

## Quality Enhancement Plan

### Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

FOR COMPLETION BY QEU	
Date of Peer Review visit: April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2024, within the review period of April 16 <sup>th</sup> – May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024	Head of Unit: Professor John Cryan
Link to Panel Report published on QEU website: <a href="#">OVPRI-PeerReviewPanelReport2023-24.pdf</a>	Date QEP considered by Quality Enhancement Committee:  May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025

Item No	Panel Recommendation	Actions Planned <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility for Action <sup>2</sup>	Resource Implications <sup>3</sup>	Implementation Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Effectiveness /Impact <sup>5</sup>  To be completed as part of follow-up
1	The Panel recommends further refinement of aspects of the strategic ambition by (i) adopting a phased approach to the implementation of	Agreed.  1. As each of the UCC Futures thematic areas are at individual levels of maturity,	1. Vice President for Research & Innovation/ Director of	Additional resource (dedicated Change	Actions are interlinked and will be initiated within 12	

<sup>1</sup> May include actions planned within the unit or those that require interface with other parts of the university

<sup>2</sup> E.g. Head of School, School Manager, all staff, specific committees etc

<sup>3</sup> Resources – the financial or human resources required to implement the recommendation

<sup>4</sup> Interim milestone dates can be included here (e.g. within 6 months, within 12 months, within 3 years etc.)

<sup>5</sup> To be completed as part of follow-up 12-15 months post publication of QEP - Recognising the need to reflect on the effectiveness of actions undertaken, and to what extent the actions have achieved their intended outcome

Item No	Panel Recommendation	Actions Planned <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility for Action <sup>2</sup>	Resource Implications <sup>3</sup>	Implementation Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Effectiveness /Impact <sup>5</sup>  To be completed as part of follow-up
	<b>‘UCC Futures’ and (ii) leading on further exploitation of the Tyndall National Institute as a research and innovation driver across UCC.</b>	<p>their establishment and development will follow an individualised approach that best supports their potential for success. A detailed action plan will be developed for each thematic area.</p> <p>2. Initiatives that support the implementation of the UCC Futures Framework (e.g. governance, resource allocation, including finance) will be progressed to best support the transition of current structures to those that provide for embedding and sustainable growth evolution of UCC Futures thematic areas.</p> <p>3. The development of best practice TNI case studies will allow for expanded learnings for the broader UCC research and innovation community.</p>	<p>Research Strategy &amp; Projects, in conjunction with UCC Futures Directors</p> <p>2. Vice President for Research &amp; Innovation/ Director of Research Strategy &amp; Projects in conjunction with Heads of College, UCC Futures Directors, Chief Finance &amp; Operations Officer and President</p> <p>3. Director of Research Strategy &amp; Projects, in conjunction with Tyndall</p>	Management Team) would expedite the delivery of this action	months from the approval and publication of the Quality Enhancement Plan	

Item No	Panel Recommendation	Actions Planned <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility for Action <sup>2</sup>	Resource Implications <sup>3</sup>	Implementation Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Effectiveness /Impact <sup>5</sup>  To be completed as part of follow-up
			National Institute Chief Scientist and Vice Deans for Research and Innovation			
2	The Panel recommends (i) reviewing the resilience of key interfaces (between colleges and OVPRI support) in terms of staffing and (ii) the continuity of process flows to maximise effectiveness and reduce risks and inconsistencies across the research and innovation ecosystem.	<b>Agreed.</b> The mapping of research supports, including staffing and processes, will be used to identify areas of strength and targets for improvement. The interrogation of process flows, as part of the Research Information System Awards Management implementation will allow for streamlining, standardisation and continuous improvement of supports for the research and innovation ecosystem	Vice President for Research & Innovation/ Director of Research Support & Policy	Additional resource (Project Manager) would expedite the delivery of this action (Linked with Action 3)	Within 12 months of the approval and publication of the Quality Enhancement Plan	
3	The Panel recommends clarification of divisional services, customers and processes for all aspects of OVPRI, as well as the interfaces with other professional services – in particular Office of Corporate and Legal Affairs (OCLA), Finance Office (FO) and Human Resources (HR) – paying particular attention to the shared	<b>Agreed.</b> The interrogation of process flows, as part of the Research Information System Awards Management implementation, will include the identification of responsibilities and workflows at each stage, including those that integrate other functional areas and Professional Services, allowing for clarity,	Vice President for Research & Innovation/ Director of Research Support & Policy	Additional resource (Project Manager) would expedite the delivery of this	Within 12 months of the approval and publication of the Quality Enhancement Plan	

Item No	Panel Recommendation	Actions Planned <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility for Action <sup>2</sup>	Resource Implications <sup>3</sup>	Implementation Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Effectiveness /Impact <sup>5</sup>  To be completed as part of follow-up
	<b>responsibilities for Doctoral Education and Support, Post-Award, Data Management, Clinical Research and Research Systems.</b>	efficiency and continuous improvement across the OVPRI		action (Linked with Action 2)		
4	<b>The Panel recommends making a comprehensive phased implementation plan for the deployment of a Research Information System as a critical system investment for UCC.</b>	<b>Agreed.</b> A comprehensive implementation plan for the Research Information System has been defined ( <a href="https://uccireland.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchSupport/SitePages/Research-Digital-Transformation-at-UCC.aspx">https://uccireland.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchSupport/SitePages/Research-Digital-Transformation-at-UCC.aspx</a> ). This supports efficient, effective and timely implementation in line with defined project implementation deadlines	Vice President for Research & Innovation/ Director of Research Strategy & Projects	Additional project-specific resource to be hired, Q2 2025	Phase 1 - Research Profiles within 9 months of the approval and publication of the Quality Enhancement Plan	
5	<b>The Panel recommends persevering in requesting the allocation of dedicated funding streams to ensure continuity and security of financial support to strategic research and innovation activities.</b>	<b>Agreed.</b> The VPRI and OVPRI Directors will continue to advocate for:  - Specific budget lines to underpin the implementation and sustainability of the UCC Futures Framework  - Reformed indirect costs distribution model that supports our strategic ambitions  - Reinstatement of the Strategic Research Fund specifically to allow for proactive and responsive strategic activities	Vice President for Research & Innovation/ Director of Research Strategy & Projects	Potential workload implications for Finance Office and Colleges (Financial Managers)	This is an ongoing action that will continue throughout 2025 and beyond	

Item No	Panel Recommendation	Actions Planned <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility for Action <sup>2</sup>	Resource Implications <sup>3</sup>	Implementation Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Effectiveness /Impact <sup>5</sup>  To be completed as part of follow-up
		- Continuation of a dedicated operational budget to support core research support structures, including the Research Information System, Research Library activities, Research Culture, to include research ethics support				
6	<b>The Panel recommends addressing the issue of its space in a phased manner, securing, as a matter of urgency, the acquisition of appropriate office space to meet the Research Team's needs.</b>	<b>Agreed.</b> Refurbishment designs to address some of the more pressing concerns of the current Research Office space are in place. These will be implemented once financial restrictions are lifted.  Relocation of the OVPRI to a more fit for purpose location will also progress once agreements are in place.	Vice President for Research & Innovation/ Director of Research Strategy & Projects/ Director of Research Supports & Policy	Identification of budget required to progress	Currently paused - For re-initiation of discussions within 12 months following University Space/Research Space Review	
7	<b>The Panel recommends leading the development of comprehensive support services for PhD students through the empowerment of the Dean of Doctoral Studies' role, with appropriate support and other initiatives to enhance the quality of their experiences, including health and welfare.</b>	The VPRI is co-Sponsor of a thematic review of Doctoral Student's experiences. The Panel Site Visit occurred in March 2025, with Panel Report approval scheduled for May 2025.  The outcome of this thematic review will inform an enhancement plan for the current activities of the OVPRI in support of PhD students.	Vice President for Research & Innovation/ Director of Research Strategy & Projects/ Director of Research Supports & Policy/ Director of Innovation/ Deputy President &	Support for the Dean of Doctoral Studies required to progress	Within 6 months of the approval of the thematic review of Doctoral Students recommendations/action plan	

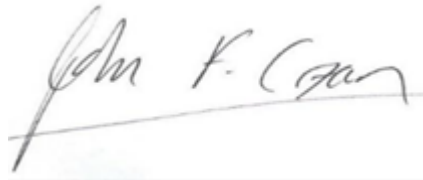
Item No	Panel Recommendation	Actions Planned <sup>1</sup>	Responsibility for Action <sup>2</sup>	Resource Implications <sup>3</sup>	Implementation Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Effectiveness /Impact <sup>5</sup>  To be completed as part of follow-up
			Registrar/ Dean of Doctoral Studies			

**For completion by Unit**

**Head of Function:**

Professor John Cryan, Vice President for Research & Innovation

**Signature:**



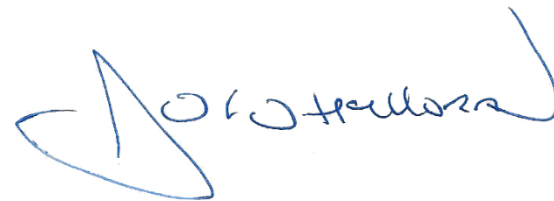
**Date:**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

**Head of Functional Area:**

Professor John O'Halloran, President

**Signature:**



**Date:**

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025