

The University of Dublin
Trinity College

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

11:00, 6 December 2022 via Zoom
MINUTES

In attendance

Professor Wolfgang Schmitt, Dean of Research (Chair)
Professor Padraic Fallon, Associate Dean of Research
Professor Immo Warntjes, Associate Dean of Research
Professor Brian Broderick, Associate Dean of Research
Professor Joseph Roche, Director of Research, School of Education
Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English
Professor Mary Cosgrove, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies
Professor Deirdre Ahern, Director of Research, School of Law
Professor Nathan Hill, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech & Communication Sciences
Professor Claire Gillan, Director of Research, School of Psychology
Professor Sharyn O'Halloran, Director of Research, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Professor Eburne Garcia Iriarte, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy
Professor Mathias Senge, Director of Research, School of Chemistry
Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics
Professor Frank Wellmer, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology
Professor Sergey Mozgovoy, Director of Research, School of Mathematics
Professor Hal Duncan, Director of Research, School of Dental Science
Professor Sharon O'Donnell, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery
Professor Lidia Tajber, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Professor Kingston Mills, Director, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute
Professor Aideen Long, Director, Trinity Translational Medical Institute
Professor Eve Patten, Director, Trinity Long Room Hub
Professor Rhodri Cusack, Director, Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience
Professor Eoin O'Sullivan, Senior Dean
Mr Leonard Hobbs, Director of Trinity Innovation
Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association
Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Development, Office of the Dean of Research
Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director of European Engagement, Trinity Research
Dr Raquel Harper, Head of Research Development, Research Development Office
Ms Elaine Sharkey, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division
Ms Siobhán O'Shea, Senior HR Specialist, Human Resources
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist, Library
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

Apologies

Professor Etain Tannam, Director of Research, School of Religion, Theology and Peace Studies
Professor Stefano Sanvito, Director, CRANN
Professor Marcus Collier, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences
Professor Nicholas Johnson, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts
Professor Michael Monaghan, Director of Research, School of Engineering
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities

Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval	
A.1	Minutes Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated in advance. An amendment was noted to the list of apologies and minutes were then approved.
A.2	Matters Arising from the Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">RS/22-23/3 Signing DORA and Agreement on Researchers Assessment Reform

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	<p>DOR noted that the committee had been asked to make a recommendation as to whether Trinity should sign DORA and the Agreement on Researchers Assessment Reform. It was noted that work was already being done in these areas. The committee unanimously agreed to recommend that Trinity sign both DORA and the Agreement on Researchers Assessment Reform.</p> <p>ACTION: DOR to write to Provost on behalf of the committee to recommend that Trinity sign DORA and the Agreement on Researchers Assessment Reform.</p>
<p>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</p>	
<p>B.1</p>	<p>RS/22-23/5 Researcher Impact Framework Sarah Bowman, Director of Strategic Engagement & Impact Assessment</p> <p><i>Sarah Bowman joined the meeting for this item</i></p> <p>SB presented an overview of the Researcher Impact Framework to the committee which was created as part of the work of the Research Impact Unit pilot. The document was formally launched in October and was the culmination of extensive consultation and research by SB and Dr Giovanna Lima who was Research Impact Officer for the Trinity Long Room Hub at the time.</p> <p>It was noted that the remit of the Research Impact Pilot was to broaden thinking about what research impact means for Trinity. The creation of the framework aimed to provide researchers with clear building blocks for crafting an impact narrative.</p> <p>In conversation with the committee the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the framework was considered a “living” document and could be added to as knowledge is enhanced in the impact space. It was also noted the framework was a great tool but required training and buy-in from the research community. • Some members of the committee suggested that impact narratives in grant applications were unrealistic with researchers rarely able to deliver on the goals contained within them. It was felt that the emphasis on impact narratives encouraged poor practice and required researchers to include outlandish claims in applications that they knew could not be delivered. General frustration with the current SFI CV template was noted by members of the committee. SB noted the Researcher Impact Framework guarded against this kind of approach and was not trying to impose a REF style model. SB noted that the more important aspect of the narratives should be the researchers’ own goals and working from there to develop a coherent, robust narrative. SB also noted that impact should be treated with the same rigour as every other aspect of research and should be credible, provable, and at an appropriate scale. SB also noted that articulating impact was a key skill and cautioned against dismissing impact out of frustration with other aspects of the process such as the CV template. SB also noted that there was an unreasonable burden on researchers to house information that should be captured at an institutional level. • Other members of the committee noted that the Researcher Impact Framework had been of real benefit in assisting some staff through a recent round of promotions, and that it would be helpful to consider the framework as part of the upcoming review of college’s promotions process. • The School of Nursing and Midwifery was already using it with MSc and PhD students. It was also noted that there was a lot of work to do to foster a culture of appreciating impact because parts of college can be very set in its ways.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB noted that the Research Development Office was doing great work to encourage applicants to be more strategic in identifying what they could be doing now in order to achieve longer term goals. It was reiterated that impact narratives and frameworks should not be seen as box ticking but should really encourage researchers to ask themselves what success looks like for them.
<p>B.2</p>	<p>Dean of Research Annual Report 2021-22 Dean of Research</p> <p>A draft of the Dean of Research’s Annual Report was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting for feedback. It was noted that the report would be closed for additions before the Christmas break. The final version would be shared with the committee in early 2023.</p>
<p>B.3</p>	<p>Update from Dean of Research Dean of Research</p> <p>Congratulations were noted to Profs. Jane Ohlmeyer and Jonathan Coleman who were recently awarded RIA Gold Medals.</p> <p>It was noted that the SFI Co-Centre Programme was now open for proposals. DOR noted that Prof. Yvonne Buckley intended to lead a proposal in climate and biodiversity. Researchers were encouraged to contact the RDO for further information.</p> <p>Congratulations were noted to researchers who were recognised at the SFI Summit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Orla Hardiman was named SFI Researcher of the Year • Prof Claire Gillan was named SFI Early Career Researcher of the Year • Prof Michael Morris received the SFI Best International Engagement award. <p>The committee was advised that a Head of Clinical Sponsorship Oversight had been appointed and was due to start in January 2023. DOR also noted that it was intended to appoint a Quality and Regulatory Affairs Manager to work with the HCSO.</p> <p>It was noted that HR and FSD were working to process the additional stipend payments for SFI and IRC students in December. Members of the committee noted that while the additional payment was welcome, it was inequitable and unfair that other PhD students who were not funded through these agencies would not receive any additional payment. It was noted that there were no provisions for other students. It was noted that processing the payments was a significant amount of work for HR and Finance.</p> <p>Congratulations were noted to recent grant recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Kenneth Silver (Business), Dr Colm Delaney (Chemistry), and Dr Elaine Corbett (Psychology) were awarded ERC Starting grants • Dr Lara McManus (Medicine), Dr Mark Mitchison (Physics), and Dr Matthew Walters (Mathematics) won Royal Society University Research Fellowships. <p>RS/19-20/1 It was noted that QS was making a change to the methodology underlying its world university rankings for the next year. It was also noted that QS would introduce a Europe Ranking.</p> <p>It was noted that the IUA would organise an event in January to discuss the proposed establishment of a new national funding agency. The event would be hosted at UL.</p>

