The University of Dublin
Trinity College
RESEARCH COMMITTEE
11:00, Tuesday 13 April 2021 via 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 Orla Flanagan, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor Ann Devitt, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English
Professor Daniel 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 Redmond O'Connell, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Irene Walsh, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Professor Zohar Hadromi-Allouche, Director of Research, School of Religion
Professor Peter Stone, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Professor Eoin O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy
      Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
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
      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 & Midwifery
Professor Lidia Tajber, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
      Trinity Research Institutes
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director of CRANN
Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub
Professor Aideen Long, Director of Trinity Translational Medicine Institute
Professor Kingston Mills, Directory of TBSI

Mr. Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Research & Innovation
Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association

In attendance:
Dr Raquel Cabral Harper, Research Development Manager, Trinity Research & Innovation
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library
Dr Geoff Bradley, Director of IT Services
Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Development, Office of the Dean of Research
Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director of European Engagement, Trinity Research & Innovation & Global Relations
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

Apologies
No apologies received

	Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval
A.1	**Minutes**
	Minutes of the meeting of March 9th were circulated in advance and accepted as read.
A.2	**Matters Arising from the Minutes**
	RS/19-20/3 Postdocs and teaching: ADORs met with HR following discussion at the last committee meeting. HR had received approval for a dedicated position for postdoctoral researchers. ADORs confirmed that they would have input into the job description.
	RS/20-21/2 HEA Covid-19 Costed Extensions: ADOR Leeson noted that the ODRES processed a significant number of applications. Further call would be opened in late April. Noted thanks to Dr Fiona Killard and also HR, Payroll, and FSD who assisted with the process.
	RS/20-21/5 Good Research Practice policy now has to go to EOG, Council, and Board. It was confirmed that once it had been through all three the updated policy would be available on the research website.
	Section B - Items for Discussion Only
B.1	**Update from Associate Deans of Research**
	Prof. Lorraine Leeson, Prof. Andrew Bowie
	ADOR Leeson noted that this was the penultimate meeting of the academic year and gave a short overview of the work the ADORs had done over previous months. This included close engagement with the VPDORs group of the IUA where issues such as the implications of Covid for the return to research, NORF, SFI research integrity audits, and the general national funding landscape were among those discussed. ADORs have also continued to engage with LERU, reporting on rounds of engagement around a number of topics, including European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERIC), and Open Science.
	ADOR Bowie noted that the proposed all-Ireland funding scheme (**RS/20-21/8**) appeared to have stalled due to a reluctance by the NI executive to provide matching funds. Advised the committee that the VPDORs were meeting soon in relation to this. Committee was advised that two funding calls would be announced soon: an infrastructure call from SFI, and the SFI/IRC joint postdoctoral call. Committee was encouraged to inform their schools as an internal selection process would be required to select Trinity's candidates for both. It was noted that the deadline for expressions of interest to the infrastructure call would be May 21st with an indicative budget of €6million, and minimum budget request of €500k. It was noted that the previous SFI infrastructure call had ultimately awarded €10million. It was noted that SFI insist on an internal process for initial screening.
	RS/20-21/4 ADOR Leeson noted that draft documentation would be circulated to the committee in relation to the research ethics application management system. Committee would be given one week for feedback before a final document would be presented for approval at the May meeting.
B.2	**RS/20-21/12 Post-award support review**
	Dr Fiona Killard
	It was noted that the committee had previously approved a post-award support pilot scheme that would be run by the ODRES. Dr Killard noted that, although the ODRES had

