

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 28th May 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
Professor Kevin Rockett, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film
& Music
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 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
Professor Georg S. 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 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
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 John Boland, Director of Research, CRANN
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 Veronica Campbell, Dean of Graduate Studies
Dermot Frost, acting Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA)

In attendance: Mr David O'Shea, Acting Research Acc. Manager, Treasurer's Office
Dr Camilla Kelly, Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee
Dr Margaret Woods, Technology Transfer Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation for Item RS/12-13/77

Apologies: Associate Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Assistant Professor Iain Atack, Director of Research, School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics
Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation

Not present: Professor Seamus Martin, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor Luke O'Neill, Director, Trinity Biosciences Institute (TBSI)
Mr John Murphy, Director of Information Systems Services

RS/12-13/72 Introduction

The Dean of Research (DoR) welcomed everyone to the last meeting of this academic year.

RS/12-13/73 Minutes of 30^h April 2013

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

Item RS/12-13/61: Change "The focus of the group is now 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" to "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".

RS/12-13/74 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/12-13/61 (referring to Items RS/12-13/48, RS/12-13/34, RS/12-13/20 and RS/12-13/04): The RSS User Group will convene for a 3rd time on May 29th. It is anticipated that a document describing a comprehensive range of research outputs to be supported in the RSS will be issued by the group.

Item RS/12-13/61 (referring to Items RS/12-13/48 and RS/12-13/36): The Research Ethics Policy Committee is on today's agenda.

Item RS/12-13/61 (referring to Items RS/12-13/48 and RS/12-13/37): The new policy on Trinity Research Institutes has now been published.

Item RS/12-13/61 (referring to Items RS/12-13/48 & RS/12-13/39): The student incubator, LaunchBox, will commence the week beginning June 4th. Five of the originally selected six teams remain as one has withdrawn due to conflicting commitments.

Item RS/12-13/64: The DoR reminded the Committee that the topics submitted to SFI for consideration as themes for the 2014 Investigator Programme call have been circulated. The DoR also noted that at a recent meeting with SFI, no further information on the proposed themes was provided.

Item RS/12-13/64: The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy will go to the next Council meeting for approval.

Item RS/12-13/69: The SFI Infrastructure Programme: Opportunistic Funds Call was launched last week. This internal call is, in principle, a rolling call, with an initial deadline of 26th June 2013. A total of one million euro will be available and there is unlikely to be a 2nd call. There will be significant constraints on how the money can be used and normal procurement rules will apply.

RS/12-13/75 DoR Update

The DoR informed the Committee that Dr Diarmuid O'Brien has been appointed as the new Director of Trinity Research & Innovation. Dr O'Brien is expected to take up the appointment on the 1st of July. The Dean noted that the appointment of a Director was very important for College.

RS/12-13/76 Research Ethics Policy Committee

The Committee noted the draft Terms of Reference and Minutes from the first meeting of the Research Ethics Policy Committee (REPC), which were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Associate Dean of Research (ADoR) spoke briefly to the documents. The proposed membership of the REPC includes: the ADoR; two nominees from each Faculty; one internal legal expert, and one external member. Professor Orla Sheils is the current Chair of the Committee. The appropriate membership is still to be defined and input from Research Committee members was invited.

In relation to the role and responsibilities of the REPC, the ADoR noted that this committee, as its title suggests, is a policy oversight committee. Its prime responsibilities will be to recommend research ethics policies to the Research Committee and to consider for approval extant and future Research Ethics Committees (RECs). It was agreed that the REPC will not have the power to grant ethical approval for research projects.

It was also agreed that the REPC will oversee the implementation of recommendations included in any future College policy on research integrity including any that may arise from National policy.

The ADoR informed the committee that the policy statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland being developed through the IUA is currently nearing completion. The document has been recently redrafted and the recommended procedures for the investigation of allegations of cases of research misconduct are in alignment with College (statutory) procedures. Once available the

final draft of the policy document will be discussed by the REPC before being brought to the Research Committee.

The next meeting of the REPC will take place on June 6th. An important item of business will be to begin to identify the criteria for level one and level two RECs.

RS/12-13/77 Draft Principles for Open Innovation and Engagement

The Committee noted a document from Dr Margaret Woods, Technology Transfer Manager, which was circulated at the meeting.

Dr Woods gave a brief presentation on the proposed principles for open innovation and engagement.

The document has been through a number of iterations within the Intellectual Property (IP) Policy Review working group. In essence, the document describes how TCD is open for engagement including with business. TCD wants to engage with public and private entities for societal benefit, where the benefit can be economic or otherwise.

Dr Woods concluded the presentation by opening the floor to questions.

One of the members asked whether the policy would oblige staff to commercialize their research. In response, Dr Woods noted that academic freedom is always the overriding ethos, subject to the terms and conditions of any funding agencies that supported the work.

In relation to a query on campus companies, Dr Woods responded that such a company is set up primarily to exploit IP emanating from College, whether such IP is in the form of patents, copyright material or know-how. Any approved campus company must have some link to TCD. One of the members later noted that loosening of the definition of a campus company might be worth considering as it may be a way of generating revenue.

The DoR emphasised that the overriding principle is that College is open for engagement. However College is also obliged to abide by sponsor requirements. The first principle that 'TCD's underpinning aim is to ensure that research-derived knowledge is used appropriately for the benefit of society' is a key principle.

The DoR also noted that this document removes the distinction between service and research, explaining that operationally - if not as a matter of principle - College currently distinguishes between service and research.

One of the members noted that it might be more appropriate to use the phrase "public, private and social enterprise" rather than just "public and private enterprise". The same member suggested substituting the phrase "efficient mechanisms" with "efficient and effective mechanisms" in the document.

The question of implementation was addressed. The DoR noted that there is a strategy for expanding Industry Liaison under development. The goal is that College will be positioned as a 'partner of choice'. The strategy may involve re-positioning of the TTO as an 'Office of Corporate Partnership and Knowledge Exchange' and a corresponding business plan will be considered by Planning Group.

Another member welcomed the notion that there will no longer be a distinction between service and research, but queried rates of overhead that should be used when costing work. The DoR noted that the ideal situation is that College always receives an appropriate overhead. In relation to tenders, the DoR also noted that there is a tendency for staff to undervalue proposals, and that adequate costing of work is an issue that needs to be addressed.

It was agreed that Principle 8, bullet point 3 that 'seeking' should be changed to 'providing'.

It was also agreed that the descriptions of socially responsible licensing should be incorporated into the document.

The DoR concluded the discussion by noting that the opening of the document that describes "the purpose of our research in TCD" is worth further consideration and invited the members to provide feedback.

The revised IP Policy should be completed by early next (academic) year.

RS/12-13/78 Self-Evaluation of the Research Committee

The Committee noted the results of a recent survey of Committee members, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

RS/12-13/79 Quality Review Cycle of Research Institutes

The Committee noted and approved the proposed five-year quality review cycle of Trinity Research Institutes, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

RS/12-13/80 Any Other Urgent Business

The ADoR noted the change of name of the Smart and Sustainable Cities Research Centre to Future Cities.

The ADoR also noted that all Trinity Research Centres should provide annual reports by the end of July.

Signed:

Date: