

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 4th December 2012

Present: Professor Vinny Cahill (*Dean of Research, DOR, and Chair*)
Associate Professor Derek Sullivan (*Associate Dean of Research, ADoR*)
Professor Paul Coughlan (*Director of Research, School of Business*)
Professor Kevin Rockett (*Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music*)
Assistant Professor Aidan Seery (*Director of Research, School of Education*)
Assistant Professor Clemens Ruthner (*Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies*)
Assistant Professor Caoimhin MacMaolain (*Director of Research, School of Law*)
Professor Ailbhe Ni Chasaide (*Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences*)
Professor Malcolm MacLachlan (*Director of Research, School of Psychology*)
Assistant Professor Carol Newman (*Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy*)
Paula Maycock in place of Associate Professor Suzanne Cahill (*Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy*)
Professor Georg Duesberg (*Director of Research, School of Chemistry*)
Associate Professor Carl Vogel (*Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics*)
Associate Professor Anthony Quinn (*Director of Research, School of Engineering*)
Professor Seamus Martin (*Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology*)
Professor John Stalker in place of Professor Stefan Sint (*Director of Research, School of Mathematics*)
Assistant Professor Andrew Jackson (*Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences*)
Assistant Professor Gary Moran (*Director of Research, School of Dental Science*)
Professor Yuri Volkov (*Director of Research, School of Medicine*)
Associate Professor Gabrielle McKee (*Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery*)
Assistant Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll (*Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences*)
Professor Shane O'Mara (*Director of Research, TCIN*)
Professor Louis Brennan (*Director of Research, IIS*)
Professor Juergen Barkhoff (*Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub*)
Professor John Boland (*Director of Research, CRANN*)
Professor Veronica Campbell (*Dean of Graduate Studies*)
Dr Dermot Frost (*Vice-Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association*) in place of Dr Erica Doyle (*Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association*)

In attendance: Ms Deirdre Savage (*Research Acc. Manager, Treasurer's Office*)
Ms Doris Alexander (*Research Development Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation*)
Dr Geoffrey Bradley (*CSG Manager, ISS*)
Dr Margaret Woods (*Trinity Research & Innovation*) for item RS/12-13/23
Ms Audrey Crosbie (*Trinity Research & Innovation*) for item RS/12-13/25
Dr Camilla Kelly (*Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee*)

Apologies: Associate Professor Aileen Douglas (*Director of Research, School of English*)
Associate Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú (*Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities*)
Associate Professor Suzanne Cahill (*Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy*)
Assistant Professor Iain Atack (*Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics*)
Professor Stefan Sint (*Director of Research, School of Mathematics*)
Professor Martin Hegner (*Director of Research, School of Physics*)
Assistant Professor Ed Lavelle (*Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology*)
Dr James Callaghan (*Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, ADTRI, and Secretary*)
Martin John McAndrew (*President, Graduate Students Union*)

Section A

RS/12-13/18 Introduction

The DoR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

RS/12-13/19 Minutes of 16th October 2012

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the Committee.

RS/12-13/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/12-13/04: Ranking Strategy. The DoR informed the meeting that the RSS User Group is now fully constituted and will hold its first meeting shortly.

Item RS/12-13/05: Research Funding Diversification Strategy. An additional call for a further 2 posts was launched recently on the basis that these posts will be 50% co-funded by the Research Committee and 50% by the successful School/TRI. The deadline for submission of applications is the 11th of December.

Item RS/12-13/06: Redundancy Payments Update. A member asked for clarification on College's policy on redundancy costs. The Committee was also informed that the policy is now available on the

HR website

<http://www.tcd.ie/hr/assets/pdf/RedundancyCosts.pdf>

Item RS/12-13/14: Dean of Research Annual Report 2010/2011. Input from the School of Psychology was not included in the 2010/2011 report as it pertained to the 2011/2012 academic year. Other Schools were reminded that their input for 2011/2012 is required, in a format that is suitable for public presentation. The DoR hopes to have a substantial part of the report completed by the end of January.

RS/12-13/21 DoR Update

The Dean of Research informed the Committee that Council at its meeting of the 21st of November had approved a report on an external review of the strategy for E3 - the Trinity Institute for Engineering, Energy and the Environment. E3 will integrate research and teaching activities of the Schools of Natural Science and Engineering based on a common strategy for research, teaching and innovation. The report is extremely positive and the reviewers noted the 'potential for E3 to impact positively and significantly on a range of major issues important for Ireland and for the planet'. The reviewers also gave strong support to the development of the south-east corner site to accommodate the physical consolidation of the Schools' teaching and research activities. Planning for the implementation of E3 and the corresponding development will now proceed following the Provost's recommendations, which were also accepted by Council.

The DoR also noted that, in relation to the College's ranking strategy, a working group is being convened to look at key performance indicators for College, which could be used to benchmark against international comparators.

RS/12-13/22 Trinity Research Institutes

The Committee noted a policy document covering the formation, oversight, operation and financial arrangements for Trinity Research Institutes (TRIs), which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The DoR spoke to the document.

The DoR began by highlighting four areas of the policy document:

a) Sustainability - previous policy documents emphasised financial sustainability, in essence, that TRIs should be self-financing. The current document recognises that while financial sustainability is a goal, it is not always achievable. Some level of financial support from College may be required. The emphasis is now on sound financial management within an agreed budget rather than self financing.

b) Governance structures - in the past, the role of a TRI board was modelled on that of a company board, meaning that the board would have fiduciary responsibility. In the case of a research institute, fiduciary responsibility is not appropriate - the role of the board should be to provide oversight and advice.

c) The role of the Director of a TRI is clarified; and

d) The relationship between a TRI and its associated Schools is clarified and should be “wholly symbiotic”.

The document was opened to the floor for discussion.

Section 3.8. Relationships with Schools. The DoR clarified that if approved, sign-off will be required from both Head of School and the Director of the TRI for ‘housing’ of research grants partially or wholly within a TRI.

Section 5.2. Indirect Cost/Overhead Funding to Support TRIs. The DoR was asked for clarification on the mechanism of sharing overheads between Schools and TRIs. In response, the DoR noted that an agreement should be in place between the School and TRI based on an agreed algorithm. A member of the meeting noted that there may be contradictory advice in section 3.7 and 5.2 in relation to sharing overheads.

Section 5.5. The ‘Housing’ of Research Grants. Where a PI has to decide whether to house his/her grant in a School or a TRI, how is this decision taken? The DoR noted that it should be decided based on how the research grant aligns (or not) with the TRI’s activity. It was asked whether a clause could be inserted into the document that allows the PI discretion to decide where a grant is housed; the DoR responded that a clause covering the expectations of membership (including housing of grants) would be included in the document.

The floor asked about reporting lines i.e. did the School have primacy over the TRI or not? The DoR responded that neither should take primacy, Schools and TRIs should sit alongside each other. PIs would still have to report to their respective Heads of School.

Section 6: Review of a TRI. A member of the Committee asked for clarification on what constituted ‘significant’ research income in the context of this section, and also asked what would constitute an ‘unfavourable’ review. He suggested that in instances where an unfavourable review was given, the Institute should be given the opportunity to regroup rather than have its institute status withdrawn. In response, the DoR noted that the wording relating to grant income could be changed to ‘appropriate grant income’. The word ‘unfavourable’ was intended to reflect the fact that the reviewers would recommend on a case-by-case basis whether TR&I status was still appropriate, rather than have a review be a grading exercise. Wording could also be inserted to reflect the possibility of a regrouping period post review.

Another member suggested that this section would be better placed at the end of the document.

Section 7. Membership of TRIs. The question of non-academic members (Senior Research Fellows) was raised, and what affiliation they would have. It was agreed that Senior Research Fellows be included here.

Section 9.1. The Role of the Director. Could some criteria for appointing a Director/the profile of a Director be included here? The DoR noted that some elements could be incorporated.

The meeting also requested that the wording relating to the Director's workload allocation within their School be modified so that no veto on the appointment of a Director by a School would be facilitated.

Section 9.2. The TRI Board. One of the Committee queried the wording used to define what power board members would have in reality. The DoR responded that the board should provide advice and oversee the progress & operation of the TRI, and welcomed suggestions for improvements to the wording.

The question of the relationship between the College's strategic priorities and the existence of TRIs was also raised. The DoR noted that TRIs should instantiate headline strategic priorities of College. The meeting was reminded that College's current strategy was devised via a bottom-up process (the evolution of the current Thematic areas).

Action: DoR to bring a modified version of the report to the Research Committee for approval.

RS/12-13/23 Briefing on the Principles of the new National IP Policy

Dr Margaret Woods (Technology Transfer Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation) briefed the Committee on the new national IP policy - "Putting public research to work for Ireland". http://www.djei.ie/publications/science/2012/Intellectual_Property_Protocol_Putting_Public_Research_to_Work_for_Ireland.pdf

Dr Woods began by noting that the document sets out terms relating to IP ownership and exploitation. The overarching aim of the policy is to maximise the use of IP created in the course of state-funded and state-industry co-funded research for economic & societal benefits, especially creation of jobs.

In instances where the state provides 100% of the funds for research, the Research Performing Organisation (RPO) will own 100% of the IP and can decide how to ensure that it is used.

For projects that are part-funded by the state and part-funded by industry, the industry partner(s) will have preferential rights to the IP. The exact nature of the industry's entitlement will depend on the extent and type of industry's involvement and contribution.

Where industry provides 100% funding, it will own the IP in full. The RPO will have the option to negotiate for rights for non-commercial research and teaching use and possible publications use.

One of the appendices to the document sets out national IP management requirements, which will apply to ALL state-funded

research. Seven IP integrity assurances are required, covering all stages from application to contract, and research to licensing. Technology Transfer Offices, lead investigators and individual researchers must all provide specific undertakings/assurances.

Dr. Woods noted that she, or members of the technology transfer team, would be pleased to provide information seminars on request.

It was also noted that College's own IP policy needs updating. On foot of this requirement, an IP policy working group will be convened as soon as possible.

Action: Parties with comments relating to College's IP policy to contact Dr Margaret Woods, mjwoods@tcd.ie.

RS/12-13/24 Research Ethics

The Committee noted a number of documents (minutes of the Research Ethics Policy Group Meeting 7 June 2012; minutes of the Forum of TCD Research Ethics Committees 12 Oct 2012; and a draft Report on Research Ethics Policies in TCD), which were circulated in advance of the meeting. Associate Professor Derek Sullivan (Associate Dean of Research, ADoR) spoke to the documents.

The ADoR began by outlining the background to the draft report. As a result of an information gathering exercise twenty Schools/Centres around College supplied information on their ethics approval processes/policies. There are currently 12 research ethics committees (RECs) in operation in College.

The recommendations of the report include:

- A decentralised model of research ethics approval is appropriate for College. Each School must have a clear policy for ethical approval, ideally each School would have its own REC or alternatively, a formal arrangement for ethical approval with another School or Faculty REC.
- Each School should have a designated research ethics officer who will act as a point of contact for issues relating to research ethics.
- There is scope to improve the visibility of research ethics approval policies and procedures in College - School and College level web pages should provide details of the ethical review and approval procedures in place.
- Training and education in the area of research ethics should be made available for staff and students, in particular research ethics officers and members of RECs.
- The Research Ethics Policy Group should become a committee and will have responsibility for all policies pertaining to research ethics in College, including the formation, operation and annual review of all College RECs. The membership of this committee should be appropriate to its function and include lay membership and legal representation.

The ADoR concluded by inviting the Committee to forward any comments relating to the draft policy.

RS/12-13/25 Industry Liaison Strategy

Audrey Crosbie (Industry Liaison Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation) briefed the Committee on the development of College's strategy in relation to industry liaison.

TCD's Industry liaison strategy aims to set out the future direction for the development of a coherent College-wide approach to external industry engagement. There is a clear need for greater integration and joined-up activity to enable College to maximise the benefits from developing industry relationships that will enable strategic planning.

This year, income from industry (research) represented about 2.8% of total research income, a figure which is on par with EU averages.

Proposed activities in support of College's industry strategy include:

- Implementing a Client Relationship Management Solution to support the sharing of information (*underway*)
- Formalising an Industry Office to act as a single point of contact for industry including
 - Support for marketing
 - Structure for the industry-facing activities of the university
 - Delivery of a professional, comprehensive service

The Committee were invited to comment on the strategy in terms of the needs of their respective Schools/TRIs.

Some of the Committee commented that there have been issues relating to industry partner contributions to student fees, and subsequent College expenditure of same. The DoR noted that income from fees is not additional to the College's operating budget and hence has to be distributed appropriately via the ABC process.

RS/12-13/26 Any Other Urgent Business

None

Section B

RS/12-13/27 Steering Group for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy Development

The Committee noted a number of documents (draft Terms of Reference; and minutes from meetings 11/10/2012 & 19/11/2012) which were circulated in advance of the meeting. The DoR and Professor Paul Coughlan spoke briefly to the documents.

Action: Parties interested in contributing to the steering committee should contact the DoR.

RS/12-13/28 National Principles for Open Access Policy

The Committee noted a policy document, circulated in advance of the meeting. The Committee approved the policy.

RS/12-13/29 Any Other Urgent Business

None

Section C

RS/12-13/30 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings

- a. Research Integrity
- b. Presentation on Innovation Academy (Dean of Graduate Studies)
- c. Research Committee Budget
- d. Research Committee Self-Evaluation
- e. New IP Policy
- f. Annual Dean of Research Report
- g. Updates from Research Committee Working Groups
Subcommittees
 - i. Associated Staff Working Group
 - ii. Research Ethics Policy Group
 - iii. Trinity Research Institutes Working Group
 - iv. RSS User Group
 - v. WiSER Strategic Group
 - vi. Knowledge Transfer & Innovation Committee

RS/12-13/31 Any Other Urgent Business

None

Signed:

Date: