

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht**

**Date** 17 April 2009

**Time** 1pm

**Venue** No 70 Merrion Sq

### **Present**

Seóirse Bodley, Anthony Cronin, Macdara Woods, Dermot Healy, Mary FitzGerald, Mannix Flynn, and Alice Hanratty.

### **In attendance**

Toby Dennett (Registrar) and Katie Lowry (International Arts and Artists Supports Officer)

### **Papers before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of previous meetings

Nomination papers

### **Agenda**

1. Election of Chair
2. Apologies
3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising
4. 2008 General Assembly Minutes
5. Toscaireacht Report
6. Aosdá na Pension
7. Motions for General Assembly
8. Running Order for General Assembly
9. AOB

#### **1. Election of Chair**

Anthony Cronin was elected to chair the meeting

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies from Samuel Walsh, Brian Maguire and Éibhlís Farrell were noted

#### **3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising**

It was agreed that an amendment be made to Item 6 of the Minutes of 15 January 2009 to reflect the fact that Council members are appointed rather than elected.

The Toscaireacht agreed that the minutes from 3 December 2008, 15 January 2009 and 26 February 2009 were a true and accurate record of the meetings.

Matters Arising:

Responding to a query the Registrar confirmed that for Aosdá na Irish residency is defined as both Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Registrar also noted that Council had introduced a ruling in 2006 which stated that a member who is not normally based in Ireland but whose work has been generally based here would be eligible to apply for the Cnuas.

#### **4. 2008 General Assembly Minutes**

An amendment was agreed to item 8 of the minutes to include the original motion proposed to the meeting by Mannix Flynn.

Subject to other minor amendments the Toscaireacht agreed to put the 2008 general Assembly minutes forward to the 2009 Assembly for approval.

#### **5. Toscaireacht Report**

Dermot Healy presented the draft Toscaireacht report. The Chair thanked Dermot for the work he had undertaken in drafting the report.

After a lengthy discussion the Toscaireacht agreed on a number of points in the report that required redrafting. It was agreed that Dermot would redraft the report for circulation at the General Assembly.

#### **6. Aosdá na Pension**

Mary FitzGerald presented findings from her investigations into the Aosdá na Pension scheme. It was decided to include relevant aspects of this within the Toscaireacht report. It was also decided to circulate the pension broker's name and contact details to membership at the General Assembly.

The Chair thanked Mary for the work she had undertaken in researching the pension scheme.

#### **7. Motions for General Assembly**

The Toscaireacht expressed concern that only one motion for the General Assembly had been received from the call to the general membership.

Motion Proposed by: Ulick O Connor

Motion Seconded by: John Behan

That this meeting would seek representation on the appropriate City Council which commissions public statuary.

The Toscaireacht agreed that the motion should be placed on the agenda but recommended that the term 'public statuary' be replaced with 'public art'.

The Toscaireacht also approved the following motion.

Motion Proposed by: Mannix Flynn

Motion Seconded by: Anthony Cronin

That this assembly of Aosdá na calls on the Minister for Art, Sports and Tourism, Martin Cullen TD, to halt the ongoing process of implementation relating to the proposal for the amalgamation of national cultural institutions, namely; The National Gallery, the Irish Museum of Modern Art and The Crawford Gallery.

The Toscaireacht discussed the possibility of other motions. It was agreed that any additional motion would be forwarded to the registrar in advance of the distribution of the agenda. The registrar confirmed that motions could also be introduced on the day if they were in writing and were seconded by 3 members.

#### **8. Running Order for General Assembly**

It was proposed that Seóirse Bodley should be nominated to Chair the General Assembly. Seóirse confirmed that he would accept the nomination. A start time of 10.15am for the General Assembly was agreed. The Toscaireacht agreed the draft agenda that had been circulated by the Registrar.

#### **9. AOB**

The Registrar distributed a letter that had been received from Vincent McCabe, actor and former president of Equity. The letter addressed to the Toscaireacht reported that Mr McCabe intended to establish an honours system for performing and interpretive artists and asked that this news be brought to the attention of the Assembly. The letter was accompanied by a statement from the Irish Equity Group confirming that the Equity AGM had offered its support to Mr McCabe in his pursuit of this initiative. It was agreed that this development might be noted in the Toscaireacht report on the issue dealing with the proposed working party to consider interpretive and performing artists.