

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

11 December 2018, 11:00-13:00

Arts Building Conference Room 2026, Arts Building

Attendees

Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research (DOR)

Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

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 Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Studies

Professor Redmond O'Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology

Professor Daniele Pevarello, Director of Research, School of Religions, Peace Studies and Theology

Faculty of Engineering, Maths 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 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 & Midwifery

Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Science

In attendance

Professor Orla Sheils, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Mr Ciaran Conneely, Operations Director, Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience

Mr Oisín Vince Coulter, President, Graduate Students Union

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

Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services, Innovation and Digital Platforms, IT Services

Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library

Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation

Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research (Secretary to the Committee)

Apologies

Professor Trevor Spratt, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy

Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of Research, School of Physics

Mr David O'Shea, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division

Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education

Professor Eve Patten, Director of Research, School of English

Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	Minutes Minutes from the last meeting of 13 November 2018 were circulated in advance. Some minor edits to names of awards but otherwise accepted.
A.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes All matters arising due to be addressed.

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A.3	<p>Update from the Dean of Research</p> <p>Dean of Research noted Trinity’s latest research successes. At the Irish Research Council awards Professor Anna Davies was named Researcher of the Year; Joanna Poetz was awarded the Eda Sagarra Medal of Excellence as the top-ranked postgraduate researcher in AHSS; Hannah Prendeville was awarded the Jane Grimson Medal of Excellence as the top-ranked postgraduate researcher in STEM. DOR noted that both SFI’s and the IRC’s Researcher of the Year are at Trinity.</p> <p>Other recent achievements were also noted by the DOR: Prof. Mary McCarron secured €1.4million for IDS TILDA; Prof. Orla Sheils was commended for her efforts to secure funding for equipment that will be placed at Trinity on long-term loan.</p> <p>ADAPT and CONNECT recently submitted proposals for the renewal of each centre. DOR acknowledged the enormous amount of work involved in this and wished both centres well. DOR informed the committee that Trinity is leading on one application for a Centre for Doctoral Training, and is involved on other bids as part of this process. Results should be known in February.</p> <p>The Provost and DOR were due to meet the Minister Humphreys from Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. DOR noted that every opportunity like this will need to be taken to continue standing up for research and investment in research.</p> <p>DOR attended the recent meeting of COIMBRA and noted the outstanding quality of meeting. Interesting discussion around research impact and the DOR will be inviting some of the contributors to visit Trinity in relation to this. DOR also noted that the Registrar will be meeting with Dublin City Council to hopefully establish more meaningful engagement between Trinity and DCC.</p> <p>DOR encouraged everyone to attend the Festive Research Showcase if possible. Also noted that more events like this and the IRC Laureates Celebration will be held in the future as new ways to communicate research are explored.</p>
Section B - Items for Discussion Only	
B.1	<p>Sustainable Development Goals (RS/18-19/7)</p> <p>Dr Fiona Killard addressed the committee in relation to the new “Impact” rankings that Times Higher Education have developed around the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. FK outlined the information that THE have requested in relation to this particular ranking and noted that it is very detailed and diverse. The ranking is in a pilot phase so strong possibility the information requested in future will change. As the range of information required is so varied, it will take time to identify where exactly in Trinity the information is held. Universities must pick 4-5 of the goals and return information relating to these, but Trinity has not picked these yet.</p> <p>In response to a question from the committee, FK confirmed that UCD is participating in the ranking this year. All other Irish universities have expressed interest but it is unclear how many will ultimately take part.</p> <p>The Research Committee discussed the SDGs broadly, and the implications of this new ranking more specifically. Some concerns were raised in relation to the nature of some of the questions linked to the goals.</p> <p>DOR advised the committee that the Provost’s Rankings Steering Group was due to meet and Trinity’s participation would be discussed in detail.</p>

