Social Sciences Research Centre AGM
14 December 2021
(Held via Zoom)

In attendance: Prof Anne Byrne, Dr Mike Hynes, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Dr Gerard Moran, Dr Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh, and Dr Tony Varley.

Apologies: Dr Emmet Fox, Prof Mark Haugaard, Prof Kevin Leyden, Dr John MacDonagh, Prof John Morrissey, Dr Brian McGrath, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh.

Secretaries' Report: Dr Varley (Joint Secretary, SSRC) began by mentioning the huge loss to the SSRC occasioned by the passing of Prof. Ricca Edmondson who was for many years the Chairperson/Director of the SSRC. The members present at the meeting recalled Prof. Edmondson's enthusiasm for interdisciplinary social science research, her work in expanding the SSRC's work into new areas, her encouragement of the research of SSRC members (both individuals and groups), and the leadership she provided through her own creativity and energy as an exceptionally dedicated and productive academic. Members also remembered and paid tribute to the work of Prof. Terence McDonough who had been a very active and valuable SSRC board member for many years.

At present the SSRC has 78 members and is home to four distinguishable strands of research activity: Equality and Diversity; Smart and Liveable Cities and Towns; Market Traders in Contemporary

Ireland; and Changing Rural Communities. A very brief summary of the activity in each of these research strands in 2020 was provided (see the 2021 Annual Report for further details).

As was the case for much of 2020 the five desks available in the SSRC's rooms in St. Declan's, Distillery Road, were inaccessible for long periods in 2021 as a result of restrictions relating to the public health emergency. Among the scholars to use the SSRC's facilities in St. Declan's when they were accessible were Dr Tony Varley, Dr Niloufar Omidi, Dr Gerard Moran, Dr Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh and Dr Áine Macken-Walsh. During the early autumn months of 2021 the SSRC hosted two visiting students under the new Erasmus mentorship scheme, Thea Otte from HW-Fulda (Undergraduate) and Sonia Raguso from the University of Bologna (Postgraduate), with Dr Su-Ming Khoo serving as principal mentor and Dr Mike Hynes as an additional mentor.

It was then reported that the SSRC webpage, designed and maintained by Dr Mike Hynes and first launched in 2016, continued to attract considerable attention in 2021. Since January 2020, 12,411 'unique' or different visitors have visited the webpage and over 103,325 pages have been examined. In all, the webpage has attracted 231,911 'hits' in

the current year. Dr Hynes also maintains the SSRC's active twitter account that currently has 1,295 followers.

Election of new Board

-Chairperson/Director: Prof Kevin Leyden

-Joint Secretaries: Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Tony Varley

-Treasurer: Dr Mike Hynes

-PRO: Dr Mike Hynes.

Ordinary Board members: Prof Anne Byrne, Dr Emmet Fox, Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Prof Mark Haugaard, Dr John MacDonagh, Dr Brian McGrath, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh, Dr Gerry Moran, Dr Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh.

Dr Mike Hynes and Dr Tony Varley (Joint Secretaries, SSRC)
15 December 2021