

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

Minutes of Research Committee meeting, 17 April 2018

Present:

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

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Ruth Barton, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Micheál Ó'Siochrú, School of Histories and Humanities
Professor Brian Brewer, Director of Research, School of Languages,
Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech
and Communication Sciences
Professor Agustín Bénétrix, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences
and Philosophy
Professor Jacob Erickson, Directory 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 Caitriona Lally, Director of Research, School of Engineering
Professor Adrian Bracken, Director of Research, School of Genetics and
Microbiology
Professor Sinéad Ryan, Director of Research, School of Mathematics

Faculty of Health Sciences

Professor Jeff O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine
Professor Gabrielle McKee, Director of Research, School of Nursing and
Midwifery
Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Professor Orla Sheils, Director TTMI

Mr Shane Collins, President, Graduate Students Union

In attendance:

Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services
Ms Sara McAneney, Information Security Manager, IT Services
Mr Leonard Hobbs, Directory, Trinity Research & Innovation
Dr Jennifer Daly, Office of the Dean of Research, Secretary to the
Committee

Apologies:

Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and
Humanities
Professor Ruth Byrne, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law

Professor Jane Stout, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
 Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
 Mr David O’Shea, Director of Financial Services, Financial Services Division
 Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian, Library
 Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation

Not present:

Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business
 Professor Sam Slote, Director of Research, School of English
 Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy
 Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director, School of Chemistry
 Professor Martin Hegner, Director of Research, School of Physics
 Professor Orla Hardiman, Director of TBSI
 Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN
 Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director of TCIN
 Professor Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies

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	Ongoing

Section A - Items for Discussion and Approval

A.1 Minutes

Meeting of 20 March 2018 (*encl*)

Minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2018 were accepted as accurate.

A.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes

All matters arising were addressed during the meeting.

A.3 Update from the Dean of Research

The Dean of Research informed the committee that she recently attended the Irish Universities Association’s VPDORs group (Vice Presidents and Deans of Research) which has a quarterly forum. DoR noted that the Irish Research Council and SFI, each had slots at the meeting, and that this was a welcome addition to the agenda. There was a discussion among Research Committee about general concerns regarding the imbalance in the funding system combined with falling postgraduate numbers. DoR confirmed that representations regarding these concerns are being made to the relevant parties. Also noted that at the VPDORs group, other Irish universities were having similar problems with the rollout of the IUA’s Epigeum pilot.

The DoR noted recent successes such as the announcement of the 40 Provost PhD awards and commented on the event hosted to celebrate the awards. Trinity was also very successful in securing IRC Laureate awards with 13 grants to Trinity academics.

The DoR informed Research Committee of the plans to overhaul the research webpages and plans to focus on research communication. The DoR pointed out that this has to be undertaken within the limits of current resources asked that Directors of Research encourage colleagues in their schools to contribute as much as possible, once the new webpages are created.

Expressions of Interest for the SFI Infrastructure call have been submitted.

ADoR Bowie addressed the Research Committee in relation to the consultation process for the SFI Centres for Research Training and gave a report of a meeting he attended that was hosted by SFI and DEBI on the topic. Many of the issues discussed at the meeting echoed the discussion of the previous Research Committee. The general sense is that industry/business want more PhDs rather than graduate with specific training. There was also further discussion about the nature of centres and the lack of coordination between the major funding bodies. Research Committee reiterated the concern that any training provided by CRTs or similar should be made available to all PhDs in order to avoid a two-tier system. It was also noted that the Union of Students in Ireland is writing a response to the consultation process. Concern was also expressed by members of the Research Committee that there is no clear plan for these PhD graduates once their studies are completed, and noted the difficulties that current PhDs are having in securing jobs in academia and industry.

ADoR Leeson updated the Research Committee on issues relating to research integrity. Confirmed that she will be attending a LERU meeting on research integrity in May. Issues such as GDPR, research integrity, open science etc. have been looked at as separate issues, but all have significant overlap and implications for how research is conducted.

Section B - Items for Discussion Only

B.1 Unified Communications Project

Dr Geoff Bradley
Sara McAneney

IT Services provided a comprehensive presented an on phase 2 of the Unified Communications Project.

Some of the reasons for implementing the project were discussed in detail including:

- **GDPR compliance:** The university has a responsibility to ensure that it is GDPR compliant. Some of the implications of data breaches post May 25th were discussed.
- **Cyber security / risk:** Cyber security is the no. 1 risk to the University. Some areas of concern for the University including the number of staff falling for phishing scams and the use of non-complaint cloud products;
- **Gaps in service:** IT Services have identified some gaps in data services following an audit in 2017;
- **Open Scholarship (Open Science):** With the introduction of Open Scholarship (Open Science). Researchers need to produce data management plans and have appropriate services to store and manage research data. The DoR noted that many funding bodies are starting to conduct data audits of research that they fund; and researchers can expect more of this in the future.

There was a general discussion with the members of Research Committee about some of the implications this will have for the storage of data, the conduct of research, and collaborations with external researchers and institutions with different policies.

The Research Committee was advised that desktop and laptop device encryption will be necessary to protect devices used for processing certain types of data across the University, and that devices in certain high-risk data processing areas will be encrypted as part of the project. A decision is expected shortly on whether all desktop and laptops should be encrypted. It was noted that many general policies will need to be addressed in the wake of GDPR such as access for retired staff, using personal devices etc.

The DoR suggested that it would be useful to establish a group of external collaborators in order to identify issues that would need to be addressed. Also suggested that Research Committee draft a formal response to address the concerns raised.

B.2 Research Strategy

Dean of Research

RS/17-18/08 The DoR provided an update on the wide range of feedback received to date. Noted that many of the same issues were raised across the University. Encouraged committee to continue sending feedback. The Research Committee discussed the strategy in more detail, including the principles that should underpin it and the vision a strategy should have.

B.3 AOB

The recent decision by the Board to introduce fee certainty for multi-year PhD students was noted and welcomed. The DoR noted the strength of the Graduate Students Union's document on the proposal. The GSU President noted the GSU's thanks to the DoR and Research Committee for endorsing the position of the GSU.

Section C - Items for Noting

C.1 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings 12.35

ADoR Leeson noted that Athena Swan will be discussed soon.
There will be an update on FP9 from the Research Office at the next meeting in May.