

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011

Present: Dr David Lloyd (*Dean of Research and Chair*)  
Dr James Callaghan (*Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADTRI, and Secretary*)  
Professor Veronica Campbell (*Dean of Graduate Studies*)  
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 Professor Ohlmeyer (*Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities*)  
Dr Caoimhin MacMaolain (*Director of Research, School of Law*)  
Dr Balázs Apor (*Acting 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 Suzanne Cahill (*Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy*)  
Dr Norbert Hintersteiner (*Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics*)  
Dr Carl Vogel (*Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics*)  
Dr Conor Houghton (*Director of Research, School of Mathematics*)  
Professor Derek Sullivan (*Director of Research, School of Dental Science*)  
Professor Pádraic 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*)  
Dr Ed Lavelle (*Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology*)  
Professor Seamus Martin (*Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology*)  
Professor Louis Brennan (*Director of Research, IIS*)  
Prof. Shane O'Mara (*Director of Research, TCIN*)  
Dr John Walsh (*Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association*)  
Dearbhail Lawless (*President of the Graduate Students' Union*)

In attendance: Dr Patrick Geoghegan (*Associate Dean of Research, ADoR, and Chair for part of meeting*)  
Ms Doris Alexander (*Research Development Officer*)

Ms Deirdre Savage (*Nominee of Treasurer*)  
Dr Camilla Kelly (*Research Development Office & Minute Secretary to the Committee*)  
Arlene Healy (*Sub Librarian, TCD Library*) for item RS/10-11/60  
Niamh Brennan (*Assistant Librarian, TCD Library*) for item RS/10-11/62

Apologies: Professor Frank Barry (*Director of Research, School of Business*)  
Professor Celia Holland (*Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences*)

Not present: Professor Yurii G'ounko (*Director of Research, School of Chemistry*)  
Professor Anil Kokaram (*Director of Research, School of Engineering*)  
Professor Igor Shvets (*Director of Research, School of Physics*)  
Professor John Boland (*Director of Research, CRANN*)  
Professor Poul Holm (*Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub*)

## Section A

### RS/10-11/54 Minutes of 19th April 2011

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed subject to the following amendment:

Item RS/10-11/46: A member of the Committee requested that the language in this section should be clarified and suggested that the phrase "excellence must be maintained in recruiting staff" captured the feeling of the Committee better than the original text.

### RS/10-11/55 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/10-11/43: As requested, the ADoR & ADTRI circulated an electronic version of the subgroup report to the Committee, together with a copy of the Sian Thomas report and the updated response to it, prior to this Research Committee meeting. The subject will be revisited at the first meeting of the Research Committee next year.

Item RS/10-11/44: As requested, the ADTRI prepared an electronic survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the Research Committee, and circulated to the Research Committee prior to this Research Committee meeting.

Item RS/10-11/46: The proposed policy change that will allow any member of staff to apply for/hold grants where the funding of salary is included and grants are cost neutral to College has been forwarded to the Staff Office and the Finance Committee for comment.

Item RS/10-11/49: The DoR is currently looking into the issue of Garda Clearance for College researchers.

Item RS/10-11/52: The Research Ethics Policy Group (REPG) convened on May 24<sup>th</sup> and will have another meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

School of Nursing and Midwifery noted that in their experience, the setting up and running of an Ethics Committee is extremely work intensive. The ADOR further noted that he will be conducting a review of practices across College over the coming months. See also RS/10-11/63.

**RS/10-11/56 Annual Review of Research Committee**

The Committee noted a document from the ADTRI, featuring responses to a survey designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Research Committee, which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The ADTRI drew attention to a number of issues arising from the survey. Some of the respondents had indicated that there was a lack of clarity as to the role of the Research Committee in terms of its relationship with Council; the ADTRI stated that he would write to the Academic Secretary asking for clarification. The ADTRI also reminded the members that communication between College and the research community is the responsibility of the Research Committee members.

One of the Committee noted that, going forward, they would like to see more strategy and policy items on the agenda.

*Action: The ADTRI to write to the Academic Secretary asking for clarification on the role of the Research Committee in terms of its relationship with Council.*

**RS/10-11/57 Research Funding Projections and Trends - Summary Update**

The Committee noted a memorandum from the Treasurer's Office, dated 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011, updating previous (October 2010) 5 year projections on research income, which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The DoR noted that the updated document shows that the funding landscape is not as bad as originally predicted, but that funding is still in decline.

One of the Committee requested that the information be broken down by School and re-circulated.

**RS/10-11/58 Broadening of Participation in Research Funding in FP7**

The Committee noted a memorandum from Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation, dated 16th May 2011, outlining a suggested change to policy that would allow contract lecturing/research staff to act as PIs on FP7 proposals, which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The Committee supported the policy, noting that the quality of applicants & applications should be maintained.

*Action: The proposed policy to go forward for approval by Council*

**RS/10-11/59 Review of Good Research Practice policy**

The Committee were invited by the DoR to submit comments on the policy document (approved by Board 11/11/2009), which was circulated in advance of the April meeting.

The DoR noted that only one minor comment was received, and that it would be reported back to Council that the Research Committee had approved the document in its current state.

**RS/10-11/60 Any Other Urgent Business**

A member of the School of Medicine requested that the issue of the recently curtailed support of BioMed Central be addressed.

Arlene Healy (Sub Librarian, TCD Library) addressed the issue. Until recently, access to BioMed Central journals was via the Irish Research eLibrary (IRel) initiative. However, due to the economic decline, IReL was unable to continue to provide support. Since the end of 2010, there has been no central funding via IReL for Biomed Central.

A brief discussion then followed on how publication charges could be met going forward. One suggestion was that Research Committee funds might be used in some cases. Another Committee member suggested that Schools could provide a contribution to publication costs.

**Section B**

**RS/10-11/61 Commitments against the Research Committee Budget**

The Committee noted a document from the ADTRI that provides budget projections to 2013/2014, which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The Committee was asked for suggestions as to how these funds should be spent going forward.

It was noted by a number of the Committee that any spend should be linked to strategic objectives. Some suggestions for schemes included postdoctoral fellowships, travel funds, sabbatical leave, research excellence recognition & Provost Research awards. There was also a suggestion that every staff member should be given a small amount of money (ca. €1K) to buy a laptop and printer.

**RS/10-11/62 Publications Supplement to Dean of Research Annual Report**

The Committee noted the supplement, circulated in advance of the meeting.

Niamh Brennan (TCD Library) spoke to the document, noting that she would like to work with all the Directors of Research to help them produce annual reports on publications.

The Committee thanked Niamh Brennan for her work on the document.

**RS/10-11/63 Research Ethics Policy Group (REPG)**

The Committee noted the minutes of the REPG meeting that took place on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2011, which were circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee approved the minutes.

**Section C**

**RS/10-11/64 Irish Technology Transfer Metrics and International Data**

The Committee noted a memorandum and document provided by the ADTRI, summarizing Irish Technology Transfer Metrics and International Data, which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

One of the Committee noted that it might be worthwhile submitting a short letter to Irish Times in response to a recent article on research outputs in Ireland.

**RS/10-11/65 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings**

- (i) Research metrics
- (ii) Trinity Research Institutes - formation and oversight
- (iii) Research Committee budget - suggestions
- (iv) Research Committee subgroup meeting to free up time in the Research Office

Signed: .....

Date: .....