

## **Minutes of the Board meeting of the Health Research Board held on Thursday, 10 November 2022 at the Davenport Hotel, Dublin 2.**

**Present:** Prof B Hannigan (Chairperson)  
Prof S Donnelly  
Prof M Harding  
Prof T Fahey  
Dr J Ling  
Dr T McWade  
Dr C Saidlear

**Apologies:** Dr T Cunningham  
Prof C Normand

**In attendance:** Dr M O'Driscoll, Chief Executive Officer  
Ms C Cronin, Board Secretary and Head of Governance  
Dr T Maguire, Director of Research Strategy and Funding, attended for items 6 and 7  
Mr D Murphy, Finance Manager, attended for items 7 and 8  
Mr M Morgan, Director of Corporate Operations attended for item 8

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### **1. Conflict of Interest**

Prof Harding's conflict of interest in relation to the decision on the Applied Partnership Awards had been noted on the agenda. Prof Harding left the meeting when the matter of the approval of the panel's recommendation on the Applied Partnership Awards was discussed.

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 23 September 2022 were approved subject to the correction to record that Dr C Saidlear was present in person.

### **3. Action points from previous meetings**

The Chairperson reported that all of the action points arising from previous meetings had been completed

## **4. CEO's Report**

### **HRB Budget 2023**

The CEO informed the Board of the likely level of funding to be provided by the Department of Health to the HRB for 2023 and that separate funding would be sought to cover the costs of pay increases under the 'Building Momentum' agreement.

### **Disposal of Baggot Street Offices**

The CEO informed the Board that Ministerial approval had been granted to dispose of the HRB's former Baggot Street offices on the open market.

### **Other matters**

The CEO also reported on:

- HERA Delegation
- Ireland's membership of 1MG confirmed
- First national PPI festival in Ireland
- Updates from around the organisation
  - National Office for Research Ethics Committees
  - Extending the NDTRS to collect data on drug related intimidation
  - HRB Conference
  - Addictions Conference
  - HRB Media Coverage
  - Staff retirements
- Awards made under delegated authority

## **5. Programme of Work for the Board and Listed Conflicts of Interest**

The Board noted the programme of work for the remainder of 2022 and the listed conflicts of interest.

## **6. Approval of Panel Recommendations on Awards**

### **Applied Partnership Awards (APA) 2022**

The Board approved the International Panel's recommendation to fund seven Applied Partnership Awards and noted the 20% co-funding contribution by Knowledge User partner organisations.

## **7. Request to approve once-off supplements to those in receipt of PhD Stipend in 2022 and an increase to the stipend base from 2023**

In recognition of the cost of living crisis, increasing rents and inflation the Board approved

- a once-off payment €1,000 in 2022 to those in receipt of a HRB funded PhD.

- a baseline annual stipend of €19,000 for existing and new HRB funded PhD students with effect from 1 January 2023 to provide parity between HRB funded students and those funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Research Council (IRC).

The Board discussed the importance of the HRB's involvement in the review, recently announced by the Minister for Department of Further and Higher Education, Research and Science (DFHERIS), of current PhD training provision, including stipends, and to be completed in time to inform Estimates 2024.

## **8. Contracts valued at in excess of €75,000**

The Board approved the award of contracts to Ebsco International Inc and Wolters Kluwer to provide print and electronic journal subscription, and bibliographic databases for use by the HRB's Evidence Centre. It was noted that the duration of each of the contracts would be for an initial -month period with three options of 12-month extensions, bringing the maximum contract periods to 48 months

## **9. Other governance matters**

### **Report from the HRB Audit & Risk Committee**

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Secretary reported on proceedings at the meeting of the HRB Audit & Risk Committee held on 14 October 2022.

### **HRB Risk Management Policy and Procedure**

The Board approved the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee to adopt the revised HRB Risk Management Policy and Procedure subject to the correction of Appendix 4 in relation to the dates on which the top 10 risks from the HRB risk register would be presented to the Board.

### **HRB Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference**

The Board approved the revised terms of reference recommended by the Audit & Risk Committee.

### **Internal Audit Activity Charter**

The Board approved the revised Internal Audit Activity Charter recommended by the Audit & Risk Committee.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

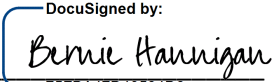
The date of the next meeting was set for Friday 9 December 2022.

## **11. Executive session of the Board**

No decisions were taken during the executive session of the Board.

HRB Board meeting minutes 10 November 2022



Signed:   
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Prof Bernie Hannigan (Chairperson)