

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, 2.00pm 10th February 2017 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present: Mary FitzGerald (Chair), Seóirse Bodley, Rhona Clarke, Michael Holohan, Brian Lynch, Jane O'Leary, Vivienne Roche

Apologies: Shelley McNamara, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne.

In attendance: Audrey Keane, Registrar

Previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes were proposed by SB and seconded by RC as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Letters of condolence will be sent on behalf of members to relatives of John Montague and Anthony Cronin.

Aosdána Assistant

The members welcomed Ben Mulligan who will act as temporary Aosdána Assistant during Aisling McKone's career break. The members expressed their thanks to AMcK and wished her well in her career break.

Co-option of member to the Toscaireacht

The need to co-opt someone to the Toscaireacht for the remainder of the term following the recent death of Anthony Cronin was discussed and agreement was reached on a member to be approached. The Registrar will follow up with the individual.

Letters of response to motions from the General Assembly 2016

MF has received acknowledgment letters to recent correspondence sent on behalf of members in follow-up to motions from the General Assembly 2016.

In connection with the motion 14.2 acknowledgment letters have been received from the offices of an Taoiseach; Minister of State with responsibility for OPW Seán Canney TD; and Minister Heather Humphreys.

In connection with the motion 14.3 an acknowledgment letter has been received from the offices of Minister of State with responsibility for OPW Seán Canney TD.

In connection with the motion 14.4 acknowledgment letters have been received from the offices of the Taoiseach; Michael Noonan T.D. Minister for Finance, Minister of State with responsibility for OPW Seán Canney TD; Simon Coveney, T.D. Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government; Heather Humphreys, T.D. Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

General Assembly 2017

(i) Discipline ballot - architecture

It was unanimously agreed that Architecture now has sufficient members to make voting at the discipline stage workable and that the Architecture discipline should henceforth vote for nominated architects at discipline stage. Proposed by MH and seconded by JO'L.

(ii) Planning and Agenda

The agenda will be finalised at the next meeting following the deadline for the call for motions and agenda items.

It was agreed that members would bring ideas for who might be asked to speak at the GA and who might chair a panel to the next meeting.

MH and VR will look into the recently launched Creative Ireland initiative and consider for the next meeting if Aosdána should have an input into the public consultation process.

(iii) Minutes of General Assembly 2016

The edited minutes having been circulated by the Registrar and the members will agree a final version at the next meeting.

A.O.B.

The format for nomination and election of new members was discussed. It was felt that the speaker to a nomination can have a big influence on the outcome of the voting process for the candidate. It was agreed that members would consider and bring suggestions to the next meeting. JO'L suggested that the Toscaireacht be more active in encouraging the nomination of the less represented genres, in particular choreography.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 23rd March 2017 at 1pm