

Toscaireacht Meeting

Draft Minutes

Date: 23 November 2005

Time: 14.20

Venue: The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present:

Anthony Cronin

Theo Dorgan

Roger Doyle

Paul Durcan

Michael Kane

Alice Maher

In attendance:

Paul Johnson (Registrar)

Siân Cunningham (Artists' Services Officer, minutes)

Papers before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of meeting on 6 October 2005

Nominations for Aosdána

Nominations for Saoi

Correspondence

1. Election of Chairperson

Anthony Cronin was nominated to chair for this meeting.

2. Apologies

Seoirse Bodley, Clare Boylan, Cecily Brennan, Jennifer Johnston.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

3.1 Minutes

Subject to the changes discussed the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.2 Matters Arising/New Members' Reception

Following on from a discussion on the matter it was agreed that the new members' reception will take place in January 2006.

4. Nominations process and General Assembly

4.1 Rule Changes

Before the nominations were discussed, Anthony Cronin raised the issue of rule changes to the nomination process.

Previously, after nomination letters are approved by the Toscairí, the Registrar wrote to nominees to seek confirmation that their nomination can go forward and to request an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae. Anthony Cronin noted that the recent memo outlining the

process to members requested that a CV be submitted along with the letters of nomination. He noted this is a significant rule change. It was presented at the last Toscaireacht meeting in the schedule but the Registrar failed to call it to the attention of the Toscaireacht. Anthony Cronin expressed concern that any rule change, however small, is taken out of the hands of the Toscairí and being decided on by the executive.

The Registrar explained that the change was due to scheduling the General Assembly in early February. It was not his intention to unnecessarily change the rules, and he apologised for the upset this matter has caused members.

The Registrar expressed a wish to work with the Toscairí in order to find a way of being able to satisfy the administrative demands of Aosdána with his other work programme demands.

It was agreed that any future changes to protocols will be discussed and agreed with the Toscairí in advance.

4.2 CVs

A discussion was held on the issue of the Curriculum Vitae and the content that should be in the CV submitted to the Toscairí. It was noted that many CVs contained inappropriate samples of third party appraisals. It was agreed that this matter will be revisited at another stage.

4.3 Schedule for 2006 Toscaireacht Meetings

Theo Dorgan suggested that a schedule of meetings for 2006 be set out at the next meeting in January. It was agreed that this will be done at the next meeting.

5. Nominations

The Toscairí considered all nominations and agreed that they all can proceed to the next stage which is the discipline ballot stage.

It was agreed that reviews/quotes from reviews, samples of work (text and images) should not be distributed to members for the discipline ballot.

Having considered all nominations it was agreed that in future a very clear indication should be given to members with regard to what can and cannot be included in a nomination.

6. General Assembly

The Registrar confirmed that the General Assembly will take place on Wednesday 8 February 2006 in the Banqueting Hall, Royal Hospital Kilmainham.

The Toscairí agreed that the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism should be invited to the lunch.

Theo Dorgan expressed concern that members have absolute clarity on voting procedures at the General Assembly. He also expressed concern at the low attendance figures at General Assemblies. It is very important that members exercise their right to a postal vote if they cannot attend the General Assembly. It was agreed to look at the attendance figures at the next Toscaireacht meeting.

It was agreed for future General Assemblies that a return to the rule of suspending standing orders in order to introduce a motion on the day must be adhered to (Standing Orders 1.13 and 1.15). This is a rule which has been allowed to slip into disuse.

Motions must be made in writing and approved by the Toscaireacht in advance of the General Assembly, as per Standing Order 1.4.

It was agreed that procedures for the General Assembly will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Saoi

The Registrar confirmed that Seamus Heaney has proposed Brian Friel for the honour of Saoi and in excess of the required 15 have seconded the nomination.

The Toscairí agreed that the Saoi ballot should be kept separate from the discipline ballot. Saoi ballots should be sent a week later.

The Toscairí agreed that the Registrar can decide on the closing date for return of Saoi ballots.

Michael Kane left the meeting at 17.12

8. Correspondence

The Toscairí considered the letter from the Change Programme Management Team of the Abbey Theatre seeking an opinion on a nominee to the new board.

The Toscairí agreed that it is their strong opinion that a writer should be on the board of the Abbey.

The Toscairí proposed writer Thomas Kilroy as their nomination.

The Registrar will write to Thomas, seeking his permission to proceed with the nomination.

9. AOB

Alice Maher left the meeting at 17.18.

The next meeting will take place in the offices of the Arts Council on Tuesday 17 January commencing with lunch at 13.30.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 17.20.

ENDS