**UCC RSA Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 4th August 2016, 4-5pm, via teleconference**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Attendees**: Mark Jessopp, Gordon Dalton, James Glynn, Cathal O’Mahony

**Apologies**: Rosarii Griffin, Elizabeth Gilchrist, John O’Toole, Andrey Temko, Andrew Allen

MJ opened the meeting

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the July Committee meeting were approved

1. **Report from committees**

*Academic Council (Mark/Andrey)*

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

*Athena Swan (Mark)*

● UCC were successful in their application for a Bronze award. This opens the way for Schools/Departments/Colleges to undertake individual applications. There are a number of actions relating to researchers, including gender monitoring of progression and promotion, monitoring the number and gender balance of Research Support Officer roles, and monitoring uptake of training and career development opportunities. The Athena SWAN implementation group will meet shortly to discuss plans for implementation of the action plan.

*SDC*

● MJ e-mailed the Chair of the SDC asking for an update on when the committee will next meet and raise the issue of researcher representation on the Committee. The delays in forming this committee have lasted more than a year, during which time important matters of staff development have not been progressed.

*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. To update on this committee on return.

*IFUT*

* RG to provide an update on IFUT initiatives and how UCCRSA can link with IFUT to progress researcher issues

1. **UCCRSA Activities:**

*Web and media (Andrew)*

* Consolidation of Facebook and Twitter accounts plus mobile layout of UCCRSA page ongoing

*Seminars (Elizabeth)*

● Suggested speakers include representatives from:

Vitae on researcher issues

Jobs.ac.uk on the web platform, extension into Ireland/Europe, opportunities for researchers etc.

European Research Saver Scheme on mobility for researcher pensions

Patricia Riley on gender issues (?)

(mobility and how Brexit will affect Irish research)

1. **Any other business:**

* Membership holding steady. Committee to consider plans for next ‘recruitment drive’. MJ thought it best to send an e-mail along with a summary of initiatives or outcomes for researchers that the Committee have undertaken to demonstrate the work of the Committee.
* GD suggested a monthly update for e-mail circulation. This month to include link to minutes, issuing of Brexit statement, list of proposed seminars, link to UCCRSA presentation from Researcher conference.
* Governing Body approved a new Research Code of Conduct for UCC. This is an update of the existing policy and appears to follow best practice. If researchers see anything that should be raised regarding this, then they can contact the UCCRSA to raise it with VP Research.
* GD forwarded 3 key statements regarding recommendations following Brexit. Statement will be released jointly by UCCRSA, ICORSA, Vitae. MJ sent edits to GD for approval.

Next meeting: Thursday 1st September 2016, 4-5pm

Location: TBA