



**Trinity College Dublin**  
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath  
The University of Dublin

**Research Committee**  
**13 November 2018, 11.00 -13.00**  
**Arts Conference Room 2026, Arts Building**

Attendees

Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research (DOR)  
Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research

*Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*

Professor Ruth Barton, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts  
Professor Eve Pattern, Director of Research, School of English  
Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities  
Professor Brian Brewer, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies  
Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law  
Professor Redmond O'Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology  
Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy  
Professor Daniele Pevarello, Director of Research, School of Religion

*Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science*

Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science & Statistics  
Professor Caitríona Lally, Director of Research, School of Engineering  
Professor Adrian Bracken, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology  
Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences

*Faculty of Health Sciences*

Professor Jeff O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science  
Professor Maria Brenner, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Science

Professor Orla Sheils, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute  
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub  
Oisín Vince Coulter, President, Graduate Students' Union  
Professor Neville Cox, Dean of Graduate Studies

*In attendance:*

Ms Doris Alexander, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation



Mr David O’Shea, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division  
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library  
Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation

Shane Collins (minute taker)

Apologies

Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research  
Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education  
Professor Sinéad Ryan, Director of Research, School of Mathematics  
Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine  
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations  
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research (secretary to the Research Committee)  
Professor Emma Creagh, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology

Not Present

Professor Frank Barry, Director of Research, School of Business  
Professor Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Studies  
Professor Agustín Bénétrix, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry  
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of Research, School of Physics  
Professor Orla Hardiman, Director of TBSI  
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN  
Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director of TCIN

Item	Decision/Action	Responsible Person
A.1	<b>Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (Encl)</b> Minutes agreed.	
A.2	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b> It was noted that all matters arising would be dealt with during the meeting.	
A.3	<b>Update from Dean of Research</b> The DoR provided an update to the committee. DOR noted congratulations to Professor Christine Casey for recent award. The DoR also informed the	



	<p>committee of Trinity’s success in being awarded 4 out of 7 prizes at the previous day’s SFI summit: John Boland, Jane Farragher, John O’Donohue, Tomás Ryan. DoR noted that Professor Aoife McLysaght has been invited to co-present the prestigious Royal Institution Christmas lecture series. The DoR noted the need for the creation of a database of research awards and asked committee to forward details of awards for which schools may be nominating individuals.</p> <p>The DoR provided an update regarding the European Universities Network Consortium. The DoR noted that there is a need for this network to be coordinated at an institutional level and consequently this is not a programme to be applied to at a single level.</p> <p>DoR recently delivered a workshop to students as part of the Laidlaw Scholars programme and provided a synopsis of the benefits these type of programmes have to better equip students to communicate their research.</p> <p>Successful ERC informational event took place at the end of October with Dr Inge Ruigriok who provided feedback on ERC applications. TR&amp;I also organised an early career researchers workshop. DoR commended the TR&amp;I team for their work in this area citing the need for more events like this in the future. Also noted a successful IRC Laureates event organised by ODRes in mid-October where the Laureates’ work was acknowledged and celebrated.</p> <p>DoR noted that certain elements of feedback relating to the new SFI strategy has started to appear in statements by SFI personnel. At the SFI Summit on 12<sup>th</sup> November, SFI’s Director stated that there would be more focus on funding individuals next year. In response to this, a member of the committee raised a concern regarding the level of uncommitted budget for SFI next year; it is only approximately €22m so funding for individual researchers might be quite small.</p> <p>Associate Dean of Research Professor Lorraine Leeson has been working on research integrity areas and provided a brief update on the policy regarding research integrity concerns noting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- According to the policy, the Head of School is the first point of contact for Research Integrity concerns.</li><li>- A flow chart is currently in development to show the steps involved in raising research integrity concerns (i.e. different pathways for</li></ul>	<p>All committee members</p>
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	<p>master's students/PhD /postdocs etc.). This flow chart will go to Research Ethics Policy committee in January for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Other LERU partners have been reviewed in a benchmarking exercise such as the University of Edinburgh. It was noted more work will continue to be done in this area.</li></ul> <p>The Director of Research in the School of Pharmacy &amp; Pharmaceutical Science noted that there is a collaborative contract under development within their school. This could be for ERC area. To mitigate for disagreements pertaining to authorship etc. it was noted that the parameters are agreed prior to the research commencing. Once this document is completed, it can be brought to the research committee.</p> <p>The DoR identified positive developments regarding social media presence including an increased following and reach on twitter, and encouraged researchers to follow the social media accounts. Office of the Dean of Research website will be updated in January 2019.</p> <p>The Librarian and DOR will be organising a series of informational events to “Unbox open scholarship”. During a brief discussion around open scholarship issues Plan S was mentioned. It was noted by a member that the IRC is considering Plan S at present but there has not been consultation on a number of matters and many of the funding agencies will not be signing up or will do so with a number of reservations. It was further noted that LERU has not signed up to Plan S with a committee member noting that it is viewed as too soon and there appears to be a rush towards 2020. It was also noted that there would be issues for retrospective open access on scholarship that already exists.</p>	Director of Research, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Science
<b>B. 1</b>	<p><b>RS/18-19/4 Trinity Research Institutes Policy</b></p> <p>DoR presented the policy to the committee for review as it had been a number of years since it was last considered. The committee was generally satisfied with the document. It was noted that there might be a need to consider the policy in the context of where research students are housed when a research grant is awarded to a TRI. As the Director of TCIN and the Director of CRANN were not present, the DoR undertook to establish if either Director had any issues with the current policy.</p> <p>At this point in the meeting, the DoR provided a brief synopsis of the TBSI governance review.</p>	DoR



