The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

11:00, Tuesday 10 November 2020
Zoom
MINUTES

Attendees

Professor Lorraine Leeson, Associate Dean of Research (Chair)
Professor Andrew Bowie, Associate Dean of Research
    Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Professor Brian Lucey, Director of Research, School of Business
Professor Ruth Barton, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor David O'Shaughnessy, Director of Research, School of English
Professor Dan Geary, 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 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 Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
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 Joan Lalor, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Lidia Tajber, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Kingston Mills, Director of TBSI
Professor Aideen Long, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN
Professor Mani Ramaswami, Director of TCIN

Gisele Scanlon, President, Graduate Students Union
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies

In attendance:
Dr Raquel Cabral Harper, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library
Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Development, Office of the Dean of Research
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

Apologies
Professor Eve Patten, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
Professor Louise Gallagher, Director of Research, School of Medicine
Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services
Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association

	Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval
A.1	**Minutes** Minutes of the previous meeting on October 6th were circulated in advance, and accepted as read.
A.2	**Matters Arising from the Minutes** **RS/20-21/2** HEA Support for COVID-19 Related Research Costed Extensions This call has been rolled out with significant behind the scenes work done by Fiona Killard, Jennifer Daly, Gwen Turner in HR and Elaine Sharkey in FSD. First extensions have already been issued for those whose contracts were due to finish before 28 February 2021. **RS/20-21/3** Self-financing accounts The issue of freezing of self-financing accounts was raised here, and also by Fellows with the VP and Chief Financial Officer. The Vice Provost has advised that Planning Group has approved the draft FY21 Emergency Budget which includes a recommendation to unfreeze the spending on reserves, and instead monitor the spending from reserves through a quarterly reporting mechanism. This draft budget went to EOG on 3 November. Finance Committee and Board will consider this in late November, early December. No further update on same since but ADORs have sought further clarification. **RS/18-19/11** Research ethics management system Penny Storey provided an update on this item later in the meeting. **RS/19-20/3** Postdoc Teaching & Employment Contracts Following discussion at meeting of Oct 6th, ADORs met with Antoinette Quinn and Mary Leahy from HR. The main issue for HR is to mitigate any risk that arises in relation to contracts. ADORs agreed to survey the Research Committee to generate an overview of how schools provide teaching to postdocs so that a set of harmonised guidelines could be created. It was noted that some schools are under serious pressure with teaching loads as a result of current HR stance. ADORs confirmed that they would keep the issue "live" with HR, and the survey should assist in making some progress. **ACTION**: Circulate a survey on postdoc teaching in schools
	Section B - Items for Discussion Only
B.1	**Update from Associate Deans of Research** Prof. Lorraine Leeson ADOR Leeson noted congratulations of the committee to recipients of SFI Awards: • SFI Researcher of the Year 2020: Kingston Mills • SFI Early Career Researcher of the Year 2020: Matthew Campbell; award shared with Lorna Lopez (Maynooth University). • SFI Industry Partnership Award 2020: Fergal O'Brien (RCSI) and AMBER • SFI Outstanding Contribution to STEM Communication Award 2020: Luke O'Neill Also noted the work of Ciarán McEvoy, the Research Projects Officer instrumental in developing the nominations.

Congratulations were noted to Poul Holm and Frank Ludlow who were recently awarded an ERC Synergy Grant.

ADOR Bowie provided an update to the committee on the issue of SFI Export Controls. Advised that as of the previous week, text had been agreed so letters of offer for SFI centres and grants would be released soon.

Also updated the committee in relation to the proposed All-Ireland funding strategy. Noted that this initiative is in the early stages and a number of groups are involved in feeding in to the development of a strategy.

ADOR Leeson advised that the IUA recently met with Minister Harris. Feedback from the meeting advised that it was positive. A number of topics were discussed including an overarching strategy for higher education and research in the new department, growing the research budget and a balanced system, developing a model for broad engagement with stakeholders, and engaging with the public.

RS/19-20/15 Covid-19 Research Boost Funding
ADOR Leeson advised the committee that the Provost had requested that the Office of the Dean of Research "hold off on using research funds" as he is working on a Research Funding Expansion Strategy with TR&I. As a result of this, the next tranche of funding in the Covid-19 Research Boost Funding programme which the committee approved in March, and was due to be released in December, would not go ahead.

The committee noted unanimous opposition to this request. It was noted that such a request undermined the work of the Research Committee and would be a retrograde move given that the purpose of the boost funding was to support researchers who would eventually apply for larger grants. The committee also noted that it was inappropriate to freeze its funds without providing an opportunity to the committee to defend how and why they planned to use them. The committee also noted the positive impact that the boost funding has had on the ground in terms of morale and the general research culture in college. The committee noted that it would be inefficient to restrict the momentum that the boost funding could generate from a relatively modest fund.
ACTION: The ADORs agreed to feedback the committee's response to the Provost

RS/18-19/11 Research Ethics Policy Committee
ADOR Leeson advised committee that most RECs now GDPR compliant. It was noted that the REPC does not know how many Schools are now using the new forms as there are no resources to oversee this.

Advised that the Evelyn Fox, DPO-Research, is happy to deliver GDPR training to any REC, and is also delivering data protection training to Schools.

It was noted that the REPC has also started rolled out sessions with RECs, beginning with standard operating procedures. Currently examining if there are projects that are so low risk that they may fall into another category altogether, e.g. a Level 0. REPC looking at how other universities do this.

RS/18-19/9 Epigeum Research Integrity Training pilot
Committee was informed that the IUA had recently reached an agreement with Epigeum regarding the provision of access to research integrity training once the

	current pilot scheme ends in December 2020. Currently trying to secure funding, with a view to access being available in early 2021. **RS/19-20/6** European Researchers' Night Committee was advised that the programme for Trinity's European Researchers' Night was now available online with a series of activities and events planned for two weeks in November.
B.2	**RS/20-21/4 Research Ethics management system** Penny Storey PS joined meeting to update committee on the development of the business case for the ethics application management system. PS gave an overview of the research that was done during the summer, and advised that the cost of all available solutions put the project under the control of the Project Management Office. PS also outlined the next steps in getting the business case approved, with a view to issuing a tender early in the new year. A project team has been set up and includes representation from IT and all faculties. Committee was invited to submit comments to PS by Nov 18th.
B.3	**RS/18-19/14 DORA and RS/20-21/5 Good Research Practice Guide** Lorraine Leeson The committee was informed that the Good Research Practice Guide is currently being updated. The goal is to try to reduce the bulk of the text and point readers to the policy documents that underpin our practices. It was also noted that Trinity needed to include reference to DORA and demonstrate explicit support for same in our institutional documentation/ on our website by 1/1/2021 in order to guarantee access to certain funding. A reference to DORA would be included in the Good Research Practice Guide to support this and committee agreed that text supporting DORA could be added to the research website in the interim. **ACTION**: Good Research Practice Guide to be brought to next meeting of committee
B.4	**RS/18-19/5 Terms of Reference** Associate Deans of Research The committee reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Research Committee. It was noted that the language regarding the REPC needed to be updated as well as the role of Directors of Research in communicating updates to their schools. It was agreed that updated wording would be drafted and brought to the next meeting of the committee for approval. **ACTION**: Terms of Reference to be updated and approved at next meeting of committee
**Section C – Items for Noting**
C.1	**Items for Noting** No items.
C.2	**Items for future discussion** The committee noted concern with the implications for research in the event of a no-deal Brexit. It was agreed that the DPO and/or Risk Officer would be invited to address the committee in relation to this.
C.3	**AOB** No items.