Grasp the nettle

CRITICAL CHOICES FOR RESEARCH SUPPORT STRUCTURES
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There is no perfect research support structure

EVERY STRUCTURE HAS TRADE-OFFS
Making deliberate choices about structure lets you pick the right trade-offs

ACTIVELY MAKE CHOICES THAT SUIT YOUR MISSION OR STRATEGY
Research Funding

UCD

2004: €49m
- 221st in THE world rankings

2005: €62m
- Highest volume of research publications in Ireland

2006: €83m
- Funding exceeds €100m
- Established Four Major Research Themes

2007: €95m
- 89th in THE world rankings

2008: €116m
- Diversified funding in an economic downturn 40% investment from industry and other sources

2009: €117m
- €103m

2010: €49m

2011: €113m
- €300m investment in Scientific Infrastructure
- UCD O’Brien Centre for Science

2012: €76m
- Doubled PhD graduates to nearly 400 each year

2013: Now +68%

Now +68%

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2015 Central Research Office Restructure
2017 Review of total research support
2018 University wide change programme
RMAs: approximately 30 Central 100 Local
• Benchmarking of scale of support
• Interviews with 15 Institutions
Overview

- Choose to focus or choose not to
- Designed support systems versus ad hoc
- Central office versus local supports
- Cradle to grave support versus pre-award post-award
- Topic specialists versus funder or mechanism specialists
- Fixed term roles or permanent
Designed or ad hoc?
Central or local support?
Central or local support?
Cradle to grave vs pre and post

The secret of life, Dr Yolanda Alvarez, UCD

Dead men do tell tales, Rene Gapert, UCD
Funding experts or topic experts?
Fixed short term vs permanent
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What next for UCD?

- Make the case to strengthen local supports
- Design the ‘to-be’ structure options