

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 3rd December 2013

Present: Professor Vinny Cahill, Dean of Research (DoR) and Chair
Professor Derek Sullivan, Associate Dean of Research (ADoR)
Professor Paul Coughlan, Director of Research, School of Business
Professor Colette Murphy, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English
Professor John Horne, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities
Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Ailbhe Ni Chasaide, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Science
Professor Malcolm MacLachlan, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Gaia Narciso, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Professor Daniela Zisterer, DOR, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor Donal O'Mahony in place of Professor Carl Vogel, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Frank Boland, Director of Research, School of Engineering
Professor Mike Peardon, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
Professor Andrew Jackson, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Gary Moran, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Gabrielle McKee, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Louis Brennan, Director of Research, IIS
Professor Shane O'Mara, Director of Research, TCIN
Professor Juergen Barkhoff, Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub
Professor Aideen Long, Dean of Graduate Studies
Dermot Frost, Acting Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA)
Ryan Kenny, President, Graduate Students Union

In attendance: Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation
Mr David O'Shea, Acting Research Acc. Manager, Treasurer's Office
Mr John Murphy, Director of Information Systems Services
Dr Camilla Kelly, Research Projects Officer, Trinity Research & Innovation and Minute Secretary to the Committee
Dr Oonagh Kinsman, Trinity Research & Innovation, for Item RS/13-14/31
Ms Niamh Brennan, Library, for Item RS/13-14/32

Apologies: Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation (TR&I) and Secretary

Professor Seamus Martin, DOR, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor David Tombs, DOR, School of Religions, Theology and
Ecumenics
Professor Carl Vogel, Director of Research, School of Computer
Science and Statistics
Professor Yuri Volkov, Director of Research, School of Medicine

Not present: Professor Martin Adams, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film
& Music
Professor Clemens Ruthner, Director of Research, School of
Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Robert Gilligan, Director of Research, School of Social
Work and Social Policy
Professor Georg S. Duesberg, Director of Research, School of
Chemistry
Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of Research, CRANN
Professor Luke O'Neill, Director of Research, Trinity Biosciences
Institute (TBSI)

RS/13-14/25 Introduction

The Dean of Research welcomed everyone to the final meeting of this
calendar year.

RS/13-14/26 Minutes of 5th November 2013

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

Professor Shane O'Mara's apology to be noted.

RS/13-14/21: Update on Wiser. Paragraph six - replace 'Icelandic'
with 'Nordic'.

RS/13-14/27 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item RS/13-14/16 (referring to Item RS/13-14/08): Research Ethics
Policy Committee (REPC). The DoR noted that the Terms of Reference
for the REPC have been formally approved by Council.

Item RS/13-14/16 (referring to Item RS/13-14/10): HEA Compact. The
DoR noted that a meeting with the Directors of Research in the Faculty
of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) is planned.

Item RS/13-14/16 (referring to Item RS/13-14/11): Dean of Research
Annual Report 2012/2013. The DoR has received reports from eight
Schools/TRIs to date and expects another two within the next few
days.

Item RS/13-14/17: DoR update on SFI's Career Development Award
(CDA) and Starting Investigator Research Grant (SIRG) schemes: The
DoR will communicate the Committee's concerns regarding the CDA

and SIRG schemes to SFI in writing once the SFI selection process is concluded.

Item RS/13-14/18: Policy on Research Centres: The composition of the Working Group has been agreed, and includes Professor John Horne, Professor Gabrielle McKee, Professor Jane Stout, and Professor David Hevey. The Working Group hopes to convene its first meeting before the end of December.

RS/13-14/22: College Research Web Site. There has been lots of input from a wide range of people, and a substantial set of modifications have taken place. It is hoped that the pages will be live before the end of term. An interim website for innovation had been put in place to coincide with the launch of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy on 27th November.

RS/13-14/28 DoR Update

The DoR noted that Trinity's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy was formally launched by Mr Richard Bruton, TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation on November 27th. This strategy is a major initiative for College. A public strategy document is now available on the innovation website (<http://www.tcd.ie/innovation/>)

RS/13-14/29 Policy update: Broadening Participation in EU Framework (FP) Programmes

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

Doris Alexander, Trinity Research & Innovation (TR&I), spoke briefly to the document. The original policy was approved in May 2011 to allow contract research staff to apply for FP7 funding. The last deadlines for FP7 have now occurred and the follow-on Framework Programme, Horizon 2020 (H2020), is about to be launched. The policy update represents a proposed maintenance of the policy, as it existed in FP7, for H2020 and all subsequent EC Framework Programmes noting that whereas FP7 collaborative projects were 75% funded with 60% overheads, H2020 collaborative projects (pillar 2 and 3) are expected to be primarily 100% funded with 25% overheads.