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	<p>DOR noted that the proposal to establish a Trinity Research Institute for Social Sciences and policy continued to progress. It was also noted that a proposal was in development to establish a Trinity Quantum Centre in collaboration with industrial partners.</p> <p>LH noted that Trinity spinouts had received two awards at the recent KTI Impact Awards. SilverCloud Health received the Commercialisation Impact Award, and ProVerum received the People’s Choice Award.</p>
<p>B.4</p>	<p>RS/22-23/6 Proposal to establish Trinity Research Centre for the Book (for approval) Dr Mark Faulkner, School of English <i>Mark Faulkner joined the meeting for this item</i></p> <p>A proposal to establish the Trinity Research Centre for the Book was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. Dr Faulkner presented an overview of the proposed activities of such a centre to the committee. It was noted that such a centre would formalise existing connections between the Library and the Trinity Long Room Hub. The centre would have four thematic strands: History of Writing; Text and Image; Writing and Society; and, Sharing the Book. The aims of the centre would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consolidate and focus existing, outstanding research strengths in text, writing and the book, which span numerous schools in Trinity 2. To foster and facilitate closer collaboration between researchers and the Library 3. Spotlight Trinity’s collections and research expertise to a global audience of students, academics, funders, donors and the public. 4. Facilitate for applications for large, inter-institutional research grants (e. g. Horizon Europe) in the field of book history and cultural heritage 5. Work with TLRH and Trinity Development and Alumni to develop the financial resources of the Centre <p>In discussion with the committee the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Eve Patten welcomed the proposal and congratulated Dr Faulkner and colleagues for the work that had been done on the proposal. EP hoped that the committee would recognise that this topic went well beyond the arts and humanities and spoke to research across all three faculties. • Helen Shenton noted strong support for the proposal and how it advanced the joint research agenda of the Library and Trinity Long Room Hub. HS also noted that the centre proposal connected with the Old Library Redevelopment project and also provided critical links to other libraries in Dublin. • Immo Warntjes noted that the centre proposal was profoundly interdisciplinary and also had an extremely strong international aspect to it with collaborators in France, Germany, and the Library of Congress. IW noted that it was truly international in its vision and design. • MF noted that Trinity was very well-placed to become a world-leading centre for the book. The aim for the first years would be to communicated the centre across other disciplines. <p>The committee unanimously approved the proposal.</p>
<p>Section C – Items for Noting</p>	
<p>C.1</p>	<p>Items for Noting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinity Research Excellence Awards: the committee was advised that nominations would be invited for the 2023 Trinity Research Excellence Awards. Details were to be circulated to the committee after the meeting, and would be shared with the wider college community in January.

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C.2	Items for future discussion <i>No items noted.</i>
C.3	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was noted that places were still available on the upcoming 'Advancing your research career' programme. Details were to be circulated to the committee after the meeting.