	a number of suggestions, before any pilot could begin a clear definition of what the research community defined as post-award support was required as this seemed to vary across disciplines. For some it might mean admin support in the initial set-up phase while for others this might be a longer term definition that encompassed reporting, grant management, commercialisation etc. FK noted that it was important that whatever happened in this space was informed by the academic community and addressed their needs. FK invited feedback from the committee. It was noted that a number of schools had recently conducted surveys that had identified issues around post-award support. Issues that were repeatedly raised by the committee included: • A lack of clarity, particularly for newer staff, as to how to navigate the post-award phase. • Too much was dependent on "knowing who to call" rather than having a clearly defined process or consistent guidance in place. • Excessive emails around the set-up phase. Committee noted that the set-up process was unclear and inefficient. The importance of streamlining the initial post-award process was noted by the committee. Some members of the committee noted the benefits of dedicated research managers who could lead PIs through the different stages of an award, while other committee members noted the importance of ensuring a functional system was in place before hiring extra support staff. It was also noted that school admins should be consulted for their experience and input. It was noted that the process of transferring an award was also particularly onerous. It was suggested that as a first step a helpdesk could be set up, but upon further discussion it was noted that this could take some time and would involve service level agreements with all the units involved. FK thanked the committee for their feedback and noted that an issues log similar to that established for Covid-related research issues would be set up to gather specific detail on the issues facing academics in the post-award space. FK confirmed that an update would be brought to the committee at the May meeting as to how the review would proceed over the next year.
B.3	**RS/18-19/19 NORF** Prof. Declan O'Sullivan Prof. O'Sullivan provided the committee with an update on the consultation process for the national framework on the transition to open research. DOS noted that much of this was mandated by the EU and would have an impact on how research is conducted. The committee was advised that Phase 2 would have three components: • National open research landscape report. This would provide a summary of the national situation because of the length of time between the first and second phase. This was published on March 30th with feedback gathered until May 7th. • Interim recommendations based on the landscape report and feedback. • National Action Plan for Open Research in Ireland, a cumulative output for formal consultation and approval. DOS noted that the aggressive timeline had caused some worry in the working groups but it was ultimately beyond NORF's control given Government's pursuit of an action plan by the end of the year. DOS noted that a number of Trinity staff are involved in the NORF working groups but because of how they were formed these staff have not necessarily been acting as representatives of Trinity. Noted that efforts have been made to have a more co-ordinated, college-led approach across these reps.

	The committee was asked to circulate the landscape report to schools, faculties, and professional services such as IT, and to encourage as much feedback and engagement as possible. DOS advised committee that a shared folder had been set up where feedback could be shared and Trinity reps could be kept aware of views within College. DOS also noted that an institutional response of some kind was important and that the longer term implications would need to be considered. Members of the committee noted deep concerns with NORF goals that were created without any consultation with the research community. The committee queried if an enforcement mechanism would be part of the final action plan. DOS noted that it was a strong possibility that funders would be involved, with NORF-compliance potentially being a requirement for funding. It was noted that NORF had been discussed at the open scholarship taskforce, with some discussion around Trinity developing its own policy that would be NORF-compliant. Members of the committee noted concerns about possible consequences for research that is not funded, particularly in AHSS. Noted the importance of keeping unfunded or less formally funded research in mind when developing NORF action plan. Some members of the committee also noted that academics who serve as editors for major journals have not been consulted as a group for their input. It was noted that the Trinity Long Room Hub was running an event to examine how AHSS publication would be compromised by the current NORF proposals. Prof. Eve Patten noted that the response developed from this event would contain concrete proposals. It was also noted that the Irish Research Council was not in agreement with the current proposals. DOS noted that there was no report from the NORF 'funders forum.' Committee noted that there was a lack of joined up thinking in the development of the action plan with a seeming expectation that academics would just "find the money" somewhere to cover publication charges. It was noted that publication charges are now an allowable direct cost on EU grants. It was also noted that this issue was much more than open access and also covered data management, data processing and preservation. **ACTION:** DOS to provide an update on institutional response at next meeting.
B.2	**RS/20-21/7 TR&I Research Expansion Funding Strategy** Leonard Hobbs LH advised the committee that the hiring task force was now meeting weekly, and it was expected that 15 positions would be created and filled in the first 12 months of the plan. LH noted that it was hoped interviews would begin in mid-June and assistance would be sought from the committee in relation to interview panels.
	Section C – Items for Noting
C.1	**Items for Noting** No items for noting.
C.2	**Items for future discussion** No items for future discussion.
C.3	**AOB** Helen Shenton noted that the Library was planning a communication strategy around transformation agreements as part of IREL.