**The University of Dublin
Trinity College**

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**11:00, Tuesday 14 May 2019
Arts Building Conference Room 2026, Arts Building**

MINUTES

Attendees
Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research (Chair)
Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research
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 Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories & 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 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 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 Mathematics
      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
      In attendance
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
Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

Apologies
Professor Sinead Ryan, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director of TCIN
Professor Helen Sheridan, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist
Professor Orla Sheils, Director of TTMI

	Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval
A.1	**Minutes** Minutes of last meeting of 16 April 2019 were circulated in advance. Minor amendments made to item B.1 as per Prof. Clarke's request, but otherwise accepted as read.
A.2	**Matters Arising from the Minutes** No matters arising.
A.3	**Update from the Dean of Research** The Dean of Research noted thanks to those whose terms on the committee were ending: Helen Sheridan, Ann Devitt, Brian Brewer, and the GSU President. The Dean noted the recent launch of the Inspiring Generations campaign, and was pleased to see research featured prominently in the campaign. Also noted that new Laidlaw scholars had recently been awarded and encouraged committee to advise undergraduates of the scheme in the coming academic year. DOR noted congratulations to the newly-elected Trinity Fellows. Re **RS/18-19/17** DOR noted that 19 new projects would be starting as part of the EIT KICs thanks to Barbara Harvey Carroll's guidance. More specific examples of how researchers can use them have been requested. It was noted by the committee that there is a lot of administration involved in the KICs, and as is quite common in Trinity there is very little post-award support to assist with that. **ACTION**: Committee agreed that BHC would be invited back to discuss this programme again. The DOR updated the committee in relation to the progress of the proposed Cancer Institute. The governance of the institute is centred around the Cancer Institute Executive Committee (CIEC), which is charged with the oversight of clinical care and pathway development, patient related activity and OECI accreditation. There are now four pillars (Clinical, Research, Clinical Trials and Education) reporting into the CIEC. A Business Case Development group is being led by the Bursar and the Deputy CEO of St James's Hospital. **ACTION**: DOR to invite a presentation on the progress during the new academic year. DOR noted that SFI centres had been refunded with AMBER securing €40 million. DOR noted the work of Mick Morris and Lorraine Byrne in running the centre and navigating the review process, and also noted that half of Trinity's ERCs are connected to AMBER. DOR noted that there are 59 IRC-funded PhDs this year compared with 45 last year. The committee discussed the scheme and ways to assist students with applications such as a central repository of successful applications. It was observed that the threshold for securing an award is getting higher with many needing first class honours degrees, research experience and track record of awards. A significant amount of those who secured awards were already enrolled in PhD programmes as opposed to incoming students. It was noted that if this trend continues and becomes the norm it would be problematic for certain disciplines and fields of study.

	ACTION: The Dean will request some analysis on the breakdown of the awards.
	DOR noted that Prof. Kingston Mills was appointed the new Director of TBSI. Also noted that work on the status of the other existing Trinity Research Institutes was still ongoing.
	It was noted that shortlisting for the position of Deputy Data Protection Officer for Research would begin shortly.
	The DOR discussed a policy forum on 'future Ireland research' that she recently attended. Representatives from the Dept of Education and DEBI were in attendance. Noted that there is a general acceptance of the need to put more money into individual-led research but how much more to invest is still not clear. The focus on the Institutes of Technology could begin to have an impact on the amount of funding available to the University Sector. The committee discussed various issues around how to use research to influence policy-making. It was noted that various pilots do exist eg. Trinity Long Room Hub project pitching services such as ethics, creativity to industry, and IIEA and TRiSS also work on similar research-to-policy initiatives. It was noted that this is not systematic and could be done more effectively across the university.
	DOR flagged to the committee that the International policy would have to be discussed by the committee in the next academic year and discussed some of the ongoing LERU activity of relevance.
Section B - Items for Discussion Only	
B.1	**Spotlight on the School of Engineering** Prof. Caitríona Lally Prof. Lally presented an overview of the activities of the School of Engineering which comprises three departments. Undergraduate training includes BAI, MAI programme and an integrated Masters programme. The school also has a number of taught graduate programmes and expects these to grow with the advent of E3. The school also runs PG diplomas particularly for the construction industry. Current research in the school covers bioengineering, materials and manufacturing engineering, networks, energy, air/water quality, creative technologies. A number of school staff are also involved in SFI national centres such as AMBER, CRANN and CONNECT. E3 is critical for the future development of engineering in Trinity with the Learning Foundry the focus at the moment. CL discussed the importance of E3 for the school and the various opportunities that it would open up. The school is ranked in the top 100 globally and is also one of the top performers within Trinity for research performance, funding allocation etc. Major funder is SFI, along with Enterprise Ireland, and the school has secured 7 ERC awards. Currently has 125 PhD students and 120 postdocs. CL gave a rundown of the research projects that senior PIs in the school are currently working on. DOR thanked CL for the presentation. The committee discussed a number of points arising from the presentation including the school's approach to mentoring and how this helps its success rate in securing ERC awards in particular. CL noted that she would not have been able to win her ERC grant without first seeing a previously successful

