**UCC RSA Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Date/Time: Tuesday 6th October 2015, 1-2 pm**

**Location: North Wing Conference room**

Attendees: Mark Jessopp, Gordon Dalton, Andrey Temko, Rosarii Griffin

Apologies: Zeina Sabra, Ehsan Sooudi, John O’Toole, Andrew Allen, Cathal O’Mahony,

AGENDA

1. **Report from committees**

*Academic Council (Mark)*

* Expressions of interest to new term of Academic Council (due Weds 7th!). Important to maintain researcher positions on this Committee, particularly as this will involve appointment of new President of UCC. UCCRSA to nominate 2 Researchers (MJ & AT)

*Athena Swan (Mark)*

* Athena Swan submission approved by UMTO and submitted. Some specific action points regarding researchers/postdocs in terms of career progression/promotions, and monitoring gender balance. MJ to forward on submission to committee.

*Governing Body (Rosarii)*

* Caroline Fennell gave a presentation on Athena Swan application to governing body highlighting gender disparities within UCC roles.
* Suggested UCCRSA meet with Caroline Fennell as Registrar and Senior Vice-President Academic to discuss researcher ‘post doc trainiee’ issues and make her aware of these. MJ to follow up.

*SDEC (Gordon/Andrey)*

* Amended minutes of SDC reflecting differing viewpoints on how to proceed with issue of postdoctoral trainees will be taken to next SDC meeting. Effectively delays tabling anything for 2 committee meetings.

*Web and media (Andrew)*

* *Decided that future UCCRSA e-mails will go to All Exchange users instead of just Researchers and UCCRSA lists to enable other interested people to attend events etc.*

*Membership (John)*

* Membership e-mail sent out. Very little response so far. GD mentioned that more successful campaign involved a mail out. MJ to ask Mary O’Regan for printed address labels for researchers. UCCRSA Committee to meet Tues 10th December 5-5.30 pm to pack and address envelopes for mailing.

*Seminars (Andrey)*

* Bristol HR seminar given on 22nd September. Despite many e-mails advertising the event, very poor attendance (<10 including HR, research office staff and UCCRSA Committee members). However, presentation well received and highlighted a number of initiatives that could be progressed within UCC context, including alternative ways in which research staff representatives can be included in decisions at School/Department level. Bristol do not class postdoctoral positions as training and development roles. Besides this large difference in recognition of research staff, overall, UCC compares quite favourably with Bristol in terms of the range of training and development opportunities available to research staff. Presentation is available via UCCRSA website.

*VP Research meeting update*

* Meeting held 16th Sept. MJ and ES attended.

-Industry seminars. VP/HR offices will no longer continue these as too poorly attended.

-Strategic Research Fund PhDs. Unconscious/inherent bias where lack of funding for consumables and full student stipend disadvantages less established researchers. VP will take suggestion for providing a small consumables budget to the next management meeting.

-UCCRSA to review changes to the RCF including replacing ‘postdoctoral trainees’ with ‘postdoctoral researchers’ and inclusion of ‘professional training and development’. These changes in no way address the position of UCCRSA that postdocs are not considered to be in a period of research training, which is still maintained in the RCF.

1. **Continuing initiatives:**

Update on UCCRSA’s statement on training issue

* Response from EC confirms postdocs NOT in a period of research training. UCCRSA letter outlining this sent to HR, VP Research, President Murphy. No response from any.

**3. Any other business:**

* AGM. Proposed Thursday 10th December 5.30pm. GD to book room and tea/coffee. MJ to e-mail members and organise reports from committee members. Committee members to confirm if they would like to be nominated for current of different committee positions.
* GD invited presentation at CACSSS on researcher career opportunities in UCC
* GD meeting Minister Damien English to discuss research careers and funding on 15th Oct.

Action points:

* All - Envelope packing for membership drive 10th Nov 5.30pm.
* Mark -
  + Contact Caroline Fennelly to arrange meeting with UCCRSA
  + Forward Athena SWAN application to committee
  + Co-ordinate Committee reports for AGM
  + Arrange with HR for printed address labels for mailout
* Gordon -
  + Book room for AGM and tea/coffee
* John -
  + Ensure membership list is up to date
  + Arrange draw for €500 research award at AGM
* Andrey -
* Rosarii -
  + Arrange meeting with Angela Flynn, IFUT to discuss recruitment of research staff.
* Andrew -
  + upload sanitised meeting minutes to website and UCCRSA email list.

Next meeting: TBA - Tues 3rd November.

Location: TBA

Next organiser: google doc needs updating, but will be dependent on committee membership.