**UCC RSA Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 22nd September 2016, 4-5pm, via teleconference**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

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

**Apologies**: John O’Toole

MJ opened the meeting

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the August Committee meeting were approved

1. **Report from committees**

*Academic Council (Mark/Andrey)*

● There has been no meeting since the last UCCRSA Committee meeting to report on. Next meeting scheduled for 7th October

*Athena Swan (Mark)*

● Waiting for first meeting of Steering Committee regarding progressing on action plan. UCC will likely be recruiting a person to help with progressing the Athena SWAN initiatives.

*Staff Development Committee*

● A meeting of the SDC should be held near the beginning of the 2016/17 Academic year.

*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*

* No Committee meeting held since early 2016. There was some talk of SEFS research Committee spearheading an initiative to encourage researcher participation in School/Department Committees. EG to update when a Committee meeting is scheduled.

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

* RG is on the IFUT Committee representing researchers. MJ to compile information on UCCRSA concerns over Researcher Career Framework and pass to RG to discuss with IFUT to explore how these issues might be progressed.

*Governing Body (Rosarii)*

* At the June and Sept. Governing Body meeting, members were asked to identify areas of strategic importance to UCC for the future. In June, RG raised the issue of the researchers in relation to their strategic importance, especially their income-generating capacity, and the necessity for UCC to formulate a proper career structure/framework to support such researchers. UCCRSA to provide data on the retention or otherwise of researcher staff, the loss of research income to other HEI’s, and UCC’s drop in international rankings, etc.

1. **UCCRSA Activities:**

*Web and media (Andrew)*

* Updating of website for smartphone display ongoing. UCCRSA Twitter account has 49 followers. AA to explore Twitter Analytics to look at reach and impact of twitter activity.

*Seminars (Elizabeth)*

● Jobs.ac.uk keen to give presentation on Jobs.ac.uk website and facilities in career opportunities for reserachers in UK and Europe.

1. **Any other business:**

* Letter regarding HRS4R Action Plan and external assessment sent to HR and VP Research.
* Membership holding steady. Committee to consider plans for next ‘recruitment drive’.
* Brexit statement approved by Eurodoc, UCCRSA, IRSA and UKRSA. ICoRSA to bring to Euroscience and GD to update on progress
* Bratislava declaration sent to uccrsa and researchers lists.

Next meeting: Thursday 13th October 2016, 4-5pm (Skype)