

Toscaireacht Meeting

10th November 2003, 2pm

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

Present: Michael Kane
Maud Cotter
Anthony Cronin
Alice Hanratty
Theo Dorgan
Paul Durcan
Eric Sweeney
Seoirse Bodley

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

Apologies: Patricia Quinn, Brian Maguire, Fergus Johnston.

Anthony Cronin was nominated to chair for this meeting.

Agenda item 1 – Apologies (as above)

Agenda item 2 – Minutes/Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2003 were approved as being an accurate record.

Anthony Cronin requested that in future minutes do not refer to people by initials and that full names are used.

Under matters arising, Paul Johnson spoke about the report that we are awaiting from Marsh Ireland in relation to the Aosdána pension scheme. Marsh Ireland want to provide us with the most accurate report possible, and hence the delay in presenting the report. It is anticipated that the report will be available prior to the circulation of papers for the General Assembly.

Theo Dorgan noted that the minutes of the previous meeting do not reflect the fact that a discussion took place in general about pensions.

A discussion then ensued about the pension report that is forthcoming from Marsh Ireland. The members expressed an interest in the following information:

- Encashment entitlements
- The level of likely pension payments after e.g. 5, 10, 15 years etc.

- Retirement age for the scheme

Under matters arising the issue of nominations for membership of Aosdána also was discussed.

It was agreed that the Arts Council executive was at fault. Geraldine O'Reilly's name appeared incorrectly on the memo which was sent with the ballot papers. People assumed that it was a mistake and phoned looking for the ballot paper.

A discussion followed on the best way to ensure that the situation that occurred this year does not happen again.

It was agreed by a majority vote, following discussion, that a rider be written in to the 'procedures for nominators' (for website and handbook) stating that the onus is on the nominator to provide the correct address.

Theo Dorgan will send a wording of this rider to Paul Johnson.

It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to Alice Maher from the Deputy Registrar on behalf of the Toscairí in order to dispel any shadow of an impropriety or injustice on the part of the Toscairí.

Agenda item 3 – Visual Arts Nominations

This matter was dealt with under Matters Arising.

Agenda item 4 – Agenda for General Assembly

Paul Johnson briefed the Toscairí on the meeting that we had with the executive in Dublin Castle with regard to holding the General Assembly on Thursday 5th February 2004. Dublin Castle is being taken over under the auspices of the OPW for the duration of the EU Presidency. Every member attending the General Assembly will have to wear photo id.

The time, date and venue for the General Assembly were agreed.

It was agreed that the Minister should be invited for lunch and to address the meeting in the afternoon.

It was agreed that the final date for receipt of motions for the agenda will be Monday 5th January 2004.

It was also agreed that Paul Johnson will draft the report of the Toscairí. This should be available at the Toscaireacht meeting prior to the General Assembly.

Alice Hanratty requested that the issue of policy on writing in Irish be on the agenda for the Toscaireacht meeting.

Agenda item 5 – AOB

With regard to the items for the General Assembly agenda it was agreed that substantial art related and socio/political motions should be suggested. The Toscairí agreed that they make suggestions for agenda items.

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Monday 8th December at 1pm, starting with lunch.

The meeting concluded at 4pm.

ENDS