

## **Toscaireacht Meeting**

**Date:** 19 January 2004

**Time:** 2pm

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

**Present:** Paul Durcan, Alice Hanratty, Theo Dorgan, Eric Sweeney, Michael Kane, Fergus Johnston.

**In attendance:** Paul Johnson (Deputy Registrar), Siân Cunningham (Artists' Services Officer, minutes).

**Apologies:** Patricia Quinn (Registrar), Seoirse Bodley.

Patricia Quinn addressed the meeting before it commenced to give her apologies for not being able to attend. A Council plenary meeting and a meeting of the Traditional Arts Committee were taking place at the same time as the Toscaireacht meeting so she was unable to attend.

### **1. Election of chairperson**

Eric Sweeney was nominated to chair for this meeting.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 8 December 2003 were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

#### 3.1

Theo Dorgan reported that he had provided the text for the Aosdána handbook.

#### 3.2

The Toscairí questioned the status of the FAQ report. Paul Johnson reported that this will be available at the General Assembly.

#### 3.4

Amendments were made to some text in the handbook.

It was agreed that the handbook will be printed and spiral bound with a colour photocopied cover and will be available for distribution at the General Assembly. The handbook will also be available on the Aosdána website.

The facility to update members biographies on the website is available and Theo Dorgan requested that members be reminded of this at the General Assembly.

#### 3.5

Theo Dorgan asked about the increase in the value of the Cnuas. He reported that at a Council plenary meeting in December 2003 that the proposed budget for 2004 was agreed by Council on the understanding that it was to facilitate a 10% increase in the value of the Cnuas. Paul Johnson said that his understanding was that the 10% increase in the budget was to allow for new Cnuas recipients and to ensure that enough funding was available in the budget to allow for this. Theo Dorgan said that he will seek clarification from the Chair of the Arts Council and Paul Johnson will also investigate the matter.

#### **4. Agenda for the General Assembly**

The Toscairí agreed that the format of the agenda of the previous General Assembly would be followed.

The following motions were ratified for inclusion on the agenda:

- Motion proposed by Alice Hanratty. Motion seconded by Theo Dorgan.
- Motion proposed by Joe Comerford.
- Motion proposed by Pat Murphy. Motion seconded by Theo Dorgan.
- Motion proposed by Ulick O'Connor. Motion seconded by Anthony Cronin.

The Toscairí also agreed on two proposals also to be included on the agenda:

- That the General Assembly accepts the terms of agreement arrived at by the Toscaireacht and the Arts Council regarding the additional 50 places over a 5 year period.
- That the General Assembly consents to the recommendation to include architects and choreographers as members of Aosdána.

It was agreed that Margaretta D'Arcy's letter be included under correspondence.

The Toscairí agreed on the general outline of the Toscaireacht report. Paul Johnson will make the necessary changes. The draft will be sent to all Toscairí for their agreement on the content and then it will be posted with any additional papers to members in advance of the General Assembly.

Paul Durcan left the meeting at 4.20pm.

#### **5. Any other business**

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

**ENDS**