	application. The school is very proactive in sharing applications and pitches with colleagues and holds mock interviews to help applicants refine their ideas.

The committee went on to discuss a number of issues arising from the SFI centres and the role they play, or don't, in helping researchers secure large-scale funding. It was noted that there are huge issues with funding in the research system and how it is distributed, with the centres creating an imbalance. DOR noted that the Provost has been raising this issue at the highest levels.

ACTION: Prof. Adrian Bracken to deliver presentation at next meeting. |
| **B.2** | **Follow up on NORF (RS/18-19/19)**
Dean of Research

A memo was circulated in advance of the meeting to clarify process that went into the development of the NORF statement. DOR apologised for not circulating the consultation in November noting that it did get sent to the Open Scholarship taskforce. Trinity did submit an institutional response, and other individual responses were also submitted from Trinity. Two people from Trinity are on the NORF board but do not act as representatives of the university. It was noted that Trinity signed the National Principle Statement in 2012.

DOR noted that an update had been received that morning. The IRC had raised similar concerns to those that were voiced at the last meeting of the committee. These concerns were all incorporated and the final document is available to see on the NORF website and will be sent to Innovation 2020. It was noted that all the funding agencies have now endorsed it, and that Trinity will be asked for written endorsement. DOR noted that the university will endorse it as the document now includes the changes the committee had sought. DOR stressed that the document is a framework and not an enforceable policy. It was noted that the process to develop the document has not been ideal, with those on the board of NORF not acting as formal institutional representatives so there has been no onus on them to report back as to the decisions made.

The committee discussed implications of the NORF statement, and issues around Plan S. It still remains unclear how binding NORF's outputs will be and how implementation would be resourced. |
| **B.3** | **Research Strategy (RS/18-19/3) and Annual Report (RS/18-19/20)**
Dean of Research

DOR reminded the committee that the official launch of the Research Charter and Living Research Excellence Strategy would take place on June 6th. DOR advised that the annual report was being compiled over the summer and would be sent to Council at the start of the next academic year. The report will use the structure of the Research Strategy to focus its content. Committee discussed items that should be included in the report and DOR advised that a draft would be circulated to the committee once completed. The committee agreed that the 'research delights' section should be included again. |

B.4	**Horizon Europe (RS/18-19/21)** Doris Alexander The committee was provided with an overview of the new Horizon Europe programme due to begin 2021. DA explained the structure of the programme, and noted that 35% of the budget will go towards climate change and will be underpinned by the SDGs, inclusiveness etc. DA noted that the strategic planning process is underway and open consultation would take place over the summer. A further consultation process later in the year would be geared towards LERU, COIMBRA, industry etc. DA noted that the call for mission boards had opened and gave an overview of the mission areas and the composition of mission boards. The concept of the missions is the same as the "moonshot" – to have a portfolio of projects working towards the same goal. The committee discussed these changes and some of the wider implications. DA noted that there will be issues for UK partners if and when Brexit happens, and also noted that although an agreement is in place with Switzerland it had yet to be ratified by the Swiss which could also lead to problems with those relationships as well. DA advised of changing criteria in terms of geographical location, gender etc for successful funding applications.
	Section C – Items for Noting
C.1	**Items for Noting** • Online research ethics management system • Research Misconduct (**RS/18-19/18**) (attached) • Good Research Practice Policy (attached) • Consultancy Policy (attached)
C.2	**Items for future discussion**
C.3	**AOB**