

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2011

Present: Dr David Lloyd (*Dean of Research and Chair*)  
Dr James Callaghan (*Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADTRI, and Secretary*)  
Professor Frank Barry (*Director of Research, School of Business*)  
Professor Kevin Rockett (*Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music*)  
Dr Aidan Seery (*Director of Research, School of Education*)  
Dr Crawford Gribben (*Director of Research, School of English*)  
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer (*Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities*)  
Dr Clemens Ruthner (*Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies*)  
Professor Ailbhe Ni Chasaide (*Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences*)  
Professor Malcolm MacLachlan (*Director of Research, School of Psychology*)  
Dr Andrew Finlay (*Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy*)  
Dr Virpi Timonen (*School of Social Work and Social Policy*)  
Dr Norbert Hintersteiner (*Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics*)  
Dr Ed Lavelle (*Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology*)  
Professor Yurii G'oungo (*Director of Research, School of Chemistry*)  
Professor Anil Kokaram (*Director of Research, School of Engineering*)  
Professor Seamus Martin (*Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology*)  
Dr Conor Houghton (*Director of Research, School of Mathematics*)  
Professor Celia Holland (*Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences*)  
Professor Igor Shvets (*Director of Research, School of Physics*)  
Professor Derek Sullivan (*Director of Research, School of Dental Science*)  
Professor Padraic Fallon (*Director of Research, School of Medicine*)  
Professor Catherine Comiskey (*Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery*)  
Dr Carsten Ehrhardt (*Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences*)  
Professor John Boland (*Director of Research, CRANN*)  
Professor Louis Brennan (*Director of Research, IIS*)  
Professor Poul Holm (*Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub*)  
Dr John Walsh (*Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association*)

In attendance: Dr Patrick Geoghegan (*Associate Dean of Research, ADoR*)  
Ms Doris Alexander (*Research Development Officer*)  
Ms Deirdre Savage (*Nominee of Treasurer*)

Dr Camilla Kelly (*Research Development Office & Minute Secretary to the Committee*)

Apologies: Professor Veronica Campbell (*Dean of Graduate Studies*)  
Dr Caoimhin MacMaolain (*Director of Research, School of Law*)  
Dr Carl Vogel (*Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics*)  
Prof. Shane O'Mara (*Director of Research, TCIN*)  
Dearbhail Lawless (*President of the Graduate Students' Union*)

## Section A

### RS/10-11/32 Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

### RS/10-11/33 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/10-11/25: Funding Agency Shortfalls & Student Fees. The DoR informed the Committee that the current recommendation is that Schools will be responsible for handling any shortfall in academic fees and that where permitted by agencies, overheads could be used against same. One of the Committee asked what the situation was for Structured PhD programmes.

*Action: Deirdre Savage to circulate the relevant document that was submitted to the Planning Group.*

Item RS/10-11/25: Thematic champions meeting. It was agreed by the meeting that the value associated with creating themes was that it would be a means of identifying which staff were working in particular areas.

Item RS/10-11/25: Research Committee subgroup meeting to free up time in the Research Development Office. The ADoR advised the Committee that a meeting was held on January 25<sup>th</sup>. A total of 13 recommendations were brought to the subgroup. A final report will be submitted to the Research Committee at the next meeting.

*Action: The ADoR to submit a report to the Committee outlining the 13 subgroup recommendations.*

Item RS/10-11/26: Trinity Research Centres.

*Action: The ADoR to circulate the summary document on existing centres, as submitted to the Committee in June 2010, to the current Committee members.*

Item RS/10-11/27: Research Prioritization Exercise. The DoR informed the Committee that the report was submitted to Forfás on time, and that it appears to have been very well received.

*Action: DOR to circulate further background information on Research Prioritization to the Committee.*

**RS/10-11/34 FP7 Marie Curie Programme - Student Fees**

The Committee noted a memorandum from Doris Alexander and Deirdre Savage, providing an update of the situation with respect to PhD tuition fees for early stage researchers, which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

**RS/10-11/35 Annual Review of Research Committee and Terms of Reference**

The Committee noted the revised Terms of Reference provided by the ADTRI, which were circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The ADTRI informed the Committee that the annual review of the Research Committee will be revisited at the meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Prior to that meeting, documents relating to the process for review will be circulated to the Committee members.

*Action: The ADTRI to circulate forms relating to the annual review process.*

**RS/10-11/36 Academic Governance - Directors of Research**

The Committee noted a copy of a document that outlines the role and responsibilities of the Directors of Research, which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The DoR informed the meeting that the details were approved by Board over five years ago. It was further noted that some items needed revisiting, namely those relating to the Business and Industry Committee.

**RS/10-11/37 Post-Doc Career Development Bursaries**

The DoR spoke to this item, noting that the idea had evolved following on from meetings with the Trinity Research Staff Association. A total of €20K would be allocated to these bursaries. They are intended mainly as a means to enable postdoctoral staff to legitimately apply for funding to external agencies.

*Action: DoR to present further details on the proposed Post-Doc Career Development Bursaries at the next Committee meeting (19/4/2011).*

**RS/10-11/38 Any Other Business**

Employment Control Framework (ECF): It was noted by a member of the Committee that the ECF must be addressed as a matter of urgency. The ECF lapsed on the 31/12/2010, meaning that the full moratorium on recruitment is now in effect in the HE sector. All appointments (exchequer and non-exchequer) must now be approved by the HEA. There is a real possibility in the future that appointments in the HE sector will be refused because the State cannot afford an increased pension liability.

EU's 8<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (EU FP8): A member of the Committee noted that College should be doing all it can to shape EU FP8. In response, the DoR gave assurances that College was involved in discussions at the highest level.

**Section B**

**RS/10-11/39 Dean of Research Annual Report**  
The Committee noted a draft of the report, circulated in advance of the meeting, from the ADTRI.

**RS/10-11/40 Research Prioritisation**  
The Committee noted copies of the documents, circulated in advance of the meeting, which comprise the TCD response to Forfàs on its research prioritisation exercise.

**Section C**

**RS/10-11/41 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings**

- (i) review of Good Research Practice policy (as per BD/09-10/51) Oct 2010
- (ii) commitments against the Research Committee Budget
- (iii) research metrics
- (iv) Trinity Research Institutes - formation and oversight
- (v) sub committees of the Research Committee
- (vi) review of the research Committee

Signed: .....

Date: .....