

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**11:00, 9 May 2023**

**Boardroom, Trinity Business School**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance**

Professor Sinéad Ryan, Dean of Research (Chair)  
Professor Brian Broderick, Associate Dean of Research  
Professor Immo Warntjes, Associate Dean of Research  
Professor Padraic Fallon, Associate Dean of Research  
Professor Nicholas Johnson, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts  
Professor Joseph Roche, Director of Research, School of Education  
Professor Aileen Douglas, Director of Research, School of English  
Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Research, School of Histories and Humanities  
Professor Mary Cosgrove, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies  
Professor Deirdre Ahern, Director of Research, School of Law  
Professor Nathan Hill, Director of Research, School of Linguistic, Speech and 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 Edurne Garcia Iriarte, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy  
Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology  
Professor Mathias Senge, Director of Research, School of Chemistry  
Professor Declan O'Sullivan, Director of Research, School of Computer Science and Statistics  
Professor Michael Monaghan, Director of Research, School of Engineering  
Professor Frank Wellmer, Director of Research, School of Genetics and Microbiology  
Professor Sergey Mozgovoy, Director of Research, School of Mathematics  
Professor Yvonne Buckley, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences  
Professor Sarah Doyle, Director of Research, School of Medicine  
Professor Sharon O'Donnell, Director of Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Professor Anne-Marie Healy, Director of Research, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Professor Kingston Mills, Director of TBSI  
Professor Aideen Long, Director of TTMI  
Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub  
Professor Rhodri Cusack, Director of TCIN  
Professor Eoin O'Sullivan, Senior Dean  
Dr Darren Fayne, Trinity Research Staff Association  
Dr Fiona Killard, Head of Strategic Research Development, Office of the Dean of Research  
Dr Raquel Harper, Head of Research Development, Research Development Office  
Mr Gordon Elliott, on behalf of Trinity Innovation  
Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director for European Engagement, Trinity Research  
Ms Elaine Sharkey, Projects Accounting Manager, Financial Services Division  
Dr Geoff Bradley, Head of Academic Services and Operations, IT Services  
Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian and College Archivist  
Dr Jennifer Daly, Research Strategy Officer, Office of the Dean of Research

**Apologies**

Ms Siobhán O'Shea, Human Resources  
Mr Kevin Ryan, Procurement  
Professor Zohar Hadromi-Allouche  
Professor Martine Smith

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<b>Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval</b>	
<b>A.1</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>Minutes for the meeting of April were circulated in advance and approved by the committee.</p>
<b>A.2</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>RS/22-23/10</b> DOR informed the committee that an institutional response from Trinity was submitted to IUA. DOR thanked committee for feedback and input. In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A discussion forum was held in the Long Room Hub on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Deirdre Lillis from DFHERIS was a member of the panel where she noted that there was broad agreement about what was needed from a new agency.</li> <li>• Minister Harris recorded a message for the event during which he mentioned the establishment of a dedicated AHSS council as part of the new agency. Concerns with this approach were noted by the committee with the preference being for a governance structure that had representative membership across all disciplines.</li> <li>• An open letter organised by Prof. Ohlmeyer had gathered almost 2,500 signatures. It was noted that a group of researchers delivered the letter in person to Minister Harris who then held a meeting with them.</li> <li>• The importance of coordinated and coherent messaging was noted, as well as the importance of having voices from all across the sector engaged with the issue, not just Trinity.</li> <li>• The finer detail of funding programmes had not been considered at this stage, and the DOR noted that significant work will come after the establishment of the agency to get those right for researchers.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> shared folder would be updated with IUA statement and transcripts from Oireachtas hearings.</p>
<b>Section B - Items for Discussion Only</b>	
<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>RS/22-23/11 Update on Trinity East</b> Prof. Eleanor Denny, College Bursar</p> <p><i>The Bursar joined the meeting for this item.</i></p> <p>The Bursar presented an update to the committee on the current plans for the site at Trinity East and outlined the revised vision for the campus. During the presentation, the following points were noted the project’s pillars were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turn the development of Trinity East into a radical refurbishment, retrofitting and regeneration project that looks at indoor and outdoor space in a totally new way</li> <li>2. Treat the refurbishment, retrofitting and regeneration project as a wholly unique research project itself, exploring, experimenting and pushing boundaries as we develop the site</li> <li>3. Open Trinity East to researchers, innovators, cultural practitioners and collaborators from all and any discipline under the broad umbrella of sustainability – whether they work on sustainability challenges or whether they focus on carrying out their work sustainably.</li> </ol> <p>The following points were also noted during the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trinity owns the whole site, which is possibly the last city centre block that hasn’t been developed and has huge potential for the university.</li> </ul>

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- The original plan had been for demolition and new build, but the best building is one that doesn't need to be built. Strong focus on sustainability meant that the site was reassessed to examine how what was already there could deliver the function that Trinity needs. Existing buildings were developed by the IDA without a defined sense of who the occupants would be so they are already quite flexible in terms of function.
- Some units have not been well-maintained so some work needs to be done in that respect, but there is sufficient capacity at present that could kickstart the sense of a real, vibrant campus.
- Portal was designed to support co-creation and innovation. It was noted that the planned refurbishment that would house Portal was only supposed to be there for 10-15 years and would then have been demolished to make way for a new build. This no longer makes sense and the refurbishment is now under way with a view to a long-term presence on the site. It was noted that 40% of the space in Portal would be assigned to Trinity researchers.
- Next steps would be community engagement, examining new ways to think about how space is used, and operation elements such as IT, safety etc that can quickly activate the campus.
- The Bursar invited the Research Committee to visit the site to get a better sense of its potential.

