**UCC RSA Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Date/Time: Monday 11th May 2015, 1-2 pm**

**Location: North Wing Tower Room 2**

Attendees: Mark Jessopp, Gordon Dalton, Andrey Temko, Andrew Allen, John O’Toole

Apologies: Zeina Sabra, Rosarii Griffin, Ehsan Sooudi, Cathal O’Mahony,

AGENDA

1. **Report from committees**

*Academic Council (Mark)*

* Special sitting of AC on student enrollments etc held 1st May. Not attended
* Members of AC asked for expressions of interest to sit on some sub-committees of Governing Body. Very little of relevance to researchers in available positions besides sub-committee on Innovation, but terms of reference need to be investigated.
* MJ sent e-mail to AC secretariat asking if it is possible to replace GD with RG. This is not possible due to AC council only having 1 more meeting before new AC nominations.

*Governing Body (Rosarii)*

* A verbal report on the UCD court case and pending outcome was given by the Head of HR to UCC Governors. No further comment was made at this time as UCC were awaiting the outcome of the Labour Relations case (subsequently found in favour of UCD).
* Committee suggested submitting position statement on postdoctoral ‘period of training’ previously sent to HR to next GB meeting in response to this. RG to investigate if this is possible.

*SDEC (Gordon/Andrey)*

* SDEC are waiting for HR to reply to UCCRSA on position statement on “period of training” ramifications in UCC Career Framework, before they react.

*Charter and Code (Gordon)*

* Charter and Code action plan was submitted.
* HR incorporated all comments and edits that UCCRSA requested
  + meetings with UCCRSA and HR regarding UCCRSA position statement on career frameworks to be scheduled (GD)
  + HR have agreed to run a series of information sessions for researchers to update them on implementation of the RCF as suggested in the HRS4R. This was seen as an opportunity for research staff to voice their concerns over the RCF and HR to become aware of the scale of concern from research staff.

*Web and media (Andrew)*

* Committee thanked AA for recent updates to UCCRSA website. MJ raised the issue of lack of updates on UCCRSA social media. AA agreed to additionally maintain/update UCCRSA twitter and Facebook accounts and explore ways of linking them so that when one is updated, this is reflected on all social media.
* Committee members to send on any material they think is worth distributing to social media to AA.

*Membership (John)*

* Ehsan handed in UCCRSA flyers to Tyndall HR to be included in the induction pack for researchers.
* MJ made UCCRSA leaflets available at recent Researcher Forum and gave an outline on what UCCRSA does
* JOT agreed to take on role of Membership Secretary. GD to create a document outlining how to administer the UCCRSA distribution list for JOT. UCCRSA need to do another membership drive for both ordinary and paid members..

*Seminars (Andrey)*

* Gordon advertised BOI seminar 3rd June 15.00-16.00
* Some discussion of next seminar. Bristol University HR a possibility to outline best practice in research HR and demonstrate the breadth of research careers available in other countries/institutions. GD/AT to follow up with contacts at Bristol.

1. **Other news:**
   1. Update on UCD/IFUT CID case

UCD won the Labour relations court case regarding refusal for a CID on the grounds that postdoc was in a period of training. Subsequent e-mail exchange with other RSAs indicated a need for a co-ordinated response from IRSA or collective RSAs.

* 1. Update on UCCRSA’s statement on training issue

Mary O’Regan has drafted a response to UCCRSA position statement. This is awaiting approval from Head of HR at a meeting scheduled for 7th May.

* 1. UCCRSA’s new statement on RCF and response letter to Mike Jenning’s article in Irish Times

Position statement on RCF agreed by UCCRSA Committee submitted to HR (Barry O’Brien, cc Mary O’Regan).

Reply to Mike Jennings article sent to the Irish Times, but was not published

* 1. Any other business

Researcher forum day held Thursday 30th April. 120 researchers registered but only 75 actually turned up. Numbers dwindled to around 20 by the end of the day. MJ gave a short presentation introducing UCCRSA in the morning and distributed RSA leaflets. Follow up discussion with Mary O’Regan found that she was generally happy with the day, and short discussion on how to incorporate feedback for future events. Thought that a half day event would be more suitable as some talks were quite long and getting people to give up a whole day to attend is quite ambitious.

e. IRSA

IRSA considering joint action regarding period of training:

* Copy of UCCRSA draft letter to EC sent to other RSAs for feedback. GD sent final letter from IRSA to EC Commissioner for Research & Innovation, as well as the office in charge of the HRS4R.
* Meeting with Eucharia Meehan

Next meeting: TBA - Location: TBA