**UCC RSA Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Date/Time: Friday 3rd July 2015, 1-2 pm**

**Location: O’Rahilly Building Room 137**

Attendees: Mark Jessopp, Gordon Dalton, Andrey Temko, Andrew Allen, Ehsan Sooudi.

Apologies: Cathal O’Mahony, Zeina Sabra, John O’Toole, Rosarii Griffin

AGENDA

1. **Report from committees**

*Academic Council (Mark)*

* No AC meeting has been held since last Committee Meeting. A new Academic Council membership will be formed for the new academic year, and research staff will need to apply for the 2 research staff positions available on the Committee. GD highlighted the importance of raising research issues in this forum

*Athena Swan (Mark)*

* MJ invited onto Committee to help UCC achieve Bronze accreditation under Athena Swan (regarding gender balance in STEMM subjects). Sub-committee met June 2015 with full committee meeting scheduled in July.
* Contact Caitriona Ni Laore in Genovate.

*Governing Body (Rosarii)*

*SDEC (Gordon/Andrey)*

* SDEC approved of investigation in UCC policy regarding researchers as in period of training , and impact on their status. The committee to liaise with Louise over the summer on how best to move this forward.

*Charter and Code (Gordon)*

* UCC self-review of charter and code submitted to EC.

*Web and media   (Andrew)*

* AA linked UCCRSA facebook and Twitter accounts and will be posting as appropriate. AA uploaded BOI presentation to RSA website. Ask all Committee members to forward on anything they think should be posted to the sites
* Andrew do the following regarding monthly meeting minutes and VP summaries:
  + email monthly minutes and VP summaries to the list
  + Upload VP summaries, and monthlymeeting minutes.

*Membership (John)*

* GD highlighted that we are not communicating with the UCCRSA distribution list enough. A good start would be to update people on efforts to address postdoc training issue.
* JOT needs to be briefed on how to update the UCCRSA distribution list.
* JOT to start membership drive email to Researchers list
* Followed by paid membership to internal UCCRSA list

*Seminars (Andrey)*

* BOI seminar held 3rd June 15.00-16.00
* Bristol HR practice seminar is tentatively scheduled to 24th of September 15.00-16.00. Committee agreed that copy of presentation should be forwarded to UCC HR before the event and HR given the opportunity to address how UCC is adopting best practice with respect to researchers. Raised the importance of highlighting differences between the UK and Irish systems with respect to implementing some of the initiatives that Bristol have done.

*VP Research meeting update (Gordon, Ehsan, Rosarii)*

* VP summary outcomes provided in a seperate email.

**3. Any other business:**

* Suggestion of mentorship scheme for post-docs working under PIs (needs further investigation). Personal Development Plans are already required for research staff to highlight their ‘training needs’, but likely to have low compliance. This is being partly addressed in the Athena Swan submission.
* MJ suggested raising the Strategic Research Fund PhD studentships at next VP meeting. The low stipend and lack of funding to pay for consumables etc means that only established senior academics with other sources of match funding can realistically apply for this. More junior researchers are disadvantaged, and such a low stipend is ethically questionable. Suggest giving fewer awards, but funding them more appropriately.

Next meeting: TBA - beginning of September.

Location: TBA

Next organiser: see Google doc

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Nwv1oMI_TUWLSI3yCkxbWZNGbSX_VSgX_g--ktb-OdM/edit?usp=sharing>