; PI

choice regarding appointment levels when the size of the grant is often the determining factor; (high) fixed postdoctoral scales; research nurse / doctor salary scales; the applicability of the report to short term contracts; and the views of funding agencies.

The Committee approved the document in principle but asked that the issues discussed at the meeting, in particular the issue of obligatory grade increases as well as any comments received from Doris Alexander, be taken into consideration by the Working Group.

Action: Doris Alexander to review Report and send any comments to the Working Group and Chair.

RS/08-09/24 PRTLI 5

The Dean of Research updated the Committee on the nature of the College's PRTLI bid. The prioritisation of the College's capital development on Pearse Street was explained. The Committee was in agreement with the emphasis on disciplinary structures for PhD training, augmented through a universal generic skills programme across College via the Innovation Academy.

RS/08-09/25 TCD-UCD Innovation Alliance

The TCD/UCD Innovation Alliance is a radical partnership programme which aims to mainstream innovation as one of the pillars of graduate education alongside education and research. Over the next 10 years, it is envisaged that the Innovation Alliance will deliver over a thousand 4th-level world-class graduates annually; will see joint development and scale-up of TCD and UCD technology transfer and enterprise development activities; will establish 300 new high-value companies (assuming that one in 40 graduates generates an idea that eventually leads to the formation of a company); and will lead to an environment to enable the generation of 30,000 new jobs. The Alliance will be a prototype for a national ecosystem to establish Ireland as an international hub for innovation. It will be similar in concept to the IFSC but focussed on the creation and scaling up of indigenous knowledge and technology-intensive enterprises and the attraction of multinational employers that will become the cornerstone for the knowledge economy.

RS/08-09/26 Any Other Business

The Committees Structure Working Group may recommend that the Research Committee relinquish its financial function and become a committee of Council. The Research Committee is currently the only College Committee with a budget. The Committee were agreeable to such a transfer but wished to ensure that the budget for start-up funds etc. was not lost and that DoR should retain access to a small budget for hospitality.

The implications of the HEA moratorium on employment on research contracts was discussed.

Section B: Implementation Decisions

RS/08-09/27 Draft Call for Start-up Grants for New Lecturers 2008/09
Document approved.

RS/08-09/28 Research Proposal and Award Management System (RPAMS)
Currently research proposals and awards are tracked manually by matching proposals against contract information. With an automated system, it is envisaged that Heads of School will be able to monitor research activity. A document requesting input to the 'requirements capture process' was circulated both to the Research Committee and to all Directors of Research. This item will also be discussed with the Directors of Research at the next meeting of the Research Committee.

Action: ADoTRI to prepare and circulate an explanatory paragraph to the Research Committee.

Action: Members to send any comments to Donal Lyons before the next meeting on 23 April 2009.

Section C: Items for Noting

RS/08-09/29 Responsibility Index for Science
Document noted.

The next meeting of the Research Committee will take place in the Science Gallery, College, at 11.00 on Thursday 23 April 2009.

Signed:

Date: