**Meeting with UCCRSA**

**2 March 2016**

**Present:** Anita Maguire, Barry O’Brien, Mary O’Regan, David O’Connell, Rosarii Griffin, Mark Jessopp

**Apologies:** Liam Marnane, Gordon Dalton

1. **Potential for a UCCRSA slot in staff induction briefings**

It was agreed that in the first instance UCC RSA leaflets would continue to be distributed at UCC HR Induction for Research Staff.

1. **Researcher representation on new SDC**

It was agreed that Mary O’Regan would raise this issue at the first meeting of the AC Staff Development Committee when it convenes.

1. **Establishing researcher inclusion within Schools/Department Management Committees**

This was welcomed and it was agreed that Mark Jessopp would submit an e-mail/paper to this group outlining proposals to deepen inclusion of researchers within School/Department committees. It was suggested that a good way to approach this is through the School/Department Research Committees.

1. **How UCCRSA might help/contribute to next researcher forum**

It was agreed that the best contribution would be to highlight the conference to UCC RSA members and encourage attendance. UCC RSA encouraged to suggest titles/themes for future conferences.

1. **New 2016 Researcher Salary Scales - parity with other HEAs**

A discussion took place surrounding placement on the first point of the IUA researcher salary scale. There is now a little flexibility with regards to Research Assistant positions. It was noted that there is a disparity between the first point in the Senior Post Doc IUA scale and SFI Senior Post Doc Scale. Senior Post Docs in UCC are being paid €43,643 compared to SFI scale of €42,394. A general discussion took place regarding the implications of this with regards to short falls in grant budgets.

1. **AOB**

There was a general discussion about the government’s strategy for research and researchers. It was noted that this is outlined in the government’s policy documents such as [Innovation 2020](https://www.djei.ie/en/Publications/Innovation-2020.html)