**UCC RSA Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 13th October 2016, 4-5pm, via teleconference**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Attendees**: Mark Jessopp, Gordon Dalton, Cathal O’Mahony, Andrey Temko, Andrew Allen

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

MJ opened the meeting

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the September Committee meeting were approved

1. **Report from committees**

*Academic Council (Mark/Andrey)*

● MJ attended Academic Council 7th October. Of note was plans to change the composition of AC to meet Athena SWAN gender balance targets and increase representation from the wider Academic community including research staff as current council dominated by senior academics at professorial level. Proposed recruitment policy for appointment of senior research fellow posts deemed excessively administrative and sent back to Governing Body for consideration. VP Research outlined a summary of the recent Research Quality Review. Noted was a tendency for UCC research to be of better quality than reflected in the choice of journals, a need for developing research leaders, and improve the visibility of research outputs. GD suggested tabling research situation with 3 recommendations to Academic Council. Committee to discuss what actions they want AC to approve or note.

*Athena Swan (Mark)*

● UCCRSA sent out an open call among research staff for participation in the Steering Group. Far more expressions of interest were received than available places in the group so a selection process is underway.

*Staff Development Committee*

● Meeting held early October. Informal feedback suggests that expressions of interest to participate on the committee will be sent to researchers.

*VP Research meeting*

Potential topics to raise include:

* fund for open access/publishing fees to address the shortfall between quality of UCC publications and the journals published in,
* A suggestion from Science Europe for research staff to have an external mentor.

MJ to ask Mary O’Regan to schedule a meeting.

*SEFS Research Committee*

* EG attended meeting. To send feedback to Committee.

*Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT) – (Rosarii)*

*Governing Body (Rosarii)*

*HRS4R working groups (Mark/Gordon)*

* GD and MJ attended separate working group meetings.
* Response received from Barry O’Brien in HR to the UCCRSA letter. Stated that issues raised remain on the agenda for discussion between UCCRSA and UCC management.
* GD presented a letter outlining UCCRSA objection to continued omission of Actions dealing with designation of Postdoc positions as training and development roles. The group were asked to provide feedback on UCC submission to external review board. MJ/GD to draft edits on the ‘Text narrative’ section of the Action Plan to include on trainee roles.
* Feedback was provided on Researcher staff survey which is due to be sent to research staff shortly. MJ to draft e-mail to UCCRSA to strongly encourage researchers to complete the survey and outline their objection to postdoc trainee roles in comments sections.

1. **UCCRSA Activities:**

*Web and media (Andrew)*

* Twitter analytics provide useful information on the extended reach of tweets/links etc. AA to provide a summary of impact/reach

*Seminars (Elizabeth)*

● GD to follow up on seminar from jobs.ac.uk, possibly to be held in December to coincide with UCCRSA AGM.

1. **ICoRSA update**

* Bratislava Declaration of Young Researchers has reached 450 sigantories, mostly from Ireland. UCCRSA to retweet.
  + <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/bratislava-declaration-of-young-researchers>
* ICoRSA Eurodoc posotion on Brexit now signed with UKRSA. Euroscience now to start first draft of joint statement.

1. **Any other business:**

* AT asked when Haddington Rd agreement ends, and clarification on policy of paying for additional lecturing duties outside normal working hours. AT to provide summary of post Haddington road impacts for researchers.

Next meeting: Thursday 10rd November 2016, 4-5pm (Skype)

**ACTIONS**

MJ –

* Follow up with HR regarding VP meeting;
* Compile information on Researcher Career Framework for IFUT.
* Email to AC secretary?

RG – Update on IFUT and Governing Body issues; liaise with IFUT regarding information on career framework and postdoctoral trainees

AA – mobile phone optimisation of website; summary of Twitter analytics

* Retweet Bratislava declaration

GD –Tweets to AA; monthly summary, Liaise with jobs.ac.uk regarding seminar

EG – update on SEFS Research Committee; liaise with MJ on pensions issue

AT - summary of post Haddington road impacts for researchers