

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

**Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 02 December 2014**

**Present:**

Professor Vinny Cahill, Dean of Research (DoR) and Chair  
Professor Paul Coughlan, Director of Research, School of Business  
Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law  
Professor Anne Dolan in attendance for Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú,  
Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities  
Professor Lorraine Leeson, Director of Research, School of Linguistic,  
Speech and Communication Sciences  
Professor Paul Scanlon, Director of Research, School of Social  
Sciences and Philosophy  
Professor Daniela Zister, Director of Research, School of  
Biochemistry and Immunology.  
Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, Director of Research, School of  
Chemistry  
Professor Carl Vogel, Director of Research, School of Computer  
Science and Statistics  
Professor Frank Boland, Director of Research, School of Engineering  
Professor Aoife McLysaght, Director of Research, School of Genetics  
and Microbiology  
Professor Mike Peardon, Director of Research, School of Mathematics  
Professor Jane Stout, Director of Research, School of Natural  
Sciences  
Professor Gary Moran, Director of Research, School of Dental Science  
Professor James O'Donnell, Director of Research, School of Medicine  
Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll, Director of Research, School of  
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Professor Shane O'Mara, Director of Research, TCIN  
Ms Megan Lee, President, Graduate Students Union

**In attendance:**

Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity  
Research & Innovation  
Dr Fiona Killard, Research Strategy Officer, Trinity Research &  
Innovation and Rapporteur to the Committee  
Professor Martine Smith, Head of School, Linguistic, Speech and  
Communication Sciences, (item RS/14-15/25 only)  
Dr Jose Manuel Sanchez Morgado, Director of Comparative Medicine,  
(item RS/14-15/26 only)  
Dr Margaret Woods, Technology Transfer Manager, Trinity Research &  
Innovation (item RS/14-15/27 only)  
Professor Cliona O'Farrelly, Professor of Comparative Immunology  
and Researchers' Night 2014 Bid Coordinator (item RS/14-15/28 only)

**Apologies:**

Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation (TR&I)  
and Secretary  
Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English  
Professor Gabrielle McKee, Director of Research, School of Nursing  
and Midwifery

Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of Research, CRANN  
Professor John Walsh, Director of Research, School of Education  
Professor Aideen Long, Dean of Graduate Studies  
Mr David O'Shea, Acting Research Acc. Manager, Financial Services  
Division  
Mr John Murphy, Director of Information Systems Services

Not present:

To be appointed, Associate Dean of Research  
Professor Martin Adams, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film  
& Music  
Professor Clemens Ruthner, Director of Research, School of  
Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies  
Professor Ruth Byrne, Director of Research, School of Psychology  
Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work  
and Social Policy  
Professor Andrew Pierce, Director of Research, School of Religions,  
Theology and Ecumenics  
Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics  
Professor Juergen Barkhoff, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub  
Professor Carol Newman, Director of the Institute for International  
Integration Studies (IIS)  
Professor Luke O'Neill, Director of Research, TBSI  
Michael Cooke, Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association (TRSA)

#### **RS/14-15/22 Minutes of 04 November 2014**

The minutes of last meeting were accepted with minor revisions.

#### **RS/14-15/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The DoR reported meeting apologies.

The Committee was updated on feedback received from members on the HRB strategy and policy consultation (see RS/14-15/11). The Dean informed the Committee that issues were raised concerning the HRB's support for basic biomedical research, the need to support clinical research, and the buy-out of time. These concerns were relayed to the HRB, however it was reported that budget restrictions may limit the HRB's ability react in the short term.

The Dean noted that the International Funding Research Projects Officer (RDO) is undertaking further consultation around the clarification of College policy on dual-use research (see RS/14-15/17) and will revert to the Committee in due course.

The members were informed that there would be a Trinity Visual Identity Showcase in the week commencing 08 December 2014 during which further feedback would be sought on the College's new visual identity (see item RS/14-15/18).

**RS/14-15/24 Dean of Research Update (DoR)**

The Dean updated the Committee on the ERC programme informing members that three ERC Starting Grants had been secured by the College. They are as Dr. Sarah McCormack, School of Engineering, Dr. Mark Ahearne, School of Engineering and Dr. Redmond O'Connell, TCIN. It was noted that the candidates shortlisted for ERC Consolidator 2014 awards were undergoing internal mock interviews in preparation for their Commission interview. The members were also informed that the ERC Starting Grant 2015 and the ERC Consolidator Grant 2015 calls were now open. The DoR invited members to encourage appropriate candidates to apply to these programmes.

The Dean updated members on the College's on-going Research Theme Review. Members were informed that the Internationalism Research Review Panel took place on the 27 and 28 November. This panel included two Research Themes: International Integration and International Development. It was reported that the reviewers engaged in a deep and meaningful way with the review, and it was felt to be a valuable and positive experience for all those involved. It was noted that reviewer feedback would be important in shaping the future progress of these themes. Members were also informed that the next review panel, to review the Smart and Sustainable Planet theme, will take place on the 18 and 19 December. This theme has resulted from the merger of the Smart and Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Environment themes during the process.