<b>B.2</b>	<p><b>Updated Terms of Reference for Research Committee (encl)</b></p> <p>It was noted that Research Committee previously received the minutes of Graduate Studies Committee, but currently does not.</p> <p>In relation to the function of the committee, it was noted that there are several references to policy but that it does not discuss the monitoring of the implementation of established policy and this would be desirable. It was further noted that under performance evaluation (5.1) good practice suggests that some external review every 3 years is required. The DoR agreed that a light touch review every three years is a good idea. It was also noted that the terms of reference would need to be reviewed annually.</p> <p>A member raised a query regarding whether there is a need to call out external policy in the Terms of Reference. The DoR agreed that in flagging internal/external policy, and in taking positions, there needs to be ownership over who owns College policy/position but that this would need to be considered under the current governance structures in TCD. It was agreed that there could be a line regarding noting how the committee feeds into creating these external policy positions.</p>	
<b>B. 3</b>	<p><b>Research Strategy</b></p> <p>The Dean noted that work is on-going and since the last Research Committee the draft documents have been circulated to schools. 18 out of 24 schools have been involved. The Provost and Vice Provost have also provided feedback. The Faculty Deans have also been consulted. The draft document was also circulated to TR&amp;I. Some concerns were highlighted regarding Trinity's direction and broad statements in terms of collaborative reviews. Structural matters and other details still need to be finalised.</p> <p>In response to a query regarding strategy budget, the Dean advised that there will be a full costing to the strategy including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dean of Research Strategic Fund</li><li>- Funding needed for Strategy that College should divert to it</li><li>- Funding that needs to be raised for projects</li></ul> <p>A committee member noted that the Research Diversification Strategy (Mark 2) is being developed and there is a need for the Research Excellence Strategy funding to be earmarked as separate to the Research Diversification Strategy funding requests.</p>	DoR



	<p>The DoR noted that post-award support is essential, and will be discussing further with TR&amp;I. The importance of cost-benefit analysis was emphasised by a number of committee members.</p>	
<p><b>B.4</b></p>	<p><b>PhD fees and stipends</b></p> <p>The DoR identified the funding issues regarding PhD students and acknowledged the multi-faceted nature of the issue regarding PhD fees and supports, noting that multi-tiered systems exist within and outside College. Need to consider this owing to declining numbers of PhD candidates in recent years.</p> <p><i>Dean of Graduate Studies joined the meeting:</i></p> <p>The Dean of Graduate Studies (DGS) identified the concerns regarding fee differentials not being met by funding agencies and the need to consider going to College’s Finance Committee to make a case for waiving IRC/other funding agencies differential. DGS stated he is liaising with the Vice Provost on this matter. It was noted that PhD Fees are set above what funding agencies allocate as fee contributions. A committee member noted the impact of reduced numbers of PhD candidates in operational areas of college such as teaching and demonstrating, and this was of particular concern considering other student numbers growth strategies.</p> <p>A committee member suggested that if IUA could agree to a standardised fee for PhDs (both EU/Non-EU) then this would be extremely helpful in making a case to government to increase the allocation. It was noted by a member that if the Irish Research Council were to increase the level of stipend to a living wage, it would cost c. €5m. This could also be achieved by reducing the number of their awards by 25% but this is not the preferred option. DGS agreed to raise the matter of standardising PhD fees at the next DGS IUA meeting. The GSU President advised that meetings have taken place between the Union and political figures who have agreed to raise the matter of PhD stipends in parliamentary questions. The GSU President also noted raising this with the Provost.</p> <p>It was suggested that the sectoral response and Trinity response should be separate. It was stated that SFI centres have been lobbying internally for years on this issue but have made no progress. Concern is that it is not understood at a central financial level that the current situation is damaging the University. DGS noted that the financial argument to do this is quite</p>	<p>Dean of Graduate Studies</p>



	<p>compelling as a fee contribution at an EU rate is better than no contribution at all.</p> <p>Concern was raised regarding the old 1592 scholarship scheme. DGS noted the history of the development of the new Provost awards which replaced the old scheme. It was noted by a committee member that there are contractual obligations with the stipend arrangements that limits ability to work. It was noted by another committee member that the 1592s are quite prestigious and assist students so to keep it would be advisable. Concern was raised for the level of expectations students have with regard to cost of living and that more needs to be done at an earlier basis to advise students appropriately.</p> <p>A member noted having PhD students is vital to research culture. In terms of research funding applications, researchers are often asked how many PhD students are required.</p> <p>DoR asked DGS if there is an estimate of the opportunity cost relating to loss of students. DGS noted that there is no data to support the argument but an exit survey will be introduced next year to people deciding not to pursue studies in Trinity and this should provide valuable data.</p> <p>It was noted by a committee member that a paper was brought to Finance Committee in 2012 which considered fee waivers, but was not agreed. This was further considered by Planning Group last year but no change in policy was proposed.</p> <p>President of the Graduate Students' Union noted it would be good to have a document identifying all the information discussed. The DoR agreed that this would be useful. DGS agreed to source data from Academic Registry regarding PhD funding. The DoR, the Dean of Graduate Studies and the President of the Graduate Students' Union to liaise together to communicate with schools regarding their processes.</p> <p>A member stated that there is a need to work on this issue now, and work on the stipends matter with priority by using the Graduate Students' Union report to lobby government and there is a need to coordinate a political campaign to lobby for increases in stipends levels.</p>	<p>DoR, Dean of Graduate Studies and President of Graduate Students' Union</p>
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<b>C.1</b>	<b>Items for future discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategic Hiring: Impact IRC Laureates are having on schools. This is having unintended consequences such as sabbaticals and needs to be discussed further in future meeting.</li></ul>	
<b>C.2</b>	<b>AOB</b> It was considered and agreed by the committee that tea/coffee would be made available for future meetings.	