

**The University of Dublin  
Trinity College**

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**11:00, 16 January 2024  
Boardroom, Trinity Business School**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance**

Professor Brian Broderick (Associate Dean of Research - Chair)  
Professor Padraic Fallon (Associate Dean of Research)  
Professor Louis Brennan, Director of Research, Trinity Business School  
Professor Nicholas Johnson, Director of Research, School of Creative Arts  
Professor Joseph Roche, Director of Research, School of Education  
Professor James Hanrahan, Director of Research, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultural Studies  
Professor Mark Bell, 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 Eburne Garcia Iriarte, Director of Research, School of Social Work and Social Policy  
Professor Benjamin Wold, Director of Research, School of Religion, Theology and Peace Studies  
Professor Ed Lavelle, Director of Research, School of Biochemistry and Immunology  
Professor Marco Ruffini, 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 Yvonne Buckley, Director of Research, School of Natural Sciences  
Professor Ortwin Hess, Director of Research, School of Physics  
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 Trinity Translational Medicine Institute  
Professor Eve Patten, Director of Trinity Long Room Hub  
Professor Rhodri Cusack, Director of TCIN  
Professor Eoin O'Sullivan, Senior Dean  
Dr Michelle Olmstead, Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer  
Professor Martine Smith, Dean of Graduate Studies

*In attendance:*

Dr Sally Smith, Head of Research, 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  
Ms Doris Alexander, Associate Director - European Engagement, Trinity Research  
Dr Gordon Elliott, Senior Patents & Licensing Manager, Trinity Innovation & Enterprise  
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*

Prof. Sinéad Ryan, Dean of Research  
Prof. Immo Warntjes, Associate Dean of Research  
Prof. Darryl Jones, Director of Research, School of English  
Prof. Jane Ohlmeyer, Director of Research, School of Histories & Humanities  
Prof. Andrei Parnachev, Director of Research, School of Mathematics  
Ms Mary Tracey, Executive Director, Trinity Innovation and Enterprise  
Mr Michael Reilly, Laboratory & Research Category Manager, Procurement, FSD

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<b>Section A – Items for Discussion and Approval</b>	
<b>A.1</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>The meeting was chaired by Associate Dean of Research Brian Broderick.</p> <p>Minutes from the meeting of December 5<sup>th</sup> were circulated to the committee and accepted as read.</p>
<b>A.2</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
<b>A.3</b>	<p><b>RS/23-24/13 Policy on Good Research Practice</b> Office of the Dean of Research</p> <p>A memo was circulated to the committee along with suggested updates to specific sections of the Policy on Good Research Practice. The committee was advised of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Policy on Good Research Practice was last reviewed and updated by the Research Ethics Policy Committee in 2019 at which point it was approved by the Research Committee, Council, and Board and accepted as College policy.</li> <li>• With the introduction of REAMS and developments in the area of research integrity, it is now necessary to update specific sections of the policy to reflect those changes and ensure that current practice and the policy are not in conflict. To that end, it was proposed to make the following changes <b>only</b> to the policy at this time:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Convert the policy to the official College template that is required for all policies.</li> <li>2. Amend section 3 on Ethics to reflect the introduction of REAMS and the revised REC levels.</li> <li>3. Amend sections 1.4.1, 1.4.2, and 1.4.3 on Research Integrity to reflect a revised process for dealing with concerns/complaints.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• All hyperlinks in the document had been checked for accuracy and updated to the most current versions where necessary. It was noted that the Data Protection Office would provide a link to data retention advice which would be added to the policy once available.</li> <li>• A number of external factors necessitated this update as a matter of urgency, including the rollout of REAMS to the College community, an external review of integrity processes conducted by SFI/BDO, and an internal audit of ethics approvals procedures.</li> <li>• The Research Ethics Policy Committee, as the sub-committee of Research Committee tasked with reviewing the policy, had considered and approved the proposed changes.</li> </ul> <p>The Research Committee was asked to approve the updates to sections 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.3 and section 3 as outlined in the draft circulated in order to mitigate the risk outstanding from the issues noted above. No changes to other sections of the policy were proposed and the Research Committee was not asked to review any sections other than those specified at this time. It was noted that the REPC wanted to conduct a full review of the policy and that the committee could expect a more detailed revision to be presented for consideration in 2024/25.</p>

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	<p>Associate Dean of Research Padraic Fallon advised the committee that the audit of integrity processes conducted by SFI/BDO had noted that clarification of roles related to these processes was required. It was noted that the Senior Dean would delegate to the Dean of Research to conduct an informal review in the first instance of complaints received. It was noted that in consultation with the Registrar that minor changes to the Statutes were required but this would be straightforward and completed soon.</p> <p>In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee welcomed the forthcoming advice on data retention from the Data Protection Office.</li> <li>• Prof. Yvonne Buckley queried the proposed change in section 3.5 from “ecosystems” to “plant communities.” It was noted that this suggestion came from the REPC’s review. Prof. Buckley noted that this was incorrect terminology and the committee agreed to reject this change.</li> <li>• Members of the committee noted that the current iteration of the policy had gaps and needed review in relation to AI, knowledge security, data management and preservation, and training requirements, as well as the policies on intellectual property and consultancy.</li> <li>• Members of the committee noted that there was still no clarity on chair approvals in the proposed changes to section 3, and that the status of JREC was still unclear.</li> <li>• Members of the committee noted that the procedures for the specific issue of plagiarism as relates to staff or students was not clear in the policy.</li> <li>• It was noted that advice was being sought from the College Solicitor on the status of JREC and an update was forthcoming.</li> <li>• It was noted that all sections of the policy were current approved College policy, but there was an urgent need to update the specific sections before the committee today independent of a full review of the policy.</li> </ul> <p>The committee agreed to approve the proposed changes with the understanding that a full review of the policy would be undertaken in the near future.</p>
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**Section B - Items for Discussion Only**

<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>Update from the Dean of Research</b> Associate Dean of Research Brian Broderick</p> <p>Recent announcements of awards were noted to the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly announced €15 million in funding to progress new rounds of data collection for <b>The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)</b> to support research on ageing well in Ireland. The Health Research Board (HRB) will manage the funding to progress the new rounds of data collection for TILDA up to 2030. This follows a thorough international peer review process and a positive independent review of outcomes and impacts from TILDA to-date.</li> <li>• Seven Trinity research projects have received funding from the Irish Research Council (IRC) under the ‘New Foundation’ programme. A total of 56 New Foundations projects were announced under the funding scheme designed to reach communities across the country and beyond, focusing on diverse societal challenges. New Foundations awards bring researchers, civic society organisations and policy makers together to enhance the evidence base for policies and practices that will have a tangible impact, locally, nationally, and internationally. The scheme enables awardees to pursue research, networking</li> </ul>
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or dissemination activities within and across the diversity of disciplines. Trinity research projects to receive funding are:

- **Amanda Phelan, Nursing & Midwifery**, with civil society partner Sage Advocacy — developing a guidance booklet for older people considering transitioning to nursing homes
  - **Julie Broderick, Physiotherapy**, with civil society partner Merchants Quay — feasibility and outcomes of implementing a women-only low-threshold exercise and nutritional supplementation programme to target frailty and poor physical functioning in women experiencing homelessness and addiction challenges (LEAP-W trial)
  - **Meg Ryan, Public Health & Primary Care**, with civil society partner Dublin Rape Crisis Centre — understanding the relationship between reproductive coercion and intimate partner violence in an Irish context; a stakeholder informed qualitative analysis
  - **Eric Downer, Physiology**, with civil society partner MS Ireland — a national network for knowledge exchange and education in multiple sclerosis research
  - **Melissa Corbally, Nursing & Midwifery**, with civil society partner Mens' Aid Ireland — a national network for knowledge exchange and education in multiple sclerosis research
  - **Donatella Camedda, Education**, with civil society partner Inclusion Ireland — promoting Education and Employment Resources for People with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland
  - **Joanne Banks, Education**, with Irish Aid — synergies in Shaping Inclusive Educational Reform in the Global North and South: Policymakers and Academics in Ireland and South Africa
- Seven researchers across a range of disciplines at Trinity have been announced as successful applicants to the **Irish Research Council (IRC) Advanced Laureate Awards (ALA) programme**. The IRC's Advanced Laureate Awards (ALAs) support established research leaders who have a record of original and significant research contributions to carry forward ground-breaking discoveries at the frontiers of knowledge in their respective fields. The research projects at Trinity have been selected for funding following a rigorous review by international experts. Each awardee will receive up to €1 million in funding over a period of up to four years. Trinity's Advanced Laureates are:
    - Mani Ramaswami, Neuroscience. Project: TUNINGMEMORY - Molecular tuning of thresholds for translational control and long-term memory
    - David Finlay, Immunometabolism. Project: 4D+ MetaFlux - Multidimensional single cell in vivo metabolic flux analyses: Resolving immune cells based on metabolic activities at the site of disease.
    - Fiona Newell, Experimental Psychology. Project: Project Tactome - Sensory and predictive coding in tactile object perception and memory
    - Anne Dolan, History. Project WITNESSING - Witnessing war, making peace: testimonies of revolution and restraint in inter-war Ireland
    - Micheál Ó'Siochrú, History. Project: EMPIRE: Cromwellian Ireland and the transformation of the English Atlantic world
    - Colm Cunningham, Neuroscience. Project: SysTeMADx4 – Episodic systemic TNF alpha escalates brain inflammation and disrupts bioenergetic and cognitive function at the interface of dementia and delirium
    - Cathal McCrory, Medical Gerontology. Project: Socio-Omics - A longitudinal investigation of DNA methylation as a mediator of socio-economic variation in health and longevity.

