

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 30th April 2013

Present:

Professor Vinny Cahill, Dean of Research and Chair
Professor Derek Sullivan, Associate Dean of Research, acting
Associate Director of Trinity Research & Innovation (TR&I) and
Secretary
Professor Paul Coughlan, Director of Research, School of Business
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 Gaia Narciso, Director of Research, School of
Social Sciences and Philosophy
Professor Robert Gilligan, Director of Research, School of Social
Work and Social Policy
Assistant Professor Iain Atack, Director of Research, School of
Religions, Theology and Ecumenics
Associate Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of
Biochemistry and Immunology
Associate Professor Carl Vogel, Director of Research, School of
Computer Science and Statistics
Associate Professor Anthony Quinn, Director of Research, School of
Engineering
Assistant Professor Andrew Jackson, Director of Research, School of
Natural Sciences
Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics
Associate 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
Associate Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll, Director of Research, School
of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Juergen Barkhoff, Director of Research, Trinity Long Room
Hub
Professor Louis Brennan, Director of Research, IIS
Professor Shane O'Mara, Director of Research, TCIN
Martin John McAndrew, President, Graduate Students Union

In attendance: Mr John Murphy, Director of Information Systems Services
Dr Camilla Kelly, Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee
Professor Padraic Fallon for Item RS/12-13/63

Apologies: Assistant Professor Aidan Seery, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor John Boland, Director of Research, CRANN
Professor Kevin Rockett, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music
Professor Stefan Sint, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
Dermot Frost, acting Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA)
Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation
Mr David O'Shea, Acting Research Acc. Manager, Treasurer's Office

Not present: Professor Veronica Campbell, Dean of Graduate Studies
Professor Luke O'Neill, Director, Trinity Biosciences Institute (TBSI)
Professor Seamus Martin, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor Georg S. Duesberg, Director of Research, School of Chemistry

Section A

RS/12-13/59 Introduction

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

RS/12-13/60 Minutes of 5th March 2013

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

Item RS/12-13/50: Change "The DoR emphasised to the Committee that Irish Funding agencies are very keen that this policy document is accepted...." to "The DoR emphasised to the Committee that Irish Funding agencies are keen that a national policy on research integrity is accepted...."

RS/12-13/61 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/12-13/48 (referring to Items RS/12-13/34, RS/12-13/20 and RS/12-13/04): The RSS User Group held its second meeting recently. The focus of the group is now on allowing the broadest possible range of research outputs to be captured in the RSS in line with those identified under the College's Research Quality Metrics.

Item RS/12-13/48 (referring to Item RS/12-13/36): The Research Ethics Policy Committee has been convened and the first meeting will take place on May 13th. Each Faculty has nominated two members to sit on the committee which will be chaired by Prof. Orla Sheils from the School of Medicine. The main agenda items for first meeting will be membership of the committee and the committee's

terms of reference. The process for defining criteria for level 1 and level 2 research ethics committees will also begin. Any changes to procedures in research ethics will be reflected in amendments to the College's Policy on Good Research Practice.

Item RS/12-13/48 (referring to Item RS/12-13/37): The new policy on Trinity Research Institutes has been approved by Board.

Item RS/12-13/48 (referring to Item RS/12-13/39): The new student incubator, LaunchBox, was launched in early April and received approximately 45 applications from student teams across College. Ten applications were shortlisted. Six were conditionally selected for funding. The quality of applications was noted to be extremely high.

Item RS/12-13/50: The IUA Draft Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland. The suggested amendments to the draft policy approved at the last meeting were submitted to the IUA working group as planned. HR Directors in the HEIs have since raised concerns about the proposed procedures for investigating allegations of research misconduct. These concerns will be addressed in further amendments to the draft policy. Once the policy is finally approved relevant information and recommendations will be incorporated into College's Policy on Good Research Practice.

RS/12-13/62 DoR Update

Recent changes made to the SFI Investigator Program have resulted in the ineligibility of staff who would previously have been eligible to apply (e.g., eligible applicants must now have 15 or more senior author publications).

A reformulated version of the Starting Investigator Research Grant (SIRG) programme is expected to be launched soon. The new SIRG programme is likely to be a 2-tier program, open to both academic and postdoctoral staff. Each HEI will likely be restricted in the number of applications that can be submitted to SFI, in which case an internal selection process will be required.

