

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

10:00, Tuesday 10 December 2019  
Arts Building Conference Room 2026

MINUTES

**Attendees:**

Professor Linda Doyle, Dean of Research (Chair)

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 Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education

Professor Mary Rogan, Director of Research, School of Law

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

Professor Benjamin Wold, Director of Research, School of Religion

*Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science*

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

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 Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine

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

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

*Trinity Research Institutes*

Professor Aideen Long, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Professor Kingston Mills, Director of Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute

*In attendance*

Shaz Oye, President, Graduate Students Union

Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association

Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director for European Engagement

Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist

Dr Fiona Smyth, on behalf of the Director of Trinity Research and Innovation

Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

**Apologies:**

Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research

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

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

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 Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub

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

Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research and Innovation

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

| <b>Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>A.1</b>   | <p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> were circulated in advance and were accepted as read.</p>  |
| <b>A.2</b>   | <p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p>Any matters arising were to be addressed during the Dean’s update.</p>  |
| <b>A.3</b>   | <p><b>Update from the Dean of Research</b></p> <p>The Dean of Research provided the committee with an update on the issue of postdoc contracts (<b>RS/19-20/3</b>). HR have employed external consultant Byrne Wallace to draw up a contract that hopefully would address the issues that have repeatedly been raised by the Research Committee. DOR had hoped to have a fuller update to provide at this meeting but intends for it to be on agenda at next meeting instead.</p> <p>DOR noted congratulations to Conor Buckley, Redmond O’Connell, and Matthew Campbell who were all awarded ERC Consolidator Grants. DOR also praised the huge efforts of the Research Development Office, particularly Sarah Nangle and Bevin McGeever. Trinity also involved in three Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund projects. Congratulations were also noted to Jay Piggott (School of Natural Sciences) who was named IRC Early Career Researcher of the Year, and Michael Craig who was awarded the Jane Grimson Medal of Excellence as the top-ranked postgraduate researcher in STEM.</p> <p>DOR attended the launch of Beyond 2022 where it was announced that €2.5million funding had been secured from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. DOR noted the significant efforts of Peter Crooks and the late Shay Lawless to secure this funding. DOR also noted the launch of Ireland’s bid to become a member of CERN, which Sinéad Ryan (Maths) has been heavily involved in. It was noted that the Oireachtas committee has now recommended that Ireland should join CERN.</p> <p>DOR noted a recent Dignity and Respect workshop organised by HR with Staff Development. Also noted that progress has been made on TTEC and E3. The success of the Festive Research Showcase was also noted along with thanks to all the speakers and attendees. DOR noted that she had devoted her social media feed to Trinity’s research on homelessness to coincide with the Big Sleep Out which generated significant engagement, and suggested a new way of sharing research.</p> <p>DOR gave the committee a brief update about the activities of the Department of Education’s Higher Education Research Group (HERG). Noted that the group gathered evidence over the summer relating to the research landscape in Ireland but wider analysis still needs to be done.</p> <p>The Research Committee discussed in detail the issues facing research in Ireland including the complications that not having an independent chief scientific advisor to the government creates, and the fact there is no “safe” forum in which to discuss problems in the system. The committee noted that as important as it is to lobby politicians for better support for the system, it is also essential to provide greater</p> |