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	<p>It was noted that Trinity Research would host a <b>Horizon Europe Coordinator mobilisation event</b> on Thursday 18th January. Eight TCD-coordinated Horizon Europe Pillar 2 and EIC projects were awarded in Trinity in 2023. This event will introduce each of these projects and celebrate the achievement, and showcase the key teams around college who provide post-award support.</p> <p>It was noted that DFHERIS published Global Citizens 2030, Ireland’s Talent and Innovation Strategy on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. The strategy contains six pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Talent and Innovation at the heart of Ireland’s global footprint -</li><li>2. A first choice destination for international learners, researchers and innovators</li><li>3. Global citizens in multi-national, multi-cultural and diverse workforces</li><li>4. Enhanced European influence in education and research</li><li>5. A new era of collaboration on our Shared Island</li><li>6. Thought leadership in talent, innovation and science policy.</li></ol> <p>In discussion with the committee it was noted that plans to attract talent were welcome, but the bigger problem was being able to retain them as a result of the increasingly poor facilities and deteriorating infrastructure.</p>
<b>B.2</b>	<p><b>RS/23-24/14 Research and Innovation Legislation</b></p> <p>It was noted that the legislation was published just before Christmas and was now considered to have “completed Dáil Éireann, First Stage” at this point. The committee was advised that general principles would be debated by DÉ, examined section by section at Committee Stage with amendments made based on the report from Committee Stage. Once it has passed the final stage in Dáil Éireann it will move to the Second Stage in the Seanad which will follow the same process. Once it passes the Seanad it will be signed into law by the President. It was noted that the first Dáil sitting of 2024 was Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and as of the time of the meeting there was no indication as to when the bill would be scheduled for debate. The committee was advised that no changes have been made to the bill from the draft version that was circulated last year and on which the sector provided very detailed feedback.</p> <p>DOR Prof. Ryan asked that the committee be advised that the Director-designate of the new agency, Philip Nolan, had met with VPDoRs to discuss possible programmes and funding instruments the new agency should run. DOR noted that there was universal support from VPDoRs for a breadth of award types from PI-led project awards at a range of scales and career stages, collaborative/programme awards including for 3-4 PIs in inter/trans disciplinary topics, up to Centre level calls. VPDoRs stressed that funding should be open to all disciplines and the importance of bottom-up programmes like the IRC’s PhD and postdoc awards. Other points made included the need for certainty ie awards offered annually/regularly; the dire state of research infrastructure impacting on international competitiveness; and, the primacy of research excellence as main criterion in any awards program. DOR noted that Philip Nolan has agreed to meet with VPDoRs again so points from Research Committee will be fed back.</p> <p>Prof. Jane Ohlmeyer asked that the following points be noted in her absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The concept of parity of esteem was important and should be stressed.</li><li>• How will an appropriate amount of funding be ringfenced for non-applied areas in the arts, humanities and sciences? (there is no comfort on this in the published legislation)</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationships between RI and, specifically, EI (in the innovation space) and the HEA (for research infrastructure) need clearer boundaries.</li> </ul> <p>In discussion with committee, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the committee noted that it was difficult to comment on the legislation as it was mainly concerned with the governance of the new agency and had almost no detail relating to committee structures, decision-making capacities of same.</li> <li>• Frustration with the ongoing problems relating to infrastructure was noted by the committee. It was noted that there is no clarity as to which government agency or department has responsibility. It was also noted that with the emergence of the TUs, dispersal of funds in other areas such as teaching and learning had been very unequal.