The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 03 November 2015

Present:

Professor Peter Gallagher, Associate Dean of Research (ADoRPG)
Professor Martina Hennessy, Associate Dean of Research (ADoRMH)

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Professor Stephen Minton, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Sam Slote, Director of Research, School of English
Professor Roja Fazaeli, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Mark Bell, Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Carol Newman, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science
Professor Doug Leith, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Aoife McLysaght, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor Jane Stout, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences

Faculty of Health Sciences
Professor Gary Moran, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Geralyn Hynes, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Professor Orla Hardiman, Director of Research, TBSI

In attendance:

Dr Oonagh Kinsman, Trinity Research & Innovation, Rapporteur to the Committee
Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation
Mr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations (IT Services)
Mr David O'Shea, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division
Mr Patrick Doyle, Systems Administrator, Research and High Performance Computing Centre (item RS/15-16/15 only
Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Initiatives, Office of the Dean and Vice President for Research (item RS/15-16/19, 20 only)

Apologies:

Professor John Boland, Dean of Research (DoR)
Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business
Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities

Not present:

> Dr Diarmuid O'Brien, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation and Secretary
> Professor Jane Alden, Director of Research, School of Drama, Film & Music
> Professor Lorraine Leeson, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
> Professor Ruth Byrne, Director of Research, School of Psychology
> Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy
> Professor Daniela Zisterer, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
> Professor Isabel Rozas, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
> Professor Sergey Frolov, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
> Professor Luiz Da Silva, Director of Research, School of Engineering
> Professor Seamus Donnelly, Director of Research, School of Medicine
> Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics
> Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
> Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of Research, CRANN
> Professor Shane O'Mara, Director of Research, TCIN
> Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Research, Trinity Long Room Hub
> Professor Aideen Long, Dean of Graduate Studies
> Mr Michael Cooke, Acting Chair, Trinity Research Staff Association
> Ms Katie Crowther, President, Graduate Students Union

Actions arising / on-going:

Agenda Item	Owner	Action	Status
RS/14-15/78	Dean of Research	Feedback on the reconsideration of the sustainability of TRIs and their value to Schools	*In progress*
RS/14-15/80	Vice Provost/CAO	Feedback on tenure track	*In progress*
RS/15-16/03	Directors of Research	Directors of Research to provide highlights for the DoR Report on currently research and innovation of interest from their Schools by 13 November 2015	*In progress*
RS/15-16/06	Associate Dean of Research MH	Following feedback from the ethics committee to the Director of Research for the School of Business the key questions on procedures will addressed	*In progress*
RS/15-16/15	Associate Dean of Research MH	Feedback policies and decisions from the research ethics committee to include ethics approval procedures, subscription to the UK Research Integrity Office. lone workers policy, and US Department of Defence funding	*In progress*
RS/15-16/16	Research Development Manager	Seek submissions from each area currently co-funding an Research Programme Officer	*In progress*
RS/15-16/18	Faculty administrators	Faculties to confirm which Directors of Research would be attending the Research Committee	*In progress*

RS/15-16/12   Introduction from the Associate Dean of Research Peter Gallagher

The ADoRPG chaired the meeting on behalf of the DoR. He briefed the committee on his responsibilities in the new role which will focus on research infrastructure. His background is in solar physics.

RS/15-16/13   Minutes of 06 October 2015

Meeting minutes were accepted with revisions to the attendees list.

RS/15-16/14   Matters Arising from the Minutes

The ADoRPG updated members on the Dean of Research Report (RS/15-16/03), which requested highlight information from each School for the academic year 2014/2015. He suggested that this should be no more than 1 page and be submitted to Kevin Ennis (ennisk@tcd.ie) cc Oonagh Kinsman (oonagh.kinsman@tcd.ie) by 13 November.

ACTION: The Directors of Research requested to submit information and highlights demonstrating Schools' wealth of research and innovation.

The ADoRMH and the Director of Research for the School of Natural Sciences updated the committee on the 'Our Common Future' statement (RS/15-16/05) which was signed on behalf of Trinity College and submitted to the French ambassador. . It was clarified that Professor Anna Davies had been consulted on the programme for the conference to take place in December but that there was no permanent scientific committee structure planned as yet.

The ADoRMH noted that the chair of the Ethics Committee would respond to the Director of Research for the School of Business who had raised questions in relation to ethics review (RS/15-16/06) and that she would review the procedural procedures raised at the next meeting.

ACTION: Following feedback from the ethics committee to the Director of Research for the School of Business the key questions on procedures will addressed by ADoRMH.

RS/15-16/15   Research Ethics and Integrity

The ADoRMH explained that the latest Research Ethics committee was held very recently and that key documents for noting by the Research Committee will be provided to the meeting of the Research Committee in December. These will include the 'Lone Workers Policy'. The Science Gallery had requested to establish a level 1 ethics committee. It was agreed by the IUA that all institutions should have a Research Integrity Officer. By statute, the Senior Dean has responsibility for Research Integrity however discussions need to take place with the Senior Dean to ascertain if he can also take on the obligations of the Research Integrity Office as understood by the IUA. At the next meeting of the Research Committee the ADoRMH will summarise the advantages of subscribing to the UK Research Integrity Office.

ACTION: ADoRMH to feedback policies and decisions from the research ethics committee to include ethics approval procedures, subscription to the UK Research Integrity Office and lone workers policy

Mr Patrick Doyle presented progress on an on-line ethical approval system which is intended to provide information and status on draft and approved submissions. Level 1 approvals will be managed by an administrator for each committee. Members of the committee suggested that common errors and understandings could be provided to minimise errors, that each draft should be able to be saved while editing, that emails should be generated to confirm submission, and that final approvals should be downloadable as a pdf document. A pilot will be run with one School when the system development is complete. The Director of Research of Computer Science and Statistics noted that the current administration was time consuming especially for student projects and asked if signatures were needed and how this is being taken into account in the system.

