**UCC RSA Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 7th July 2016, 4-5pm, North wing tower room 1**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Attendees**: Mark Jessopp, Gordon Dalton, Andrey Temko, Andrew Allen, James Glynn

**Apologies**: Rosarii Griffin, Elizabeth Gilchrist, Cathal O’Mahony, John O’Toole

MJ opened the meeting

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the previous Committee meeting held in May were approved

1. **Report from committees**

*Academic Council (Mark/Andrey)*

● There has been no AC meeting since the last UCCRSA Committee meeting

*Athena Swan (Mark)*

● UCC are still awaiting results from the assessment of the Athena SWAN application. A number of Schools/Departments are considering individual applications

*SDC*

● First meeting of reconstituted SDC was held some time ago and the issue of researcher representation raised. However, there were too few attendees to reach a quorum to decide on co-opting research staff onto the committee. We must wait for the next meeting of the SDC.

*VP Research meeting*

● No meeting held since last committee. Committee members to send on any issues they feel should be raised with VP Research and HR to MJ who will then request a meeting and set an agenda.

*SEFS Research Committee*

* EG on leave. MJ will ask for an update on this committee on return.

1. **UCCRSA Activities:**

*Web and media (Andrew)*

* AA attempting to consolidate Facebook and Twitter accounts. Suggested to remove the existing (ARCS and UCCRSA) Facebook profile pages and set up a new UCCRSA Facebook page linked to Twitter.
* Mobile layout of UCCRSA page ongoing

*Seminars (Elizabeth)*

● EG to extend an invitation to Maire Geoghegan-Quinn (previous EU Commissioner for Research & Innovation) to give a talk on gender issues in research

1. **Any other business:**

* GD suggested holding every second UCCRSA Committee meeting by videoconferencing/skype. Agreed to trial this setup with the August meeting.
* MJ suggested adding an update from IFUT to UCCRSA Committee meeting agenda
* RG suggested asking to present on researcher issues at Governing Body. Committee agreed that this would be a good idea but must consider exactly what we want to present before making a request; researcher issues in general, or targeted issues such as RCF?
* RG added discussion of the new Research Code of Conduct approved by Governing Body to the agenda. Since RG was not at the meeting, this item is postponed until the next meeting.
* EG raised the issue of some researchers on repeat short term contracts not being eligible for the public sector contributory pension scheme. EG to find out more information from the researchers so that we can take this up with the pensions office.
* There was some discussion on ways to proceed with addressing the ‘postdoc trainee’ issue. HR stated that the only people telling them that postdocs are insulted at the designation is ourselves and that in general postdocs are happy with it. Committee members to consider various ways in which we can communicate the general disagreement by postdocs (and wider academic community) with the designation.

Next meeting: Thursday 5th May 2016, 4-5pm

Location: Skype/videoconference

**Actions**

**All:** forward issues for VP meeting to MJ to add to agenda; Consider ways to illustrate disagreement with postdoc trainee status**.**

**Mark**:

* minutes of meeting
* Follow up with Chair of SDC
* Compile researcher issues and set up next VP Research meeting

**Andrew**:

* Tweets: European Open Science Forum; Glass floor/ceiling article in Nature; Statement on Guaranteed funding for UK participants in H2020 projects if signed before Brexit
* Investigate Google analytics to track traffic on UCCRSA website.
* Contact Brendan Palmer to see if he has login details for Facebook account.

**Elizabeth**:

* Follow up on Maire Geoghegan-Quinn seminar
* Follow up on details of pension contributions from repeat contract researchers

**Gordon**:

* Provide Tweets to AA