

**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

Minutes of Research Committee Meeting, 20 March 2018

Present:

Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research (DoR)
Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research (ADoR)
Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research (ADoR)

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Ruth Barton, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities
Professor Brian Brewer, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies
Professor Diarmuid Phelan, Deputy Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Lorraine Leeson, Director of Research, School of Linguistic Speech and Communication Studies
Professor Agustín Bénétrix, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy
Professor Ruth Byrne, Director of Research, School of

Psychology Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science

Professor Adrian Bracken, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
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 Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics

Faculty of Health Sciences

Professor Jeffrey O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine
Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director, TCIN
Professor John Donegan, CRANN on behalf of Prof. Stefano Sanvito
Mr Shane Collins, President of Graduate Students Union

In attendance:

Mr David O'Shea, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian
Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director Trinity Research & Innovation
Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation
Dr Jennifer Daly, Office the Dean of Research, Secretary to the Committee

Apologies:

Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education
 Professor Gaia Narciso, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
 Professor Jacob Erickson, Director of Research, School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology
 Professor Gabrielle McKee, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
 Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
 Professor Jane Stout, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
 Professor Sinead Ryan, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
 Professor Orla Sheils Director, TTMI
 Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
 Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director, CRANN
 Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Initiatives, Office of the Dean of Research

Not present:

Professor Sam Slote, Director of Research, School of English
 Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business
 Professor Orla Hardiman, Director, TBSI
 Professor Luiz Da Silva, Director of Research, School of Engineering

Agenda Item	Owner	Action	Status
RS/17-18/08	ALL	Members of the RC Committee to get feedback from their schools/units on research principles and SWOT to feed in to the into the strategic planning process	<i>Due next meeting</i>

A.1 Minutes

The Dean of Research noted that the minutes for February’s meeting attempted to capture the sense of the discussion rather than detailed notes of the conversation. Helen Shenton noted that on p.5 it should read that the university could make better use of its ‘unique elements.’ Minutes accepted.

A.2 Matters Arising

DOR noted that all matters arising would be addressed during the meeting.

A.3 Update from the Dean of Research

DOR introduced the new Assistant Deans of Research – Prof Andrew Bowie and Prof Lorraine Leeson. Both ADoRs said a few words. The DOR noted that she is looking forward to working with them. ADoR Bowie will be focusing on SFI and large-scale institutes, ADoR Leeson will be working on research ethics and research integrity issues and communications.

DOR noted the recent publication of the QS Subject Rankings and Trinity’s good performance overall. After some discussion about the indicators used in the compilation of the Subject Rankings, the DoR suggested that schools and centres could invited Fiona Killard to meetings to discuss this in more

detail. It was also agreed that rankings would be discussed in more detail at a future meeting of Research Committee.

There was a detailed discussion around research ethics and research integrity training. National and international funders are increasingly moving towards making ethics and integrity training requirements to access funding, but there is a lack of clarity as to when this will come into force. Noted in the discussion:

- The rollout of the IUA's Epigeum pilot has stalled due to issues relating to data protection and liability. Originally had thought there would be capacity for Masters students but this is now unlikely.
- Several issues surrounding staff training, training for PhDs, and students have been identified, in particular where the responsibility for each sits.
- GDPR issues are of concern to many. The DoR noted that the Data Protection Officer, Jennifer Ryan, is developing documents to assist with understanding the implications of GDPR. DoR also suggested inviting Jennifer Ryan to school-level meetings if further clarity is required.
- As with all issues, lack of resources is a key factor.

The DoR noted that the SFI infrastructure call is now open, with Camilla Kelly and Ciaran McEvoy leading from the Research Office. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by April 16th.

A very lengthy discussion was conducted relating to SFI's proposed new Centres for Research Training (CRTs). The discussion covered a wide range of views. The DoR advised that she will be submitting an institutional response on behalf of Trinity to SFI's consultation of the CRTs, but noted that the consultation process is open and other responses could be submitted. The members of the committee debated the value of these centres, the impact they could have on independent research, the fact that there is a strong history of PhD training already in place in universities that needs to be acknowledged, and the potential models that any such any centres could take. The DoR confirmed that further meetings will be taking place in college and feedback will be welcomed. The DoR encouraged any individual wishing to contribute to feedback to make contact.

The DoR noted that the government has published the revised research priority areas. There was a general sense that the priorities could leave Ireland out of step with the rest of Europe.

The DoR offered congratulations to the Graduate Students' Union on the recent Love Research week, noting that it had been an excellent event and students seemed very engaged and informed about future research issues.

B.1 Research Strategy

The DoR updated committee with regard to the feedback received so far on the research principles that should underpin the research strategy and the SWOT analysis that addresses how those principles might be lived. All agreed that any schools that have not already submitted feedback would do so by the next meeting in April.

B.2 Strategic Hires

The DoR led a discussion on strategic hires. A lengthy discussion of the committee identified several issues, including:

- Funding for the positions; should this be the schools' responsibility or should it be from a central pot?
- Cost of living and other associated pressures of relocating to/living in Dublin.
- How to accommodate new recruits in a way that does not negatively affect current staff.
- How to ensure that college-level strategic hiring syncs up with schools' own strategic plans and ongoing needs.
- What is the motivation for bringing "stellar" academics to Trinity; are expectations on both sides being managed effectively?

The DoR advised the committee that this is an ongoing process and she will follow up with further analysis in due course.

B.3 Energy Town Hall (Stephen Dooley)

Stephen Dooley from the School of Physics addressed the committee in relation to the Energy Town Hall he has arranged for Trinity Week. It will take place on April 10th, and he urged all those interested to attend as it will be a cross-faculty event. The new Energy Science degree will also be launched at the same event.

B.4 AOB

Shane Collins thanked the DOR, the Library, IT services, and all the other college supports that helped to make the Love Research week such a success.