

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

10:00, Tuesday 15 October 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 Orla Flanagan, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts

Professor Andrew Loxley, on behalf of Director of Research, School of Education

Professor David O'Shaughnessy, Director of Research, School of English

Professor Daniel Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories & Humanities

Professor Roja Fazaeli, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies

Professor Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech & 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

Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science

Professor Emma Creagh, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology

Professor Caitríona Lally, Director of Research, School of Engineering

Professor Adrian Bracken, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology

Professor Stefan Sint, Director of Research, School of Mathematics

Faculty of Health Sciences

Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine

Trinity Research Institutes

Professor Aideen Long, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub

In attendance

Shaz Oye, President, Graduate Students Union

Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director of European Engagement

Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist

Mr Leonard Hobbs, Directory of Trinity Research & Innovation

Professor Sylvia Draper, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science

Apologies:

Professor Mary Rogan, Director of Research, School of Law

Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences

Professor Joan Lalor, Director of Research, School of Nursing & Midwifery

Professor Jeff O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science

Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics

Professor Benjamin Wold, Director of Research, School of Religion

Professor Lidia Tajber, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science

Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education

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Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the September meeting of the committee were circulated in advance. Accepted as accurate record.</p>
A.2	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>The Dean of Research provided updates on a number of actions that had been raised in the minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re RS/19-20/3 Postdocs and Teaching: Representatives from HR and Tony McMahon were invited to attend but were unavailable. Efforts continue to find a suitable date for everyone. • Re RS/19-20/4 Exceptional Hires process: policy and a draft FAQ were circulated in advance of the meeting. • Re RS/18-19/19 NORF: on agenda for this meeting.
A.3	<p>Update from the Dean of Research</p> <p>Funding: DOR advised committee that the outcome of the SFI centre renewals review for CONNECT and CRANN would be known soon. Also noted that the recent Budget did not result in any significant changes for funding to education. A very small “excellence fund” of €3 million was made available, with the hope that it becomes a precedent that will be grown in the future.</p> <p>RS/19-20/1 University Rankings: DOR and Provost attended a very constructive meeting with the Fellows recently, and DOR also met with a group of Ussher professors who are developing a paper on the issues related to Trinity’s performance. DOR noted that there has been a lot of different perspectives on the future of the university since the rankings were announced.</p> <p>Large-scale initiatives: DOR noted that some progress has been made on E3 research institute which will be located in TTEC, and that work continues around the establishment of a Cancer Institute with Paul Brown leading on the research focus.</p> <p>RS/19-20/5 Clinical Trials Sponsorship: DOR noted that although clinical trials have taken place at Trinity before, these have been sponsored by other bodies. Noted that Martina Hennessy is leading on developing a Clinical Trials Sponsorship policy which will be brought to the committee.</p> <p>Brexit: DOR attended a Brexit clinic recently and noted that lots of work has been done on procurement and alternative sourcing arrangements. Noted that the amount of work that has to be done to maintain the status quo is of concern.</p> <p>RS/19-20/6 DOR attended the recent PROBE event and noted that it was very impressive. Informed committee that discussions are underway to bring responsibility for the event under central control rather than one school, with the intention of being more systematic in using the event to promote research.</p> <p>DOR noted that VPs of Research from Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University attended recent meeting of the IUA’s VPDORs group. DOR also met with Prof. Emma Flynn (QUB Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise) with a view to establishing more formal collaborations. The committee noted that while there was already formal interaction with both QUB and UU, significant informal interactions and collaborations</p>

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	<p>also occurred and would not be captured by traditional analytics. It was suggested that a fuller list be developed.</p> <p>RS/19-20/7 Senior Academic Leadership Initiative: DOR informed committee that three candidates from Trinity have been proposed, from Mathematics, Biochemistry, and Political Science and Economics. It was noted that a lot has been learned to refine the internal selection process for future submissions.</p> <p>RS/18-19/10 Open Scholarship: DOR noted that the Unboxing Open Scholarship year of events was drawing to close. Reminded committee that all events were recorded and are available to watch back online. Next phase of the project will involve consolidating knowledge gathered and beginning to think about how Trinity will respond to it.</p> <p>The committee also discussed persistent delays to ethics checks for research proposals. It was noted that the Research Ethics Policy Committee has discussed this issue and has been assured that it will be addressed. It was also noted that the delays reinforce the need for an ethics proposal management system. The committee discussed arrangements in place between Trinity and hospitals. It was also noted that there is no admin support for the REPC and so the burden of admin falls to one person on top of their normal role.</p> <p>ACTION: Lorraine Leeson and REPC, research integrity to be discussed in more detail ACTION: Leonard Hobbs to present on innovation @ TTEC ACTION: Clinical Trials Sponsorship policy to be brought to committee</p>
Section B - Items for Discussion Only	
<p>B.1</p>	<p>Sex and Gender in Research (Gendered Innovation) (RS/19-20/2) Anna Drozdewska, Trinity Research & Innovation</p> <p>Anna Drozdewska presented to the committee on developments relating to gender and how it is considered in funding applications at national and EU levels. It was noted that while there are no penalties in place, projects that take gender into account are preferred by reviewers. It was emphasised that this does not mean equality in terms of hiring, but actually working gender into the research that will be performed.</p> <p>AD noted that many experiments, trials etc have resulted in biased results as the research only analysed one specific gender eg. crash test dummies, certain drug trials. AD noted that a working group had been established in Trinity in the Autumn of 2018, and a number of events have been organised around this topic.</p> <p>It was noted that this will not be relevant for every project but that the importance of considering it from the beginning cannot be overstated. AD also noted the importance of ‘train the trainer’ sessions and encouraging greater awareness across College.</p> <p>The committee noted that the European Commission is putting more emphasis on this issue, and that the Irish Research Council implemented its own gender strategy in 2014. It was also noted that with the increasing importance placed on Athena Swan awards for securing funding in the future, Trinity must engage with this issue. It was also noted that training that is currently in place is available to staff and postgraduates alike.</p> <p>ACTION: Discussion around research impact.</p>

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B.2	<p>Draft of Annual Report (RS/18-19/20) Dean of Research</p> <p>DOR circulated a draft of the report to the committee in advance of the meeting, noting that it still needed considerable revision. Advised the committee that the Research Excellence Strategy was guiding the structure of the Annual Report to ensure that actions are constantly being addressed. DOR invited feedback from the committee as to how to refine and improve the report before finalising it. The committee discussed the report at length, and noted while a significant amount of work that has been done in the last year it was worth rethinking how this is presented.</p> <p>ACTION: DOR and team to revise report before next meeting of the committee.</p>
B.3	<p>Update on NORF (RS/18-19/19) Niamh Brennan, The Library</p> <p>Niamh Brennan provided an overview to the committee of Trinity’s history with the open access movement and the process behind the development of the recent NORF framework. Noted that NORF’s remit was to update the 2012 national statement on open access. Noted that NORF is not a set of principles, but a framework for developing an action plan. Also noted that it has the endorsement of all the national research funders. Phase 2 of NORF’s activities is now about to start.</p> <p>Members of the committee expressed concerns around lack of consultation during the first phase of NORF, and also with wording in the final document which it was felt could potentially have implications for researchers seeking to publish in certain venues. Professor Dan Geary noted that serious concerns still remain in the School of Histories and Humanities and wider AHSS faculty, even after suggestions from the IRC had been incorporated into the statement. NB noted that Ireland is required to find alignment with EU principles. It was also noted that at present there is no funding to support anything that comes out of this process. NB offered to meet with schools to discuss concerns.</p> <p>ACTION: Slides to be circulated to the committee after meeting.</p>
Section C – Items for Noting	
C.1	Items for Noting
C.2	<p>Items for future discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School spotlights – need volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biochemistry & Immunology to present at November meeting
C.3	AOB