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	<p>DOR also noted the importance of engaging with SDGs in a meaningful way outside of the rankings.</p>
B.2	<p>Update from the Research Office (RS/18-19/8) Dr Camilla Kelly presented an update from the Research Office, outlining the current structure, application processes, and the support the Research Office provides.</p> <p>CK noted that sponsor budget is often the limiting factor in how much Trinity can actually grow in certain areas. CK also shared statistics related to Trinity's performance in securing funding: Trinity has taken approximately 25% of SFI's budget since 2002; recently secured 7 out of the 20 available SIRG awards which were limited to 12 applications per institution; secured 21% of all IRC awards, with the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences responsible for 46% of all IRC awards that come to Trinity; 34th highest drawdown in Europe for H2020, and 48% of all ERC awards in Ireland have been in Trinity. DOR noted the fantastic work being done in the Research Office. LH noted that only 16% of PIs in Ireland are in Trinity so greatly over-performing.</p> <p>The committee discussed issues around grant applications, and areas for improvement. It was also noted that some funding does not come through the Research Office so is not always captured as research income. It was noted that there is a general issue with data capture across the university. DOR noted the strategic plan will address this but it will be a very slow process.</p> <p>In response to a question about the SFI Investigator programme, CK suggested that it will probably be a very small programme. It was noted that this is a huge concern for Trinity. It was also noted that the feedback on recent unsuccessful DTIF applications was very unsatisfactory.</p>
B.3	<p>Research Integrity training update (RS/18-19/9) Dr Jennifer Daly updated the committee on the status of the Irish Universities Association's Epigeum Research Integrity Training pilot scheme. Significant delays to the roll out of the pilot scheme in Trinity, but there were also similar delays elsewhere. All tokens for 2018 were allocated but not everyone had yet registered. All 1st year PhD students were given access to the training, and this will continue for the rest of the pilot scheme. JD advised committee that 2019 tokens would be received in January and a waiting list was in operation for those who need access to the training. JD also advised the committee that IUA and national funders have no plans to continue the pilot scheme after it ends in December 2020 so Trinity will have to have a plan in place for how to provide suitable similar training for staff and students who require it.</p> <p>ADOR Leeson informed the committee data on best practice on research integrity was being gathered and will be fed back to the committee at a future meeting. The committee discussed the implications of more rigorous integrity training. Significant issues around the impact GDPR is having on research were noted by many members of the committee. DOR agreed to invite the Data Protection Officer to address the committee. Uncertainty around where the cost of data storage would reside was also noted by members of the committee.</p> <p>ACTION: Dean of Research to invite Data Protection Officer to address Research Committee</p>
B.4	<p>Open Science update (RS/18-19/10) Helen Shenton provided a brief update on the work currently being done on open science/scholarship. Advised the committee that a taskforce has been established</p>

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	<p>which would be meeting soon. Its aim is to generate a clear picture of where Trinity stands in relation to open scholarship and the various external policies and trends. The DOR and HS intend to run a series of talks – Unboxing Open Scholarship. In response to a question from the committee as to whether the purpose of the taskforce is to develop guidance/policies, the DOR advised that it is an ad hoc committee so does not have a formal reporting basis yet.</p> <p>The committee had a brief discussion about some of the broader implications of open scholarship.</p>
B.5	<p>Research Strategy (RS/18-19/3) Dean of Research left the meeting due to other commitments. ADOR Bowie took over chairing duties.</p> <p>The committee was informed that the final strategy would be available for wider circulation early in the new year.</p>
Section C – Items for Noting	
C.1	<p>Items for Noting Updated Terms of Reference (encl) (RS/18-19/5)</p>
C.2	<p>Items for future discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Ethics Policy Committee will be meeting on December 13th – will feed back in January
C.3	<p>AOB The committee discussed the status of the research ethics application pilot system. This had been evaluated and reported to the committee previously with the feedback being that the system developed in-house was not as user-friendly as the commercial system. It is unclear where funding for the system could come from. It was noted that the Research Ethics Policy Committee would discuss it at its next meeting. The committee discussed the pilot and agreed that the schools involved (Medicine and Computer Science & Statistics) would have to make a decision with regard to the status of the system as it cannot indefinitely be left as a pilot.</p> <p>In response to a question relating to the discussion with the Dean of Graduate Studies at the last meeting of Research Committee it was confirmed that an update would be sought in relation to the issues raised. (RS/18-19/6)</p>