

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013

- Present:
- Professor Vinny Cahill, Dean of Research and Chair
  - Associate Professor Derek Sullivan, Associate Dean of Research
  - Professor Paul Coughlan, Director of Research, School of Business
  - Assistant Professor Aidan Seery, Director of Research, School of Education
  - Associate Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English
  - 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 Ní 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
  - Professor Georg S. Duesberg, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
  - Associate Professor Anthony Quinn, Director of Research, School of Engineering
  - Professor Seamus Martin, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
  - Professor Stefan Sint, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
  - Assistant Professor Andrew Jackson, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
  - Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics
  - Assistant Professor Gary Moran, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
  - Professor Yuri Volkov, Director of Research, School of Medicine
  - Professor John Boland, Director of Research, CRANN
  - Professor Juergen Barkhoff, Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub
  - Professor Shane O'Mara, Director of Research, TCIN
  - Professor Louis Brennan, Director of Research, IIS
  - Mary O'Connor, President, Graduate Students' Union
  - Dr Dermot Frost, Vice-Chairperson, Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA)
  - Martin John McAndrew, President, Graduate Students Union
  - Dr James Callaghan, Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation, Secretary,
- 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 Camilla Kelly, Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee  
Ruth Kearney, Academy Facilitator, The Innovation Academy; and  
Barry McMahon, TCD Course Co-Director, The Innovation Academy,  
for Item RS/12-13/38

- Apologies: Professor Kevin Rockett, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music  
Associate Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities  
Assistant Professor Iain Atack, Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics  
Professor Robert Gilligan, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy  
Assistant Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology  
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  
Associate Professor Carl Vogel, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics  
Professor Veronica Campbell, Dean of Graduate Studies
- Not present: Professor Yuri Volkov, Director of Research, School of Medicine  
Professor John Boland, Director, CRANN  
Professor Luke O'Neill, Director, Trinity Biosciences Institute (TBSI)

### Section A

**RS/12-13/32 Introduction**

The Dean of Research (DoR) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**RS/12-13/33 Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the Committee subject to the following amendments:

Dr Dermot Frost (Vice-Chairperson, TRSA) was in attendance in place of Dr Erica Doyle (Chairperson, TRSA).

RS/12-13/25: Industry Liaison Strategy. Final sentence to read '...income from fees is not additional to the College's operating budget and hence has to be distributed appropriately via the ABC process.'

**RS/12-13/34 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Item RS/12-13/20 (referring to Items RS/12-13/04). The DoR informed the meeting that the RSS User Group is to convene its first meeting shortly.

Item RS/12-13/20 (referring to Items RS/12-13/05). The DoR noted that five applications were submitted to the recent call for 2 locally-based research officer posts in support of the Research Funding Diversification Strategy. These applications have been reviewed by the selection panel, and results are to be announced shortly, subject to a query on one of the submissions.

Item RS/12-13/20 (referring to Items RS/12-13/14). The DoR noted that no submissions have been forthcoming from any Schools/TRIs to date. In relation to the format of each report, the DoR distributed an annual report from Cornell as an example of what might be appropriate. Each School was requested to identify 2-3 research highlights and report on them. The deadline for submission is the end of January. The DoR hoped that every School and TRI would have something to report.

Item RS/12-13/22: Trinity Research Institutes. The DoR noted that this item is on the agenda for today's meeting.

Item RS/12-13/23: Briefing on the Principles of the new National IP Policy. The DoR noted that potential representatives have been identified for the IP Policy Working Group.

Item RS/12-13/24: Research Ethics. The DoR noted that this item is on the agenda for today's meeting.

Item RS/12-13/25: Industry Liaison Strategy. The DoR informed the meeting that a business plan should be submitted to the Planning Group in February.

#### **RS/12-13/35 DoR Update**

The DoR informed the Committee that College's web pages are undergoing a major overhaul. This includes the Research web pages, which are somewhat out of date. In the first instance, an interim web site will be put in place, to include information on the current thematic areas.

Schools/TRIs/Disciplines will be asked for up-to-date information on their own research web pages to link into the College site. The DoR may also ask for names of suitable externals to evaluate pages as they are developed. There may also be workshops on the information architecture of the web site to which staff would be invited.

#### **RS/12-13/36 Research Ethics**

The Committee noted a policy document on Research Ethics, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, for approval. The Associate Dean of Research (ADoR) gave a brief presentation outlining details of the policy.

The ADoR explained that if approved by the meeting, the proposal would go to Council for approval. Once approved, the existing Research Ethics Policy Group will be asked for advice on formation of

the proposed Research Ethics Policy Committee. As part of the process of implementing this policy, Schools will be asked for updates on their own ethics policies (noting that many will not have changed since the last request from the ADoR).

The DoR noted that it was important for researchers to realise that work that has already been carried out cannot usually be retrospectively approved, and that is vital that a proper framework for ethics approval is in place.

The Committee commended the ADoR on his work, and approved the policy.

The ADoR finished his briefing by outlining the details of the new IUA Draft Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland, providing details of the website on which it can be found. Once finalised, research institutions in Ireland will be asked to commit to this document. A group within College is currently reviewing this document and will formulate the College's response. Comments or suggestions can also be sent directly to [researchintegrity@iua.ie](mailto:researchintegrity@iua.ie).

*Action: Draft Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland to be circulated to members. Potential contributions to the College's response to be sent to the ADoR.*

#### **RS/12-13/37 Trinity Research Institutes**

The Committee noted a revised 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 drew the Committee's attention to the highlighted changes made as a result of the Committee's previous discussion of the document and invited the Committee to consider a number of further proposals for changes based on input from Schools as follows:

Section 4.1, bullet point 5 - To read "Running research grants relevant to the work of the TRI through the TRI's cost centre" - Approved.

Section 5.5. To read "Similarly, if TRI research activity is wholly/partially housed within a School, those grants should be signed by the Head of the relevant School only" - Not approved. The Committee agreed that as a basis for reporting and as a courtesy to the Director of a TRI, Directors should be afforded the opportunity to sign off on such grants.

Section 7, bullet point 8 - To read "Running research grants relevant to the work of the TRI through the TRI's cost centre" - Approved.

Section 8.1, paragraph 3 - To read "...responsibility for allocation of all space allocated to the TRI" - Approved.

One of the committee queried the use of the word 'normal' in the context of Section 3.4, which reads "Such principal investigators will be appointed following normal College procedures", since not all PIs are recruited in the same way. The DoR agreed to amend the wording.

One of the Committee commented that it would be advisable to note that the document should be reviewed every 3 years.

The Committee approved the document subject to the above noted amendments for consideration and approval by Executive Officers, Council, and the Business & Finance Committee.

**RS/12-13/38 Innovation Academy**

Ruth Kearney, Business Development Manager, The Innovation Academy; and Barry McMahon, TCD Course Co-Director, The Innovation Academy, gave a brief presentation to the Committee on The Innovation Academy, highlighting items of particular relevance to researchers and the research community. The presentation outlined where the Innovation Academy have plugged in and led on European funding proposals and a view on Horizon 2020.

The Committee thanked the presenters for their briefing. One of the meeting attendees noted that it might be prudent to include the word 'cultural' as part of the Innovation Academy mission statement, as it would signal to Arts & Humanities students that the academy is open to all.

**RS/12-13/39 Student Company Incubator**

The DoR briefed the Committee on the Student Company Incubator project. This is a project that the DoR has been working on in conjunction with TCD Alumni. The idea is to provide support for student-led companies. It is hoped that a pilot programme will launch this summer.

The Committee warmly welcomed the project.

**RS/12-13/40 Any Other Urgent Business**

None

**Section B**

**RS/12-13/41 SFI Annual Plan 2013**

The Committee noted the plan, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

**RS/12-13/42 Steering Group for College Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy Development**

The Committee noted minutes from the meetings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 and the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

**RS/12-13/43 Any Other Urgent Business**  
None

**Section C**

**RS/12-13/44 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings**

- a. Research Integrity
- b. Research Committee Budget
- c. Research Committee Self-Evaluation
- d. New IP Policy
- e. Annual Dean of Research Report
- f. Updates from Research Committee Working Groups  
Subcommittees
  - i. Associated Staff Working Group
  - ii. WiSER Strategic Group
  - iii. Knowledge Transfer & Innovation Committee

**RS/12-13/45 Any Other Urgent Business**  
None

Signed: .....

Date: .....