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>understanding of the importance and relevance of research to the civil servants who staff the departments. DOR noted that Trinity will be chairing the IUA for the next year. It was noted by the committee that there is a perception that international academics are needed to reboot the system, which ignores the fact that there is already an existing cohort of excellent researchers in Ireland who were deemed appointable. That the system doesn't support them financially is of great concern and unsustainable. The committee agreed that universities in general need to be better at showing the relevance of research to policy development. The committee also noted that European and international funding targets set by various Irish agencies and departments will not be met if the Irish system does not provide sufficient support in the first instance.</p> <p>DOR noted that an increasing restlessness is evident in younger academics who are not prepared to stay in a system that will not provide proper supports, and that there is also that people in the academic sector are experiencing a previously unseen level of stress.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> HR to be invited to attend January meeting re contracts<br/><b>ACTION:</b> DOR to invite E3 presentation at research committee</p> |
| <b>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</b> |  |
| <p><b>B.1</b></p>                            | <p><b>Dean of Research Awards (RS/19-20/9)</b><br/>Jennifer Daly</p> <p>DOR noted that Trinity has innovation, teaching, professional awards, but there are no internal awards dedicated to research. Gill Marmelstein and Fiona Smyth from the Research Development Office had brought a proposed outline for awards to the DOR.</p> <p>JD presented the current proposal to the committee, who then discussed them in detail. All were agreed that research awards were a welcome innovation. Many varying suggestions were made about the nature of the proposed awards. The committee agreed that the current proposal needed revision to address eligibility and definitions, nomination and selection processes.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Proposal to be revised and circulated to committee via email for approval.</p>  |
| <p><b>B.2</b></p>                            | <p><b>Research Integrity Update (RS/19-20/10)</b><br/>Lorraine Leeson</p> <p>Lorraine Leeson provided an update to the committee on recent developments relating to research integrity. Noted the importance of 'joining the dots' to make it easier to navigate all the various requirements.</p> <p>Proposed changes relating to research misconduct (RS/18-19/18) have been sent to the Schedules Working Party and are expected to be approved soon. Also noted that Gabrielle McKee and Evelyn Fox and the Research Ethics Policy Committee have been working on updating ethics forms to ensure compliance with GDPR (RS/18-19/11). Also noted thanks to Ciarán McEvoy in the RDO as he has provided admin support to the REPC.</p> <p>LL provided the committee with an overview of the recent LERU INTE meeting that was hosted at Trinity, and noted that the meeting went very well. The members received presentations from Gabrielle McKee on the work of the REPC, Jennifer Daly on Epigeum</p>   |

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
|                                     | <p>research integrity training, Jennifer Brennan on the work of the IUA’s National Research Integrity Forum, and Marian Boland on SFI’s initiatives in the area. LL noted that the members of the LERU INTE group were impressed with Irish approach to research integrity.</p> <p>LL also noted that progress has been made on a research ethics management system. LL flagged that the Epigeum pilot, run by the IUA, will cease at the end of 2020 and Trinity needs to develop plans for an alternative in light of funding agencies making integrity training a requirement of grants.</p> <p>The committee discussed the various issues raised and noted that research integrity is taking an increasingly important role. DOR noted that the focus needs to be on research integrity training that makes researchers better scholars as well as being compliant with relevant legislation. Difficulties with Health Research Regulations and GDPR were noted again, and DOR noted that there is an ad hoc working group examining this which will be invited to present an update to the committee.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Presentation on Health Research Regulations and GDPR</p> |
| <b>Section C – Items for Noting</b> |   |
| <b>C.1</b>                          | <b>Items for Noting</b>   |
| <b>C.2</b>                          | <b>Items for future discussion</b>  |
| <b>C.3</b>                          | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Researchers’ Night 2020 (RS/19-20/6)</li> </ul> <p>The committee was informed that the Office of the Dean of Research has taken over responsibility for Trinity’s application to host an event as part of European Researchers’ Night which takes place on the last Friday in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trinity Centre for Biodiversity Research</li> </ul> <p>The Trinity Centre for Biodiversity Research sought approval from the committee to change its name to Trinity Centre for Biodiversity and Sustainable Nature-based Solutions (Nature+). All approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DORA (RS/18-19/14)</li> </ul> <p>DOR sought permission from the committee to establish a small steering group to develop a recommendation in relation to the DORA declaration. All approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fame Lab</li> </ul> <p>President of the GSU noted that heats of Fame Lab, an international science communication competition would be taking place at Trinity.</p>  |