In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted:

- The original vision for the site was always for research, innovation, and culture to be present. It was noted that the Lir Academy is already on site and there is a cultural presence in the Tower. The Bursar noted that the next phase of the development could examine the external aesthetic in relation to the local history and character of the area.
- The sustainability element was not limited to projects about sustainability, but would also open the space up to projects that were working in a sustainable manner.
- It was noted that many large tech firms have a presence in that area and that Trinity was in contact with them.
- The importance of redefining how space is used was emphasised. Members of the committee noted that it should not be a static space that becomes an extension of a lab or other group, but rather a constant flow of researchers and projects should be able to move through the space and make use of it.
- It was noted that there was a desire to expand the original E3RI vision to bring in other disciplines.
- The model for the funding of space had not yet matured but was in development.
- If there is not a construct that is considered a library on the site, then electronic deposits held by the Library cannot be accessed from Trinity East.
- Creative Arts has a lab in Unit 13 which was built with PRTL 5 funding. It was noted that under original plans this would have been demolished but with the revised model there was no reason why the space could not continue to be functional now.
- The Provost planned to appoint an academic lead to work with schools, and create a governance structure that would allow the project to work through college governance structures. It also provided an opportunity to examine how projects are conducted in Trinity and whether structures and processes are appropriate.

The Dean of Research thanked the Bursar for the presentation and discussion.

*Bursar left the meeting.*

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Dr Jennifer Daly, Office of the Dean of Research

A revised version of the policy on Trinity Research Centres was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. The committee was advised that all research-related policies were due for review and update and this was the first in a series of policies that would be presented for consideration. It was noted that the proposed revisions were relatively minor and mainly consisted of converting the existing policy to the new policy template for all Trinity policies, the addition of required text as part of that template, and the deletion of out-of-date and irrelevant information. The most significant additions proposed for the policy were:

- Addition of Section 6: Responsibility and Implementation. Proposed text: “The Dean of Research has responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy. This includes facilitating proposals through the Research Committee, maintaining a current list of active TRCs, and overseeing annual reporting. At School/Unit/Division level, the Head of School and Director of Research will have responsibility for ensuring that any TRC housed in their respective School/Unit/Division is in full compliance with the policy. This includes providing appropriate local supports, the submission of annual reports, and identifying any TRCs that are no longer active.”
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In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted:

- The process to establish a centre required the provision of a letter of support from a Head of School.
- The annual reporting process was the responsibility of the director of the centre in the first instance, but should a report not be provided the Director of Research and Head of School where the centre was housed would be responsible for ensuring the centre was compliant with the policy.
- There was a piece of work to be done around identifying centres that were no longer active and archiving their activities.
- The policy relating to Trinity Research Institutes was a much larger piece of work, and a specific group would be formed to review and update this.

The committee approved the policy.

**B.3 REAMS – short update**

Prof. Padraic Fallon, Associate Dean of Research

The committee was advised that a 10-page brief had been sent to the provider requesting a range of changes and updates. This was based on feedback received from RECs. It was thought that around 90% of the requests could be actioned but this was pending confirmation from the provider. It was noted that not all change requests would be possible, but RECs would be updated as soon as possible with regard to what changes could be expected.

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	<p>It was noted that the provider had recommended an incremental release of changes rather than a new version of the platform. Some members of the committee suggested this could create some issues around quality assurance or place a burden on the platform administrator to monitor what was or was not working.</p>
<b>B.4</b>	<p><b>Update from Dean of Research</b> Dean of Research</p> <p>Congratulations were noted to all new Scholars and Fellows, in particular committee members who were elected as Fellows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sharyn O’Halloran (Professorial Fellowship)</li> <li>○ Claire Gillan</li> </ul> <p>The appointment of Professor Holger Claussen as Joint Professor of Wireless Communications at UCC, Trinity, and Tyndall was noted as the first appointment of its kind in Ireland. Members of the committee noted a lack of clarity around how this would work for constituent schools. ACTION: DOR agreed to follow up in relation to this.</p> <p>An event was held in the Provost’s House for professional staff who worked on the HEA Costed Extensions Fund. Very much appreciated by colleagues in the professional staff.</p> <p>The publication of the ‘<b>Child Health Research Excellence Report 2023</b>’ was noted. This was launched at an event in TBSI and maps child health-related research activity across 11 schools, 3 faculties and over 80 principal investigators. It represents the first time that a mapping exercise of child health research has been undertaken in Trinity.</p> <p>The launch of the Trinity Quantum Alliance was noted. This is an association of a number of STEM schools and industrial partners focused on quantum computing.</p>
<b>Section C – Items for Noting</b>	
<b>C.1</b>	<p><b>Items for Noting</b></p> <p>No items for noting.</p>
<b>C.2</b>	<p><b>Items for future discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Jane Ohlmeyer asked for a discussion on the Old Library redevelopment project, particularly around the proposed research space.</li> </ul>
<b>C.3</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the meeting in April, it had been flagged that there might be need to have an additional meeting of the committee in June. The committee agreed that an in-person meeting would take place on June 6<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>