

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 12 December 2017

Present:

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

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Professor Nicholas Brown, School of Creative Arts
Professor Michael Cronin, representing Director of Research, School of
Languages Literatures and Cultural Studies
Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Ruth Byrne, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Gaia Narciso, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences
and Philosophy
Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work
and Social Policy
Professor Jacob Erickson, Director of Research, School of Religions,
Peace Studies and Theology

Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science
Professor Emma Creagh, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry
and Immunology
Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer
Science and Statistics
Professor Adrian Bracken, Director of Research, School of Genetics
and Microbiology

Faculty of Health Sciences
Professor Jeffrey O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Dentistry
Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director, TCIN

In attendance:

Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research
and Innovation
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian, Library
Dr Oonagh Kinsman, Trinity Research and Innovation, Secretary to the
Committee

Apologies:

Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Lorraine Leeson, Director of Research, School of Linguistic,
Speech and Communication Sciences
Professor Luiz Da Silva, Director of Research, School of Engineering
Professor Orla Hardiman, Director, TBSI
Professor Orla Sheils, Director, TTMI

Not present:

Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business
 Professor Sam Slote, Director of Research, School of English
 Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities
 Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
 Professor Sinead Ryan, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
 Professor Jane Stout, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
 Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics
 Professor Seamus Donnelly, Director of Research, School of Medicine
 Professor GERALYN HYNES, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
 Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director, CRANN
 Professor Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies
 Mr Shane Collins, President, Graduate Students Union
 Mr David O'Shea, Director of Financial Services, Financial Services Division
 Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services
 Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research and Innovation

Actions arising / on-going:

Agenda Item	Owner	Action	Status
RS/15-16/49	Dean of Research	Feedback on proposed Research Career Framework policy to be discussed at the IUA VPDoR meeting in January 2018	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/57	Dean of Research	Consideration of additional SITS functionality to provide data for source of funding for PhD fees	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/62	Associate Dean of Research	Report to the Research Committee with policies on bio-banking, data retention and stem cells	<i>In progress</i>
RS/15-16/63	Dean of Research	Review implementation of criteria for Measuring Research Productivity and Excellence from all 3 Faculties at end of Hilary term 2018	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/20	Dean of Research and President of Graduate Students Union	Consider postgraduate representative forum as a mechanism to raise research concerns in the Dail	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/23	Dean of Research	Provide details of internal programmes to promote visiting academics and external ERC applications on internal web	<i>In progress</i>
RS/16-17/28	Dean of Research	Through the IUA, contribute to a response on SFI's proposed governance model for Centres	<i>In progress</i>
RS/17-18/07	Associate Dean of Research PG	Revert to SFI on equipment call and issues and ask Procurement to investigate contract arrangements for equipment maintenance.	<i>In progress</i>
RS/17-18/07	Dean of Research	Ethics training will be further explored by the Research Ethics Policy Committee and training needs identified	<i>In progress</i>
RS/17-18/12	Directors of Research	Provide Faculty nominees for Scival Users Group to ADoRMH	<i>In progress</i>

RS/17-18/13 Matters arising from the minutes

The IUA VPDoR meeting in November 2017 was cancelled. The Research Career Framework will be discussed at the next meeting in January 2018. (RS/15-16/49).

ADoRMH noted that the final criteria for Measuring Research Productivity and Excellence from all 3 Faculties, which were collated into one document was circulated to the Research Committee. These metrics continue to evolve and she suggested that they be discussed again at the end of next term. (RS/15-16/63). These were discussed again in relation to further analyses being undertaken in the Faculty of AHSS. The Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science suggested that a table be created to emphasise the similarities and differences across the faculties. The Director of Research, School of Psychology commented on how the metrics were being used for HEA statistics.

Action: DoR to seek feedback on implementation of criteria for Measuring Research Productivity and Excellence.

Review of the SITS functionality with respect to funding information including fees will be reviewed by the Dean of Research. (RS/15-16/57).

Professor Orla Shiels confirmed that the policy on bio-banking is complete and the policy on stem cells is nearing completion. Data retention is still under discussion as consolidated advice is needed considering research records and data management. The Librarian is involved in the discussions. (RS/15-16/62).

A pilot SFI research integrity audit had been carried out with Professor Shane O'Mara where the reviewers were asked to review the research data. SFI carried out this audit without contacting the institution directly. The DoR (Prof John Boland) contacted Marion Boland in SFI to discuss. In parallel the terms and conditions of awards were being discussed. The current agreement is that SFI can review the governance structures. One identified individual in SFI will be informed of any proven serious research misconduct by an SFI funded researcher. The National Forum for Research Integrity will assess on-going processes for research integrity audits in the future. (RS/16-17/10)

Web sites to promote internal schemes and external promotion of ERC will be reviewed by the incoming DoR. (RS/16-17/23)

The governance of SFI centres will be addressed at the next IUA VPDoRs meeting. (RS/16-17/28)

A letter of support for part year funding of PhD fees was sent to the Finance Committee. (RS/16-17/39)

The SFI new equipment call is likely to be announced in mid 2018. However ranking of the requests will be required and it is not clear how much funding if any will be available. (RS/17-18/07)

The update from the Research Ethics Policy Committee is postponed until the next meeting. Meantime ADoR MH referred to ethics training which is also under discussion at the IUA. This may be implemented via a proposed pilot evaluation of a module of Epigeum however the number of users would need to be increased as the end users numbers are capped. This may take place at 2 levels ie students and PhD students at one level and faculty based training at another level. It is possible that a MOOC may already be in development in other European institutions that could be adapted to serve as such a training module. The Research Development Manager noted that such training will become mandatory in FP9. The Librarian also noted that other staff could input into the discussion of ethics training eg Prof Cicely Roche. (RS/17-18/07).

The ADorMH noted that she had not yet had faculty nominees for a SciVal Users Group. (RS/17-18/12).

RS/17-18/14 Updates from the ADoRs

ADorPG reported on SFI Centres reviews for continued funding which involved external evaluation panels. Common topics were ERC applications and successes, education and public outreach, and gender focus. With respect to education and public outreach the budget is not huge but SFI is looking to increase the activity. Similarly with gender, SFI is looking to promote a gender balance in researchers and PhD students. The new SFI PhD programme for centres is seeking to broaden the PI base and increase the number of PhD students funded through Centres. A review of INFANT is due to be held. This centre involves clinical partners and clinical work.

The Director of the Long Room Hub reflected on the concerns of the IRC on the funding of graduate education and noted that some PhD programmes will now be funded from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) and funding centres in this way may undermine the university structure where PhD students and programmes are associated with Schools. The draft proposals from SFI for a UK associated PhD programme may be limited if SFI target only a few universities and do not include Northern Ireland partners. She also noted that considering gender issues the Athena Swan Silver award will be hard to achieve. Queens University Belfast has however achieved this status.

A briefing on the refresh of the Research Prioritisation Exercise was attended by ADoRPG and the Director of TR&I. The consultation process was unsatisfactory. Broader priority areas were described and Research for Knowledge and ERC competitiveness were not included. The Director of TR&I confirmed the view that the research agenda was being set by DBEI.

He noted that the LERU Deans of Research were visiting Trinity shortly and the agenda includes BREXIT, GDPR, open science and FP9. The incoming DoR and the Research Development Manager will attend.

The University of Birmingham will also be visiting with interests to build partnerships especially in Health and AHSS. They will visit the TTEC site.

He reported that Jim Miley has been appointed as Director General of the IUA and that Ciarán Seoighe has been appointed as Deputy Director General of Science Foundation Ireland.

RS/17-18/15 Proposed Centre Trinity Impact Evaluation Unit (TIME)

The Centre was proposed by Professor Gaia Narciso and Professor Carol Newman which has evolved from a research group and brings together the activities of 9 academics and their research teams working in the field of development economics. One of the core goals of TIME is to create a stronger connection between academics and development practitioners. On a global scale TIME members have been successful on this front with partnerships and collaborations across 22 countries. Having an established identity as a research centre will greatly facilitate this process and will add credibility to research funding applications. Establishment of the Centre will also facilitate interactions with development researchers in other parts of College especially TIDI and with initiatives in other Schools. Current research projects, proposed Summer School, annual lecture and workshops were discussed.

The Director of TR&I asked how unique this centre was. Such a centre is unique in Europe and is differentiated in its offering from such a centre in the London School of Economics for example and is also differentiated from centres in Harvard and MIT. The Director of The Long Room Hub asked if there was a wider strategic integration in Trinity eg Global Relations or TIDI. They suggested that this centre would feed into TIDI and that there should be interactions with Global Relations especially where there is involvement with the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science was interested in the methodologies used to measure impact and suggested that such a toolkit could be applied to different settings.

The centre was approved. There was a discussion on the number of Centres in Trinity now and the current reporting requirements.

RS/17-18/16 AOB

The ADoRMH drew the committee's attention to the Lynda.com web site for training capabilities.

The ADoRPG noted that Professor Martina Hennessy had come to the end of her 3 year term as Associate Dean of Research and emphasised the huge amount of work that she had carried out. This was whole-heartedly endorsed by members of the committee.