RS/15-16/16   Research Programme Officers

The Research Development Manager summarised the research diversification strategy. Funding of €280,000 / year had been provided from the Research Committee for co-funding of 9 Research Programme Officers (RPOs). The local cofounding was required to be non-exchequer funding. The agreed Research committee funding was for a period of 3 years with an option of a further 2 years. The positions were intended to become self-sustaining in the long term. Most positions are now in their third year while one was funded initially for 2 years (ending March 2016) and the Cancer RPO 3 year post had only just started. The additional 2 year funding was ring fenced from the Research Committee budget and agreement to allocate this funding was sought from the committee. This was agreed.

The Director of Research for Genetics and Microbiology felt strongly that there should be an opportunity for new posts to be created'. However the consensus was that information first be sought from existing funded areas to ascertain what funding will be needed and to seek the following information:
Impact of the post; opportunity for self-sustainability; possible realignment in area of focus especially where themes have changed; line management; key performance indicators for the future; housing; and potential for non-pay budget.

The solicited submissions would then be reviewed by a small committee (Faculty Deans, DoR, HR representative and Research Development Manager) to determine continuity of funding where justified.

The ADoRPG was keen that performance indictors be requested but is was agreed that there could not be commonality across the positions. The Director of Research for TBSI agreed that currently the impact was hard to measure and commented that there was a lack of clarity in line management. The Research Development Manager emphasised that they were set up with primary local line management to ensure that the local strategy was met but that secondary reporting to her ensured that the

staff were as integrated as closely as possible into the Research Development Office. It was emphasised that promotion of funding opportunities and in-depth support on proposals is facilitated by understanding the needs of the cohort of PIs which is not always possible from the central office.

Action: The Research Development Manager to seek submissions from each area currently co-funding an RPO.

RS/15-16/17 Any Other Urgent Business

None

RS/15-16/18 Restructuring of the Research Committee 2015-16

The ADoRPG reviewed the DoR's request at the last meeting to reduce the size of the committee to facilitate better interactions at the meeting. This proposed reduction in numbers would result in one representative for 2 Schools. No final decisions had taken place in some Faculties as to which representatives were to attend. The flow of information was raised as a concern by some committee members. It was agreed that all agendas and minutes would be forwarded to all Directors of Research and that any items of concern could be flagged to the appropriate representative. If attendance by one Director of Research was not possible for a meeting a substitute could attend to ensure Faculty representation. The ADoRPG requested better shared access to documents. A full group meeting could take place at the beginning and end of each academic year.

ACTION: Faculties to confirm which Directors of Research would be attending the Research Committee and to consider Faculty level research committees.

RS/15-16/19 Trinity Rankings Strategy

The Head of Strategic Research initiatives summarised the priority project to analyse ranking categories and data to maximise our position and to ensure that we do not lose our position in the QS top 200 category. The immediate actions include: a letter from the Provost to alert all staff to immediate needs; to register all outputs to maximise citation levels and to encourage use of ORCHID IDs; to identify key academic and industry contacts while respecting confidentiality of collaborations to maximise survey responses; establish base line research inputs; and green light hiring of excellent researchers and scholars. Meetings with the Provost are held every two weeks.

She emphasised that a more streamlined approach would be taken in the future. Regarding the attracting of external talent this included a proposed empowering of Heads of Schools to seek ERC candidates and SFI targeted Professors. She will be seeking best practice on how some UK universities inform their research strategies for best effect on rankings however these universities have 15 years experience of research evaluation through REF and similar previous schemes. For example does the investment in doctoral training centres affect the THE ranking in any

way. She would also be requesting information from the University of Dresden on how they increased their ranking dramatically by optimising their research inputs. Research inputs may not take into account investment in capital or research infrastructure. We may be able to target areas of the world to ensure our reputation is maximised globally eg there was a very low response rate from South America. We may use the graduate tracking database together with Linked In to identify key employers for reputational surveys.

RS/15-16/20 Thematic Review Process

The Head of Strategic Research Initiatives reported that all 19 themes have been reviewed and the 'super panel' of very senior reviewers would be meeting on 7-9 December. Membership of the panel was provided.
All documents will be provided to the panel, including the response to 1st stage review. Each panel member will review in detail 4/5 themes, and will be assigned to the lead discussion on 1 or 2 themes. All theme champions will be giving short presentations. The final report will be completed on 9 December.

The expertise of the panel in relation to all themes was discussed and it was appreciated that the panel had a broad experience but that there would not be expertise in all themes eg cancer however they are all experienced in review processes and the Faculty Deans can also field questions.

RS/15-16/21 SFI Infrastructure call

The ADoRPG summarized the categories of the call: A- H2020 related; B- SFI Centre related; C- broader category; D- institutional bid for opportunistic fund. An internal review was required for A-C. Review of Category A and B proposals has taken place. A review panel was given a set of guidelines which related to SFI criteria and two reviewers per proposal were asked to score and rank the proposals taking into account strengths (+1) and weaknesses (-1). The DoR and ADoRPG reviewed the outcomes which did not take into account strategic issues but were judged on the merit of the proposal. Feedback was given to all candidates. Outcomes of A and B proposals from SFI is due by the end of December. Category C and D proposals are in progress.

RS/15-16/22 Any other business

None noted