

The University of Dublin  
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

11:00, Tuesday 6 October 2020

Zoom

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 Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business

Professor Ruth Barton, on behalf of 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 Dan Geary, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities

Professor Blanaid Clarke, Director of Research, School of Law

Professor Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and 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 Zohar Hadromi-Allouche, Director of Research, School of Religion

*Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Science*

Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology

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

Professor Gareth Bennett, Director of Research, School of Engineering

Professor Jane Farrar, 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

Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of Research, School of Physics

*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 of TBSI

Professor Aideen Long, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute

Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN

Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub

Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director of TCIN

*In attendance*

Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Development, Office of the Dean of Research

Mr. Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation

Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, The Library

Ms Gisele Scanlon, President, Graduate Students Union

Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association

Dr Raquel Harper, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation

Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services

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

**Apologies**

Professor Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry

Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine

Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director, Trinity College Institute for Neuroscience

Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director – European Engagement

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<b>Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval</b>	
<b>A.1</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b> Minutes from the meeting of 12 May were circulated in advance. Accepted as read.</p>
<b>A.2</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b> Any matters arising would be addressed during the meeting.</p>
<b>A.3</b>	<p><b>RS/20-21/1 Proposal to establish Trinity Centre for Resistance Studies</b> Professor Balazs Apor</p> <p>A proposal to establish a Trinity Centre for Resistance Studies was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. Professor Balazs Apor joined the meeting to discuss the proposal with the committee and outlined the ambitions and goals of the proposed centre which included research plans, the development of related teaching, and the establishment of a collection with The Library.</p> <p>The committee unanimously approved the proposal.</p>
<b>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</b>	
<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>Update from Dean of Research</b> Dean of Research</p> <p><b>RS/18-19/20</b> DOR advised that the Annual Report had been completed. DOR noted some of the content, including updates on progress that had been made with the Living Research Excellence Strategy.</p> <p><b>RS/19-20/16</b> The committee discussed how the phased resumption of research activities had gone across college. It was noted that the shared nature of the campus facilities meant that multiple plans were often in operation in one building. DOR confirmed that if stricter lockdown measures were reintroduced the existing approved plans would be the default position.</p> <p><b>RS/20-21/2</b> DOR provided an update in relation to the HEA Support for COVID-19 Related Research Costed Extensions. It was noted that the HEA set out a number of eligibility requirements and a process would have to be created to disburse the funds.</p> <p><b>RS/20-21/3</b> DOR noted issues that had arisen in relation to Self-financing Accounts. Confirmed she was working to have relevant research expenditure included in the categories of approved spends, but no resolution had been reached yet. The committee noted that this was an extremely contentious issue for researchers, and had the potential to cause real, often unnecessary, difficulties for researchers. The committee noted that it was affecting morale at a time when researchers are already under extreme pressure. The committee also noted that there was often a lack of understanding at college-level as to how these accounts are used.</p> <p>In general discussion, the committee noted that a “cliff edge” in terms of research activity was approaching. Some people had been able to use lockdown to finish projects or submit applications, but there was now a lag in terms of what could be done and new research activity would be affected. It was noted that the Trinity academic</p>

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	<p>year does not have protected research time so it would be very difficult for researchers looking to make up lost time on their projects to do so given the increased workload associated with preparing and delivering online teaching.</p> <p><b>RS/18-19/11</b> Prof. Lorraine Leeson confirmed a business case for a research ethics management system was in development, and would be brought to the committee in November. If all went to plan, the system would go live in 2021.</p> <p><b>RS/19-20/3</b> DOR noted that the ongoing issue of the implications of postdoc teaching for employment contracts was still not resolved despite discussions that had taken place with HR. The committee expressed frustration with the lack of a resolution and appealed for a compromise to be found. DOR noted that a clear set of guidelines would be helpful.</p>
<b>B.2</b>	<p><b>Overview of Research Committee and role of Directors of Research</b> Dean of Research</p> <p>As it was the first meeting of the academic year, and a number of new Directors of Research had joined the committee, the Dean of Research provided an overview of the role and responsibilities of a Director of Research. DOR also gave a summary of the activities of the Research Committee over the previous year to bring new members of the committee up to speed. DOR also outlined the activities of the Office of the Dean of Research as distinct from Trinity Research &amp; Innovation.</p>
<b>Section C – Items for Noting</b>	
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Items for Noting</b>
<b>C.2</b>	<p><b>Items for future discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee was advised that the Terms of Reference are due to be reviewed and updated.</li> </ul>
<b>C.3</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>DOR informed the committee that it was her intention to put her name forward as a candidate in the election of a new Provost in 2021. DOR was advised by the Provost and Registrar that she would have to step back from her role as Dean at this time as it would constitute a conflict of interest. DOR advised that a Pro-Dean would be appointed in due course. She noted thanks to the committee for their work during her time as Dean.</p>