**RS/14-15/25 Application for a Trinity Centre for Asian Studies**

An application for the designation of the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies as a Research Centre was presented to the Research Committee by the Head of the School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences, Prof. Martine Smith, and the proposed Director of the Centre, Prof. Lorna Carson. This proposal was accepted by the Research Committee and the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies was formally approved

**RS/14-15/26 Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes**

The Director of Comparative Medicine updated members on a Wellcome Trust position paper addressing a proposal for a European-wide cessation of the use of animals in research. The Committee was informed that the Wellcome Trust is seeking an endorsement of this position paper from universities. Following a discussion Research Committee endorsed this paper and requested that the Dean raise the issue with the IUA.

**Action:** The Dean is to raise this issue with the IUA.

### RS/14-15/27 College IP Policy

The Technology Transfer Manager briefed Research Committee members on planned revisions to the College's IP policy. The Technology Transfer Manager detailed and clarified each of the following amendments proposed by members:

Page 5 (d) - insertion of "a" in the phrase 'research in a TCD campus'

Page 6 Section 2, para 1 - Insertion of a new sentence before the last sentence ; **"TCD Staff must fully disclose novel IP to TR&I as soon as possible after its creation and in any event prior to the submission of abstracts or manuscripts for publication."**

Page 7 Section 3 Second sentence - Insertion after 'Thus' after the words **"where commercialisation is required or envisaged"**.

Page 9 second line - Insertion of the word **"family"** after 'patent'

Page 10 Second para last line - Delete the words **"Dean of Research"**

Page 11 Section 9 second para - add the words **"without approval from the Board"**

Page 13 last line -Delete the words **"of the KT&IC"** and **"made to it"**

Following a discussion the Committee requested further amendments as follows:

Page 5 section 1 (a) - Amend by the deletion of one word and the insertion of two words, to read **".....and/or in the fields of expertise in which they are employed to work"**

Page 6 section I Exemptions - Add additional sub-clause (vi) **"IP created by TCD Staff in the course of conducting personal consultancy work which has been approved by TCD in accordance with Section 7."**

The Committee approved the redrafted IP Policy, subject to the changes outlined above, for submission to Finance Committee.

**Action:** The Dean is to bring the redrafted IP Policy, as endorsed by Research Committee, to the next sitting of Finance Committee.

### RS/14-15/28 Researchers' Night Report

The H2020-funded Researchers' Night 2014 Bid-Coordinator, and Professor of Comparative Immunology, presented a report to Research Committee on the success of Researchers' Night 2014, which took place on 26 September. Members were informed that the event which included >50 activities presented by almost 600 of TCD researchers and supported by >300 TCDs graduate students attracted significant media attention and enlivened social media estimating outreach figures at approximately 3.5 million. The enthusiasm and importance of the event for early-stage researchers was particularly highlighted. The potential for utilising this event as forum for public engagement and as a powerful tool for H2020 bids was also stressed. It was also pointed out that while there was significant publicity surrounding the scientific activities, equal emphasis should be given

to all research activities interests and initiatives across college. The Researchers' Night 2014 Bid-Coordinator was keen to foment interest in the development of new and renewed activities to illustrate the full range of the college community's research interests for the 25 September 2015 Researcher's Night. The DoR also encouraged the Committee to consider how their schools might contribute to this initiative.

#### **RS/14-15/29 University Rankings**

The Dean informed members that a more detailed discussion of University Rankings would take place during the 20 January 2015 sitting of Research Committee. The DoR also informed members that the College's Rankings Strategy was being revisited. Members were encouraged to utilise their academic networks to promote responses to the Times Higher Education (THE) survey. The Dean noted that this could have a significant impact on the College's ranking. The members were informed that the response rate for the THE survey was relatively low and that this number is declining. The Dean stressed the importance of articulating the College's desire to continue to perform well in the rankings as this is significant in terms of encouraging engagement in reputation surveys.

#### **RS/14-15/30 Any Other Business**

The Dean raised the topic of the induction of new Directors of Research. Members were informed that previous induction sessions have taken place but need to be further developed and improved to ensure that they are of benefit to new members. The Committee were asked to consider topics and issues that could be covered during this induction.

**Action:** Members to feedback ideas on content for the induction of new Directors of Research.

The members were also informed about the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (DJEI) intention to commence a review of policies (HRB policies, IP policies, National Research Prioritisation review etc.).

The DoR noted that 'Pathfinder', an internally-funded Research Committee initiative (see RS/14-15/07), is due to be launched with a tentative closing date of the 16 January 2015.

The Research Development Manager requested members to identify colleagues that have acted as ERC reviewers. Members were invited to encourage researchers to become involved in H2020 and ERC review processes.

**Action:** Members to identify colleagues involved in the ERC evaluation process.

The Director of Research for the School of Business informed Research Committee that the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) have established a Faculty-level Research Committee as a forum for AHSS Directors of Research to more

effectively discuss items raised by the College's Research Committee. Minutes from this Committee will be noted at the AHSS Faculty Executive Committee.

**RS/14-15/31 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings**

The Committee was informed that items relating to the College's Overheads Policy, and an item on Full Economic Costing would be brought before members at future sittings of the Committee.

**RS/14-15/32 AOB**

None recorded.