As with the original policy, the update targets 3 categories of contract staff: Senior Research Fellows (SRF), Research Fellows (RF), and contract lecturing staff (CLS). SRFs and CLS will be required to have a core TCD-funded permanent member of staff involved in the research being conducted for at least 3 days per annum and RFs a minimum of 6 days per annum. All categories should know at the time of application where their salary will be met from over the life time of TCD's involvement in the grant; SRFs and RFs must also request no less than 50% of their salary from the grant. Only SRFs and CLS may act as Principal Supervisors of research students.

The usual College policy relating to the division of overheads will apply.

One of the Committee asked what would happen in the case where a successful applicant moves institution post award. In response, it was

noted that, subject to agreement, grants can be moved to other institutions within the EU, or the grant can remain with Trinity after the researcher moves.

Another of the Committee asked about retired staff who are still research active. Ms Alexander noted that issues such as these are currently being worked through by the College H2020 Working Group. The DoR added that a College joint working group of the Human Resources and Research Committees on Associated Staff was also looking at the issue of the status of retired staff.

Another member asked about space issues that arise when staff are successful with their funding applications. The DoR noted that in the first instance, allocation of required space is a matter for the hosting School/Trinity Research Institute.

The Acting Chair of the Trinity Research Staff Association welcomed the policy document.

The Committee approved the policy.

RS/13-14/31 Research Professional

Dr Oonagh Kinsman, TR&I, gave a brief presentation on the Research Professional funding opportunities database.

Research Professional is an online database that provides information on research funding opportunities across all disciplines. Information is updated daily and collated from more than 6,000 funders from across the globe. The database also facilitates the creation of personalized funding searches and alerts to funding opportunities. All Trinity staff and students have access Research Professional.

In addition to being a source of funding opportunities, Research Professional also provides news items relating to research policy in many domains, information that can be useful when crafting a funding application.

One of the Committee asked whether the database gave an indication of success rates for the various funding schemes. In reply, Dr Kinsman noted that it is currently being rolled out for UK schemes, and will happen for other funders in the future where information is available.

Another member noted that access to policy information is very useful for writing impact statements in funding applications.

The DoR concluded by thanking Dr Kinsman for her presentation and asked that Committee members make the system more widely known to colleagues in Schools/TRIs.

RS/13-14/32 Proposed Additional Research Output Types in the TCD Research Support System (RSS)

The Committee noted the document “Proposed Additional Research Output Types in the TCD Research Support System”, which was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Niamh Brennan spoke briefly to the document. In October 2010, Council approved a set of research output types for inclusion in the annual Research Quality Metrics (RQM) exercise. A number of those research output types were additional to those included at that time in the RSS. As the RSS acts as the information-gathering and reporting mechanism for research productivity, it is necessary to ensure that such research output types are built into the RSS. In this way, details of these research outputs will be captured more easily and in a similar way to those of the research publication/output types already included in the RSS. Until this is done, information on those research outputs can not easily be captured.

The RSS User Group was tasked with an exercise to identify and define these types of research output in such a way that they can be represented within the RSS. This work was carried during the Summer of 2013.

The Research Support System ‘as is’ currently presents 22 ‘types’ of research output in its main list. It proposed to rationalise the existing list of research output types in the RSS to reduce duplication and to ensure greater clarity. It is further proposed to add a set of 27 research output types to the main list in order to accommodate all of the research outputs listed in the Council Document of October 2010.

Templates for the research output types that are new to the system have been drafted and developed within the Test RSS. If approved by the Research Committee, it is proposed that these research output types should go live in the RSS as soon as possible. Additional work is required to identify quality metrics associated with the specific research output types.

The Committee warmly welcomed these proposed changes to the RSS and congratulated Ms Brennan on her work.

One of the Committee asked who to go to with issues or suggestions for the RSS; in reply the DoR noted that it would be the relevant Faculty representative on the RSS User Group.

Another member asked whether there was a category for a foreword to a book? The DoR cautioned that for anything to be considered as a research output, it must have a substantive research contribution. An invitation to write a forward might not qualify. The same might apply to an invitation to give a talk - the invitation itself is a measure of esteem, but not a substantive research output.

The issue of double-counting of outputs was also raised - where a conference talk and a conference paper on the same topic are listed as separate outputs.

Another of the Committee asked where these outputs will be used? In response, the DoR noted that these will be an important input to the

key performance indicators around the HEA Compact. They will also be useful for benchmarking against external rankings.

The DoR noted that these changes to the research output types in the RSS will not affect the research productivity criteria; these remain unchanged.

The DoR concluded by thanking Ms Brennan for her presentation.

The Committee approved these research output types going live in the RSS

RS/13-14/34 Any Other Business

In response to a query from one of the Committee on the HEA Compact, the DoR noted that a meeting is planned with the Directors of Research for the Faculty of AHSS. The HEA has already provided some feedback to Trinity. Substantive changes are possible going forward.