The next round of the SFI Centres call is likely to be in Q3/Q4 2013, and will be a themed call. There is a possibility that it will be a joint call with EI and the IDA. The call will encompass 4-6 themes. The likely outcome of the call, depending on funding available, will be 2-4 new centres. The themes have not been identified as yet, but medical devices, agri-food, telecommunications and software are topics that have been mentioned. If anyone in any School/TRI is thinking about submitting to the next Centre call, they should contact the DoR as soon as possible.

The DoR was pleased to inform the Committee that College has been awarded an SFI International Strategic Cooperation Award (ISCA), for research collaboration with India. The award will provide, for a period of 12 months, the funding to coordinate and carry out a range

of activities designed to initiate and/or strengthen academic and research linkages.

The DoR was also pleased to tell members that Trinity College Dublin has been ranked in 48th place in the world and 9th in Europe in the recently published CWTS Leiden Ranking 2013. This is a marked increase of 15 places from 63rd place in the world last year. It was noted that the Leiden Rankings are very much focused on research activity.

RS/12-13/63 Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

A proposal to establish the Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, was circulated in advance of the meeting. The Dean noted that the proposal was for information purposes only at this stage, and not for approval.

Professor Padraic Fallon gave a brief presentation on the proposal to the Committee, outlining the urgent need for an institute that encompassed the 'bench-to-bedside' ethos. The ambitious plans include the merger of the Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) and Sir Patrick Dun (SPD) laboratories at the St. James's Hospital site. The Institute will provide an essential link between basic research conducted in the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI) and other main campus institutes/centres and clinical research conducted at the Dublin Centre for Clinical Research (DCCR) and the Clinical Research Facility due for completion on the St. James this year. Creation of this "hard" institute will allow College to maximise potential funding from Horizon 2020, which has allocated one third of its budget to health-related research.

The DoR thanked Professor Fallon for his presentation, noting that the proposed institute would bring together the exciting developments at SJH and the Wellcome HRB clinical trial facility, and that it would bring coherence to the various pieces of related activity.

RS/12-13/64 Feedback on SFI Investigator Programme themed calls

Each HEI was asked by SFI to identify 2 potential themes for the 2014 Investigator Programme call. At a specially convened meeting of the Research Committee, 4 possible topics were identified: personalised medicine, smart materials, sustainable environment, and ageing/assisted living. Following further input from members of the Committee, the DoR nominated personalised medicine and sustainable environment as the two themes from TCD.

RS/12-13/65 Update on Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy

The Committee noted a memo from the Dean of Research, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Since the last meeting, the process of developing a College strategy on innovation and entrepreneurship has continued. An international

advisory panel has reviewed the strategy and strongly supported the notion of a physical dedicated space to support innovation and entrepreneurship and to house the School of Business. The panel were particularly impressed by the broad-based approach (i.e. covering all disciplines, including those in AHSS). The final strategy document will be brought to Council for approval once all the panel comments are incorporated.

RS/12-13/66 Any Other Urgent Business

The Committee noted an application to establish a new centre led by Professor John O'Leary, the Trinity Cancer Research Centre (TCRC), and an accompanying letter of support, which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Committee welcomed the application.

Section B

RS/12-13/67 Dean of Research Annual Report 2011-12

The Committee noted the draft report, which was circulated in advance of the meeting. The DoR commented that the report was a first draft and that the final version will be more concise, however, there needed to be consistency between the research highlights submitted by Schools and TR&Is.

RS/12-13/68 Self Evaluation of RC

The DoR noted that the survey, as approved, would be circulated to members post meeting.

RS/12-13/69 Any Other Business

One of the Committee noted that staff should be made more aware of the consultation processes in Horizon 2020.

Another member asked when the SFI opportunistic funds scheme might be launched? The DoR responded that it should be in the first full week of May.

The DoR concluded by informing the committee that the process of appointing a new Director of TR&I was in train. In the interim period, Professor Derek Sullivan has been appointed acting Associate Director of TR&I.

Section C

RS/12-13/70 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings

- a. Research Committee Budget
- b. Updates from Research Committee Working Groups Subcommittees
 - i. Associated Staff Working Group

- ii. WISER Strategic Group
- iii. Knowledge Transfer & Innovation Committee
- iv. RSS User Group
- v. Research Ethics
- vi. IP Policy Working Group

RS/12-13/71 Any Other Urgent Business
None

Signed:

Date: