The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 29th May 2012

Present: Professor Vinny Cahill *(Dean of Research, DOR, and Chair)*
Associate Professor Derek Sullivan *(Associate Dean of Research, ADoR)*
Assistant Professor Aidan Seery *(Director of Research, School of Education)*
Assistant Professor 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)*
Associate Professor Suzanne Cahill *(Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy)*
Assistant Professor Ed Lavelle *(Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology)*
Professor Georg Duesberg *(Director of Research, School of Chemistry)*
Associate Professor Carl Vogel *(Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics)*
Associate Professor Sinead Ryan *(Director of Research, School of Mathematics)*
Professor Martin Hegner *(Director of Research, School of Physics)*
Assistant Professor Gary Moran (*Director of Research, School of Dental Science)*
Professor Catherine Comiskey *(Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery)*
Associate Professor Carsten Ehrhardt *(Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)*
Balz Kamber in place of Assistant Professor Andrew Jackson *(Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences)*
Professor Paul Coughlan *(Director of Research, School of Business)*
Professor Kevin Rockett *(Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music)*
Professor Padraic Fallon *(Director of Research, School of Medicine)*
Assistant Professor Iain Atack *(Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics)*
Professor Louis Brennan *(Director of Research, IIIS)*
Dermot Frost in place of Dr Erika Doyle *(Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association)*
Mary O'Connor (*President of the Graduate Students' Union*)
Professor Veronica Campbell *(Dean of Graduate Studies)*
Dr James Callaghan *(Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADTRI, and Secretary*)

In attendance: Ms Deirdre Savage (*Research Acc. Manager, Treasurer's Office)*
Ms Doris Alexander *(Research Development Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation)*

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Dr Geoffrey Bradley *(CSG Manager, ISS)*
Dr Camilla Kelly *(Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee*)
Ms Niamh Brennan *(Assistant Librarian, Library)* for RS/11-12/71

Apologies: Professor John Horne *(Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities)*
Associate Professor Crawford Gribben *(Director of Research, School of English)*
Assistant Professor Caoimhin MacMaolain *(Director of Research, School of Law)*
Assistant Professor Gaia Narciso (*Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy*)
Professor Seamus Martin *(Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology*
Associate Professor Anthony Quinn *(Director of Research, School of Engineering*
Professor John Boland *(Director of Research, CRANN)*
Prof. Shane O'Mara *(Director of Research, TCIN)*

Not present: Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub

Section A

RS/11-12/65 Introduction

The DoR welcomed everyone to the final meeting of this academic year.

RS/11-12/66 Minutes of 17th April 2012

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the Committee.

RS/11-12/67 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/11-12/55 (referring to item RS/11-12/43): Call for Proposals for Research Project Officers. The DoR informed the Committee that the call was issued on 28th May. It was sent to Heads of Schools, Directors of Research, Heads of TRIs, and to the Research Thematic Champions. The deadline for responding is 5th July.

The DoR reminded the Committee that in assessing the responses, key criteria will include looking at the potential to increase income from non-exchequer sources and the extent to which the School(s)/TRI(s) can contribute to the costs. Any such contribution to pay costs must be funded from non-exchequer sources.

Item RS/11-12/55 (referring to item RS/11-12/44): New National IP Policy. The DoR informed the meeting that the new Policy will be launched formally on 8th June. He added that the actual content of the Policy is still not known.

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Item RS/11-12/57: Research Quality Metrics Update. The DoR informed the Committee that in order to allow people time to develop new research collaborations, he is investigating the possibility that small amounts of funding (of the order of €3k to €5k) from the Research Committee budget be made available to buy-out some teaching time.

Item RS/11-12/62: AOB – SFI Research Centres Call and SFI Infrastructure Call 2012. The DoR informed the Committee that 4 Centre proposals were submitted to SFI. He added that the internal submissions to the Infrastructure Call are currently being reviewed in College.

RS/11-12/68 Provision for Redundancy Payments

The Committee noted a draft policy, which was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms Deirdre Savage, Research Accounting Manager, Treasurer's Office, spoke to the document.

The Policy clarifies when a redundancy situation occurs and how provision for the costs is to be made. It was pointed out that such costs need to be visible and easy to track. The Policy also includes a list of research sponsors indicating those who allow such costs to be included as part of the research application. It was noted that in the case where the costs cannot be included explicitly as part of the overheads that it is up to the school to make appropriate provision for the costs.

In response to a query on whether the cost should be shared between the School/TRI and the College, the DoR stated that as this is a research related cost and as these costs follow research activity, that the School/TRI has to meet the full cost.

Following a brief discussion, it was noted that redundancy costs accrue to an individual in accordance with their grant/employment history and that this needs to be made clear in the Policy.

Action: Ms Deirdre Savage to amend Policy on the Management of Redundancy Costs to include reference to the fact that provision for such costs accrue to an individual in accordance with their grant/employment history.

RS/11-12/69 Proposal for Approval of Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute as a Trinity Research Institute

The Committee noted the proposal, which was circulated in advance of the meeting. Prof. Luke O'Neill presented a set of slides summarising the proposal.

The TBSI initiative arose from a 2005 review of biosciences activities. This pointed to a strong upward trajectory of publications, citations and income.

The TBSI building opened on 17th June 2012. The research and teaching activity will encompass three research centres (Immunotherapeutics, Cancer Drug Discovery and Medical Devices) and will support researchers from five Trinity schools – Medicine, Chemistry, Engineering, Biochemistry & Immunology and Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The vision for TBSI is to be an environment where innovation and interdisciplinary approaches lead to scientific discoveries of biomedical importance, ultimately giving rise to better patient care.

The plan for TBSI addresses three primary objectives:

i) To deliver on the PRTLI Cycle 4 TCDBIOMED programme
ii) To establish TBSI as an Institute of international stature and visibility
iii) To exploit the opportunity for interdisciplinary research

There are currently 39 PIs with labs in TBSI and this will rise to around 49 by the end of June. The projected total is 60 PIs with an additional 35 PIs identified as associate PIs. The total active grants held by current PIs amounts to €70m and 5 of the PIs are in the top 10 in Trinity in terms of grant income and h-index.

In opening the discussion, one of the Committee members said that the proposal was very impressive. He queried to what extent the projected budget relied on income from the College. Prof. O' Neill pointed out that the intention is to increase income and not to be a drain on College. He added that the initial investment in TBSI's recurrent budget from College would be repaid very quickly. He stated that there will be a strong emphasis on ERC grants and income from industry.

Other members of the Committee commented very favourably on the Proposal and also the achievements to date.

There was a brief discussion as to whether the vision as stated need to be modified slightly as the intention is to address pre-clinical issues rather than patient care per se. Prof O'Neill agreed with this.

The Director of Research from the School of Medicine stated that his School cannot support the Proposal in its current form as the School Executive had not had time to review the proposal. Prof O'Neill said that this was extremely unfortunate. He pointed out that the papers went to the School of Medicine a number of weeks ago but no response was received.

There followed a brief discussion related to items in the proposed budget. The DoR informed the Committee that a strategic allocation of €250k was approved by the Planning Group on condition that TBSI be approved as a Trinity Research Institute and also that this allocation will be paid back in due course. The DoR informed the Committee that a more detailed budget would need to be accepted

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by the College Finance Committee before TBSI could be approved as a TRI.

In concluding the discussion of the Proposal the DoR summarised that the Committee is in favour of the Proposal but noted the concern expressed by the School of Medicine. He informed the Committee that the proposal would now proceed to the Finance Committee for consideration before being noted by Board.

RS/11-12/70 Research Ethics Policy Group

Associate Professor Derek Sullivan, Associate Dean of Research, ADoR), briefed the Committee on developments with the Research Ethics Policy Group (REPG). He informed the Committee that only 5 responses had been received to the request for information on extant Ethics Committee and procedures currently in use. He added that he will follow this up with those areas that have not yet responded.

There is a meeting of the REPG scheduled for 7th June and the ADoR invited interested members of the Research Committee to attend.

In conclusion, he mentioned that the IUA has prepared a draft document on Research Integrity and that compliance with the final version of this may become mandated by research funding agencies at some stage. College's position on this document will also be considered by the REPG.

RS/11-12/71 RPAMS

Dr James Callaghan, Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, briefed the Committee on developments with the Research Proposal and Awards Management System (RPAMS).

The system will provide an integrated end to end process that will go from information on funding opportunities, through applications, contracts and research account setup. As part of this the system will permit electronic sign-off at both application and contract stages, obviating the need for 'wet signatures' for internal purposes. The system will launch, with a limited number of calls initially, in June.

RS/11-12/72 Terms of Reference for RSS Focus Group

The Committee noted and approved the draft Terms of Reference, as circulated, for the Research Support System (RSS) focus group. The DoR invited members of the Committee to join the group.

RS/11-12/73 Any Other Urgent Business

None

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Section B

RS/11-12/74 Proposal for Psychological Health Research Centre
The Committee noted a proposal to establish a Psychological Health Research Centre, circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Committee approved the application.

RS/11-12/75 Any Other Urgent Business
None

Section C

RS/11-12/76 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings
(i) WiSER Strategic Group – Annual Report to Research Committee

RS/11-12/77 Any Other Urgent Business
None

Signed: …….

Date: …….

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