

WS 4 Research & Innovation

TUSEI Town Hall Consultation

Friday 5th February 2021

11:45am to 12:45pm

Platform Zoom

Today

- Work stream Structure & Membership
- Objective & expected outcomes/outputs
- Progress to date
- Current issues & thoughts (our direction of travel)
- Collaborative initiatives
- Immediate Next steps

WORKSTREAM 4 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION:

Workstream Leads: Dr Mark White, VP Research WIT
Dr David Dowling Head of Faculty of Science ITC

WG1 Convergence & Consolidation

Niall O'Reilly,
Manager PMBRC,
WIT

Eileen Doyle-Walsh,
Head of
Department of
Humanities, ITC

WG2 Research & Innovation Strategy

James O'Sullivan,
Technology Transfer
Manager, WIT

Greg Doyle,
Lecturer in
Computer Science
& Chair of R&D
committee ITC

WG3 Graduate Studies

Dennis Harrington,
Head of Graduate
Business, WIT

Brian Jackson, Head
of Post-graduate
Studies, ITC

WG 4 Research Engagement & Impact

Brian Ogilvie, Head
of Research and
Commercialisation
Support, ITC

Kathryn Kiely,
Industry Services
Manager, WIT

Project Co-ordinator: Rita Dalton

Objective & Progress to date: WG 1 & 2

| Work Group | High Level Objective & Output | Progress to Date |
|---|---|---|
| WG 1. CONVERGENCE & CONSOLIDATION OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES, CENTRES & GROUPS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify TUSEI Research Strengths & Capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data has been gathered in relation to the research themes of each institute, centre and group to facilitate the sharing of knowledge Collaborative research partnerships are currently being examined |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Roadmap that will Consolidate or Connect Research Institutes, Centres, Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently mapping established collaborations and generating a timetable of events to encourage future collaborations In the process of gathering a list of recommendations for consideration keeping in mind what ITC/WIT currently offer and where gaps are evident; A number of Guest speakers from the UK with experience of merging higher education institutes have been invited to share their experiences |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidated Research Support Policies/Procedures Structures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping the policies and procedures of ITC and WIT, finding similarities, differences and gaps and generating a TUSEI research policy framework is currently in early stages |
| WG 2. RESEARCH INNOVATION & STRATEGY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline strategic direction of how TUSEI will grow & strengthen R & I capacity over next 10 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established subgroups to examine the current state of play in both institutes and the current strategic plan to grow capacity; Both institutes current strategy is being scrutinised & reported using the five pillars of Thematic Areas of Research; Postgraduate Student Numbers; Research Funding; Industry Engagement & Collaboration and Research Support Structures; A number of meeting have been held with other work streams to tease out the multiple interdependencies |

Objective & Progress to date: WG 3 & 4

| Work Group | High Level Objective & Output | Progress to Date |
|--|---|---|
| <p>WG 3.</p> <p>TUSEI GRADUATE SCHOOL/SERVICE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an Agreed Structure & Operating Model for TUSEI Graduate School/Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of the current graduate studies operations with a view to proposing an overarching organisational and operating model for a Graduate School for the new TU is underway; An exercise benchmarking current models, resources and capacity for both taught and research postgraduate studies against international practices in the management of graduate studies (utilising a select number of case studies) is advancing; A number of focus group sessions with postgraduate students and alumni from both Its have commenced in order to understand student requirements and expectations from a Graduate Perspective; A number of Sub-groups working on specific work packages have finalised documents which are being reviewed/ synthesised by the co-chairs into a synoptic report (with appendices) which will offer recommendations as to the form, function and governance structure for a Graduate School/service. |
| <p>WG4.</p> <p>RESEARCH & INNOVATION IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine current R&I position in regard to research engagement & consider the impact of our research on industry, the region & society Identify R&I Impact Processes, including impact measurements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of the methods of connectivity, partnerships and process of engagement across both institutes is currently underway and a document being developed Assessment and mapping of current levels of reach, engagement approaches and structures for industry, region and society has begun; An analysis of international best practice in relation to knowledge exchange and industry engagement to inform strategic direction is currently underway; |

Current Issues & Thoughts (Direction of Travel)

WG1

- Translation of divergent & diverse perspectives into a consensual view
- Tendency to just look at the big research groups & centers

Coherent plan of our combined research expertise & where every research entity will fit

WG2

- Diverse data and understandings
- Assessing the interdependencies & engaging with other Work Streams

A strategic report that will identify areas of growth & potential for inter-disciplinary research & TU metrics

Current Issues & Thoughts (Direction of Travel)

WG3

- Convergence and divergence in terms of current practice and regulation within each institution
- Mapping the interdependencies with other Workgroups & Work streams

A comprehensive position paper outlining the design & operation model of the TUSEI Graduate School/Service

WG4

- Overlap & Interdependency with other Work streams
- Differentiating Research Engagement & Impact from Institute Engagement & Impact

A white paper that will inform the strategic Research priorities of the TUSEI in regard to Industry, Policy, Society

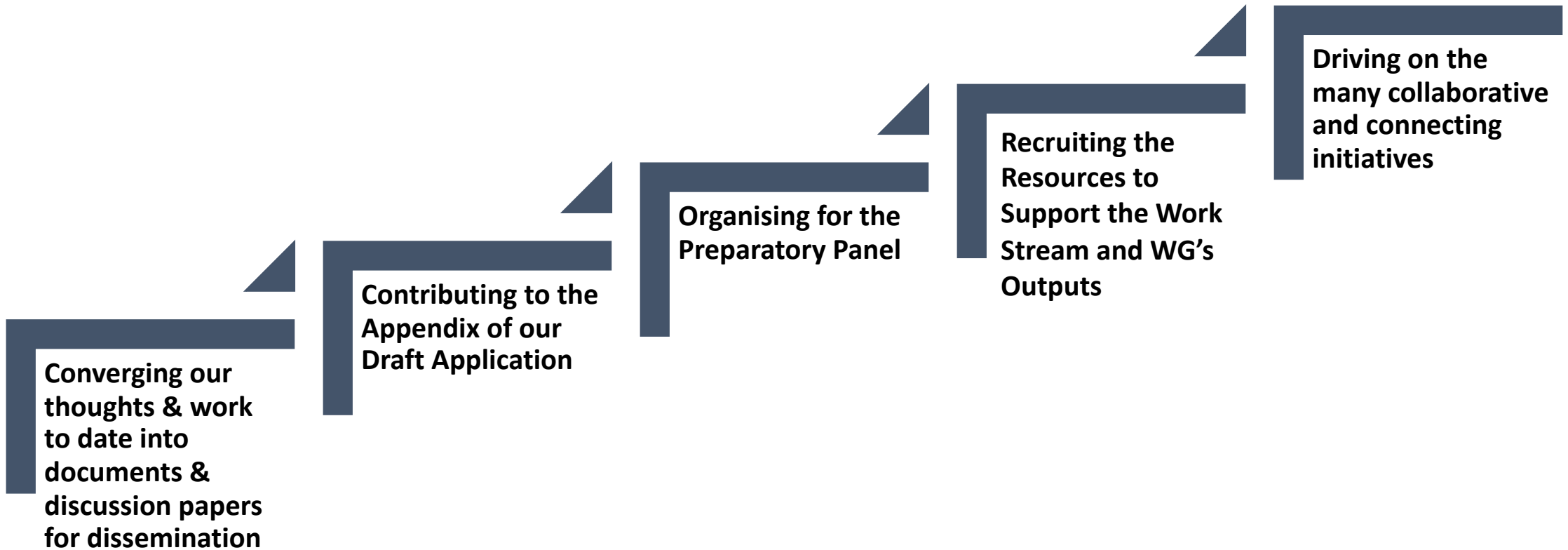
Collaborative Initiatives

- A joint Masterclass for WIT/ITC supervisors was held on the 25th September with Dr Hugh Kearns, from Flinders University with 40 participants;
- A joint open research event was organised between WIT/ITC on 13th November called Open Science, Academic Freedom & Paywalls with Alexandra Elbakyan (founder of Sci-hub) and was well attended;
- A joint PhD Scholarship scheme was launched on the 17th November with Joint supervision between ITC/WIT as its main focus (Successful applicants to be notified mid-Feb);
- The PG Research Day in WIT in Jan 2021 was a collaborative venture with a number of ITC poster presentations
- WIT/ITC researchers are going to join forces and merge their previously separate Enterprise Ireland CR and DTIF submissions testing ‘Drone technology’ into ‘joint proposals’;
- ITC researchers in aerospace engineering have begun collaborating with the SEE-Space Network, a recently formed WIT/CIT entity <http://spacenetwork.ie/>.
- In the Human Capital Initiative Call Pillar 3, WIT AMASE: Additive Manufacturing Advancing the South East, IT Carlow and regional Industry Partners received funding of € 2,152,349
- The Joint Enterprise Ireland New Frontiers Programme between WIT/ITC has been provisionally funded for another term.
- Research Spark

Upcoming Collaborative Initiatives

- All Research-related CPD events in WIT will be 'Open' Invitation in 2021
- 2nd Round of the Joint Scholarship scheme is to be launched in April/May
- Fortnightly 'Lunch & Learn' sessions to present Current research interests across WIT/ITC are currently being organised and timetabled throughout 2021

Immediate Next Steps



Q & A