

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 5th October 2010

Present: Professor Patrick Prendergast (*Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer and Chair*), Professor Michael Marsh (*Dean of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences*), Professor Colm O'Moráin (*Dean of Health Sciences*), Dr James Callaghan (*Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADTRI, and Secretary*), Professor Veronica Campbell (*Dean of Graduate Studies*), Professor James Wickham, Professor Linda Doyle, Professor John Boland, Ms Patricia Callaghan (*Academic Secretary*), Dearbhail Lawless (*President of the Graduate Students' Union*), Dr John Walsh (*Chair of the Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA)*)

In attendance: Dr Patrick Geoghegan (*Associate Dean of Research, ADoR*), Ms Deirdre Savage (*Nominee of Treasurer*), Dr Camilla Kelly (*Research Development Office & Minute Secretary to the Committee*), Niamh Brennan (*TCD Library*) for item RS/10-11/06

Apologies: Dr David Lloyd (*Dean of Research, DoR, and Deputy Chair*), Professor Dermot Kelleher (*Faculty of Health Science Representative*), Professor Poul Holm, Ms Doris Alexander (*Research Development Officer*)

Not present: Professor Clive Williams (*Dean of Engineering, Mathematics & Science*), Professor Cecily Begley

Section A

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year, and commenced with a round-table introduction from old and new members.

The ADTRI informed the meeting that item A4 on the agenda, Template for Services Agreement, was withdrawn on request from the DoR.

The Chair informed the meeting that Professor Cecily Begley has been co-opted to the Committee in place of Professor Shane Allright, who recently resigned from the Committee due to other commitments.

RS/10-11/01 Minutes of 8th June 2010

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed subject to the following amendments and clarifications.

Item RS/09-10/58: The ADoR suggested the following revisions to the minutes pages 2-3, which were accepted:

"The ADoR presented a number of possible options arising from the review:

[points 1-3 as stated].

4. Hold a forum for Directors of Research Centres (and Directors of Research Centres seeking recognition) and discuss shared concerns and issues. It would also be worthwhile to consider the existing criteria for recognising Research Centres and whether new criteria needed to be devised. The forum would also discuss the definition and purpose of a Research Centre and how it contributed to the strategic objectives of the College.

[Paragraphs 1,2,3 as stated].

Some members of the Committee raised concerns about space for centres and sought clarification about the added value Research Centres brought to College. It was suggested that it needed to be demonstrated that Research Centres provided a genuine focal point for research activity (for example papers, books and seminars), which could not take place in their absence.

In closing the discussion, the ADoR agreed to hold a forum for the Directors of Research Centres (and Directors of Research Centres seeking recognition) to discuss the recent information gathering exercise and the various issues arising out the report and the meeting of the Research Committee (for example, the definition of a Research Centre, criteria for recognition, and whether it is worth creating a fourth category of research grouping). The ADoR would report on this forum at the next meeting of the Research Committee.

Action: The ADoR to hold a forum for Directors of Research Centres (and Directors of Research Centres seeking recognition) in September to discuss the recent information gathering exercise and the various issues arising out of the report, and return to the Research Committee with the results of the forum together with suggestions for new criteria for recognising Research Centres."

Item RS/09-10/60: The ADTRI, on behalf of Doris Alexander, asked for this policy change (also see RS/09-10/46), applicable as of 1st October 2010, to be clarified. The policy refers to lecturing/professorial staff only AND is subject to sponsor eligibility criteria. This policy does not pertain to those who receive or have received TCD recognition in the rank of Senior Research Fellow. In particular, the latter recognises that someone who has attained the TCD title of Senior Research Fellow 'may hold research grants in their own name as lead Principal Investigator'. This does not, however, confer a right to apply for funding to research schemes where the applicant (the Senior Research Fellow) is not eligible or which contravenes contractual obligations of existing grants. A

Senior Research Fellow must be able to secure his/her salary from the application being applied for in proportion to the time he/she will allocate to that grant.

Item RS/09-10/61: The ADTRI, on behalf of Doris Alexander, asked for the following correction.

Paragraph 2:

Change

"The DoR reminded the Committee that the College's Policy on Good Research Practice was clear about the types of research College should and should not engage in; any application for funding that required a 'statement of military relevance' would not be acceptable."

to

"The DoR reminded the Committee that the Board-approved Code of Ethics was clear about the types of research College should and should not engage in; any application for funding that required a 'statement of military relevance' may not be acceptable. Where there is a requirement for such a statement, it will be submitted to the DoR for consideration. The military relevance statement should clearly indicate a benefit to mankind."

RS/10-11/02 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/09-10/59: The Chair of the TRSA asked if there was an updated report on research funding projections available for circulation. In reply, the Treasurer's Nominee informed the Committee that a new report is in progress, and will be forwarded to the Planning Group as soon as it is finalized. It was agreed that the new report be circulated to the Committee once it is approved by the Planning Group and be added to the agenda for an upcoming Research Committee meeting.

Action: Nominee of the Treasurer to circulate latest report on research funding projections as soon as it becomes available.

RS/10-11/03 Update on Review of Research Centres

The Committee noted a memorandum from the ADoR, dated 27th September 2010, that was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The memorandum a) summarized the general points from the Forum for Directors of Research Centres that was held on September 23rd 2010 and b) put forward a new policy on Research Centre recognition for consideration.

The ADoR spoke to the document. In relation to the Forum, the meeting was informed that 36 directors attended. Discussions at the meeting were lively. The primary issue arising from the Forum was that although the approval process for Research Centre status was very rigorous, once the Centre was approved, it was effectively

'abandoned', with no follow up monitoring. There was no backing for a 4th category of Research grouping. The notion of an annual meeting to discuss problems issues etc. was given wide support.

It was suggested that, going forward, a short annual report (one page) should be submitted to the DoR by each Centre (including Centres in existence under the old approval process) in order to maintain Centre status and be preserved on the College website. This report would provide information about the activity, visibility, and viability of the Centre. The proposed new criteria for recognising a Research Centre would make it less difficult to become a Research Centre, but more difficult to maintain status. It was suggested by the meeting that existing Centres should submit a baseline annual report.

Members of the Committee raised the issue of measuring/proving Centre sustainability if the entity is not a separate cost centre and also asked who would provide financial support for these Centres? It was pointed out that a view exists that centres have a claim on core funding. In reply, it was noted that Centres should be responsible for raising their own funds.

The Chair thanked the ADoR for all his hard work on this project. The Committee adopted the proposal, taking comments into account.

RS/10-11/04 Web-based Contracts Assessment Form

The Committee noted a memorandum from the Research Accounting Manager, Treasurer's Office, & the Contracts Manager, Trinity Research & innovation, dated 28th September 2010, that was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Research Accounting Manager spoke to the document, summarizing the progress to date.

The meeting was informed that the project has been stalled due to lack of available resources within IS Services. IS Services were involved from the start of the project; however, just as a pilot programme was proposed, IS Services withdrew due to lack of resources. It was asked that IS Services be requested to continue with the project.

Members of the Committee agreed that it would be a shame to discontinue the project after so much work had already gone into it. The Chair summarized by stating that it needs to be made a priority, it was imperative that IS Services were told of the need to finish the project.

Action: Research Accounting Manager (Treasurer's Office) to contact IS Services and request that the project be completed.

RS/10-11/05 IP Policy and Campus Company Formation

The Committee noted and approved a memorandum from the ADTRI, dated 22nd September 2010. The ADTRI spoke to document.

The meeting was informed that feedback from the academic community over the past year indicates that the new approach is seen as a very positive and progressive initiative. In light of significant developments on the technology transfer and IP commercialisation landscape over the last year, the ADTRI requested a continuation of the derogation from the extant IP policy in relation to campus company formation. The Committee approved the request.

RS/10-11/06 Open Access Policy for Publications

The Committee noted documents, circulated in advance of the meeting, from Niamh Brennan, TCD Library. Ms Brennan spoke to the documents.

Why Open Access? Research shows that Open Access can result in an increase in citations of up to 250%

On the point raised at the Research Committee meeting of June 8th 2010 in relation to the proposed Open Access policy, where it was asked why articles should go to the Provost's Office, Ms Brennan informed the Committee that the wording for the proposed Policy was taken directly from Harvard University's policy document.

Ms Brennan requested that the proposed Open Access policy be adopted as College policy. All postprint papers should go up on Trinity's open access repository, TARA.

Comments were invited from members of the Committee. The Dean of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences noted that it was not an issue of whether College should adopt the policy, it was an issue of how to encourage people to abide by it. It was asked whether Researcher Directors in Schools could encourage staff to adhere to this policy.

The Committee approved the policy.

Action: Niamh Brennan to prepare a document describing how to put documents on TARA, and circulate to the Directors of Research.

Action: The DoR to raise this issue at the next Directors of Research Forum.

RS/10-11/07 Research Strategy Implementation

The Committee noted a paper from the DoR, dated August 12th 2010, that was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. In the absence of the DoR, the ADoR spoke to document.

The ADoR informed the meeting that the DoR had hoped to collect views on the document from around the table, and then table the

document for endorsement. A revised document incorporating these views would then be resubmitted for consideration by the Committee.

The ADTRI asked that it be noted that responses to the document from the initial recipients of said document had not been circulated to the Committee. In reply, the meeting was informed that the DoR had intended to wait until more responses were available.

The Chair commented that the document proposes considerable changes, for example the notion of having Programme Champions leading various research domains.

Professor James Wickham noted his concern over the proposed Champions and domains in that none recognise or acknowledge the existence of his School/discipline. The Chair of the TRSA asked how the notion of Champions would fit in with schools, centres etc.

One of the Committee commented that a national Research Prioritisation Steering Group is now in existence, which has been tasked with identifying target areas on which the Government should focus its allocation of public funding for research and development over five years, and that TCD is not a member of this group. The ADoR noted that the DoR composed this draft document in the knowledge that failure to act now might find TCD being forced into an area/theme that would not be favoured.

Another member commented that the ideas proposed in the document were good but that serious mapping to what is practical and feasible was needed. It was also noted that it should be of concern to TCD that it is not represented on this national steering group.

The Chair summed up the meeting by stating that the document raised a lot of important issues, and that it was right in principle to act. In practice, consultation with Schools is required before anything can be adopted. A meeting with the Directors of Researchers to garner their opinion should be held before next Research Committee meeting.

Action: DoR to circulate feedback received to date to members of the Research Committee

Action: DoR to convene a Directors of Research Forum before next Research Committee meeting to consult over this document. Document (and feedback) to be tabled again at next meeting.

RS/10-11/08 Update on Research Proposal & Award Management System (RPAMS)

The Committee noted a memorandum from the ADTRI, dated 30th September 2010, that was circulated with papers for the meeting. The document provides an update on the progress with RPAMS to date.

The meeting questioned why progress with RPAMS was slow. In response, the ADTRI informed the Committee that a key reason for the delay is the requirement to fulfil the request (by the DoR and the previous Interim COO) for an extensive Change Management document. Completion of this document has been delayed because of the onerous level of detail requested, the lack of dedicated resources to conduct this work coupled with significant increases in the workload within Trinity Research & Innovation.

The Chair summarized by noting that the Research Committee was unhappy with progress on RPAMS and that action needs to be taken as a matter of priority.

Action: The Chair to write to the COO requesting that the RPAMS be made a priority.

RS/10-11/09 PRTL I Cycle 5 Update

The Dean of Graduate Studies provided a brief report on the status of the PRTL I 5 Structured PhD Education Programmes. The Dean informed the meeting that most of the programmes were funded, however all suffered budget cuts. One of the more problematic cuts was the cut to student fees; there is now a shortfall. It was suggested that PIs & Heads of the PhD programmes should come together to find a way to streamline operations and propose solutions to outstanding issues.

Action: Dean of Graduate Studies to convene a meeting between Heads of PhD programmes and PIs.

RS/10-11/10 Any Other Business

The ADTRI raised the issue of endorsement of College funding applications & contracts. It was asked that College policy be noted i.e. the Principal and Head of School (or his/her nominee) must sign before Trinity Research & Innovation provide endorsement/sign-off. This was agreed.

Section B

RS/10-11/11 TTSI (Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative) Review

The Committee noted a cover letter and report from Enterprise Ireland, dated 19th July 2010, which outlines the successful outcome of the April 2010 review of the TTSI contract with TCD.

RS/10-11/12 Application for Trinity Research Centre status

The Committee noted and approved an application from Prof. Carol O' Sullivan to create a new centre, the Centre for Creative Technologies.

Section C

RS/10-11/13 Directorship of Institute for IIS

The Committee noted a memorandum from Orla Sheehan, Faculty Administrator, AHSS, dated 18th May 2010, informing it that Professor Louis Brennan (School of Business) has agreed to take on the Directorship of the IIS for a period of three years, starting in January 2011. During the period between the current Director's retirement (30 September 2010) and then the Faculty Dean will act as Director.

RS/10-11/14 FP7 Working Group

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the FP7 Working Group that took place on 28th June 2010.

RS/10-11/16 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings

- (i) governance structures to support innovation
- (ii) review of Good Research Practice policy (as per BD/09-10/51) Oct 2010
- (iii) annual review of Research Committee and its terms of reference
- (iv) commitments against the Research Committee Budget
- (v) latest report on research funding projections
- (vi) research strategy implementation document

Signed:

Date: