

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

11:00, Tuesday 14 April 2020
Conference Call

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 & Social Sciences
Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business
Professor Orla Flanagan, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor David O'Shaughnessy, Director of Research, School of English
Professor Ahuvia Kahane, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities
Professor Clemens Ruthner, 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 Sciences
Professor Redmond O'Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Peter Stone, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
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 & Science
Professor Emma Creagh, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology
Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Caitriona 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 Kingston Mills, Director, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director, Trinity College Institute for Neuroscience

Shaz Oye, President, Graduate Students Union

In attendance

Mr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association
Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Development, Office of the Dean of Research
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, The Library
Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director, Trinity Research & Innovation
Dr Raquel Harper, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

Apologies

Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director of European Engagement

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Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting on March 24th were circulated in advance, and accepted as read.</p>
A.2	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
A.3	<p>Update from the Dean of Research</p> <p>The Dean of Research provided the committee with a brief update on activities since the last meeting in March.</p> <p>RS/19-20/15 It was noted that the Dean of Research had issued an internal funding call for Covid-19 related projects once the HRB and SFI had issued their own respective calls.</p> <p>RS/18-19/11 It was also noted that a National Research Ethics Committee for Covid-19 research had been established in an effort to streamline approvals; this will eventually devolve back to institutions.</p> <p>Prof Kingston Mills provided an update on the recent donation by AIB to fund the Trinity Covid-19 Immunology Project.</p> <p>DOR noted that protocols were being put in place to facilitate access to campus for Covid-19 research. With regard to wider access for other researchers, DOR advised that it was still unclear as to when this could happen. It was noted that significant pressure was starting to build in the system which would have to be addressed soon.</p> <p>DOR advised that discussions were ongoing at a national level across the sector with regard to possible extensions to funding, stipends etc but there was no update as yet. It was noted that grant-holders should be in direct contact with their funding agencies.</p> <p>DOR noted that there was not as yet any recruitment freeze, but that any proposed new hires would require a robust case to proceed. The committee advised that significant delays were being experienced in schools. DOR to follow up.</p> <p>The committee raised a number of other issues that had recently arisen. It was noted that VPN access was typically only granted to those who have university-owned laptops which was causing accessibility difficulties for some staff and students. DOR confirmed that she would support any initiative to broaden this access.</p> <p>Some committee members also noted issues with two-factor authentication. It was noted that this had been mandated since February 2019. DOR advised that she would urge the University and the Major Emergency Management Team not to implement changes regarding access during the current crisis unless it is mission critical. DOR noted that IT Services had been providing excellent support since the campus closed.</p> <p>Helen Shenton advised the committee of various projects the Library was involved regarding capturing the experience of living through a pandemic. Also noted</p>

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	<p>collaborations with the Trinity Long Room Hub, Science Gallery, and Columbia University. It was also noted that the Library had put extra resources into securing electronic material to assist researchers while the campus is closed.</p> <p>RS/19-20/9 DOR noted that the Trinity Research Excellence Awards were announced and congratulated all the winners. Event had been planned, but recipients will be celebrated in an alternative fashion.</p> <p>RS/19-20/1 DOR noted that the returns for the Times Higher World University Rankings had been submitted by Dr Fiona Killard.</p> <p>RS/18-19/20 DOR also noted that a draft of the Annual Report would be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION: Annual Report for next meeting</p> <p>It was noted that research is now a standing item on the Covid-19 Working Group. The committee was also advised the Student Assistance Fund had reopened for applications, and had received a philanthropic donation so extra funds were available to assist students in financial hardship.</p> <p>RS/19-20/3 In response to a question from the committee, DOR advised that further information was required regarding types of teaching in order for contract templates to be finalised. DOR would follow up with Directors of Research to gather required information.</p> <p>ACTION: DOR to follow up with committee</p>
Section B - Items for Discussion Only	
	<i>No items scheduled</i>
Section C – Items for Noting	
C.1	<p>Items for Noting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS/18-19/11 Updated guidance from the Research Ethics Policy Committee <p>The Research Ethics Policy Committee issued further guidance regarding informing ethics committees of any changes to data collection and storage.</p> <p>It was noted that DPO Evelyn Fox has been providing excellent support.</p>
C.2	<p>Items for future discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Review 2020 <p>The committee was informed that Trinity’s Institutional Review is due to take place later this year, and planning was underway.</p>
C.3	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS/18-19/9 Epigeum Research Integrity Training <p>The committee was reminded that Trinity has access to Epigeum Research Integrity Training until the end of 2020.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RS/19-20/5 Clinical Trials Sponsorship Policy <p>It was noted that the Clinical Trials Sponsorship Policy had been brought before the committee in November 2019, but the minutes of that meeting did not note that the committee had approved the policy. It was noted for clarity that the committee had approved the policy.</p>
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