</li> <li>• It was noted that equipment maintenance was a huge issue for researchers with it being almost impossible to secure funding to maintain equipment beyond the life the original service contract. It was noted that the emphasis on buying new equipment was not compatible with sustainability policies and other green initiatives.</li> <li>• Issues with rolling calls versus clear deadlines were noted by members of the committee. Researchers need clarity on when funds would be made available.</li> <li>• Members of the committee noted that the way competitive funding was set up in Ireland does not provide any continuity for researchers and will result in the sector being unable to attract international researchers. It was noted that some SFI programmes had a higher evaluation score cutoff than the ERC Advanced panel.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B.3</b></p>	<p><b>Spotlight - Trinity Innovation &amp; Enterprise</b> <i>Audrey Crosbie, Innovation Manager, joined the meeting for this item.</i></p> <p>Dr Michelle Olmstead (Chief Innovation &amp; Enterprise Officer), Dr Gordon Elliott and Audrey Crosbie presented an overview of the new Trinity Innovation &amp; Enterprise unit. It was noted that the restructuring of Trinity Research and Innovation into two new units - Trinity Research, and Trinity Innovation &amp; Enterprise - had been done at the request of the Provost. It was noted that while these were now two distinct units, there was still a high level of collaboration.</p> <p>During the presentation, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portal was no longer just a building in Trinity East, but would act as a physical and virtual gateway to Trinity. Tangent as a brand would be phased out over the coming years with its activities incorporated into Portal.</li> <li>• The vision and mission for the new unit was still in draft form but would be brought before the committee when ready.</li> <li>• New funding had been secured from Enterprise Ireland for Knowledge Exchange for the next five years. Learnovate also has new funding from EI.</li> <li>• It was noted that no other overheads come to the unit and that most of its activity is self-funded by partnerships with industry etc.</li> <li>• A new head of Knowledge Exchange would be appointed. It was noted that knowledge exchange is not exclusively concerned with technology, and that many of the underlying ideas for successful endeavours have come from AHSS.</li> <li>• A new role of Innovation Manager had been created to develop and implement an innovation maturity model. How to document innovation activity and capacity was being examined.</li> </ul> <p>In discussion with the committee, the following points were noted:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part of the mapping process for the new TI&amp;E unit would examine capacity to handle contracts such as education projects funded by Erasmus+. It was noted that some of these opportunities would not come to operational supports but discussions were ongoing. CIEO noted that no guarantees could be made in this regard.</li> <li>• The aim is to make Portal a mechanism for those looking to engage with Trinity to more easily find what they are looking for.</li> <li>• Recent SFI fellowship agreements had clauses on IP that were slightly different to the institutional agreement so there was a need to ensure these were aligned. It was noted that the agreements were issued directly to individual PIs so there was no institutional review in that regard.</li> <li>• Communication across the university needs to be less dependent on individuals sharing information, but best practice had yet to be identified.</li> </ul>
<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>• An update on Knowledge Security would be presented to the committee in February.</li> </ul>
<b>C.3</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee was reminded that places were still available on the Advancing Your Research Career course. It was noted that the licence would come to an end this year so input and feedback in reviewing whether to retain it would be helpful.</li> <li>• The committee was advised that a new Research Culture webpage had been added to the Trinity Research website.</li> <li>• Siobhán O’Shea noted that HR was working through feedback on the researcher recruitment policy and would provide another update at the February meeting. SOS noted that she had recently visited the AHSS faculty executive and was also reaching out to Faculty Deans and Heads of School.</li> </ul>