

Minutes of meeting of Toscaireacht held at 1pm on Friday 12 July at the offices of the Arts Council

**Present:** Brian Maguire, Chair (BM); Anthony Cronin (AC); Alice Hanratty (AH); Mary FitzGerald (MF); Jane O'Leary (JOL); Shelley McNamara (SMN).

**In attendance:** Liz Powell, Registrar

**1) Welcome**

The chair welcomed all present and, before the meeting got underway, circulated the booklet of the speeches made at the General Assembly, 2013.

**2) Apologies**

Colm Tóibín, Mary O'Malley, Theo Dorgan

**3) Minutes of meeting 12 February 2013**

The minutes of the meeting of 12 February were reviewed and approved as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising

**Joint Arts Council/Toscaireacht meeting 14 May 2013**

Members discussed the meeting and agreed that this meeting was positive and successful in maintaining contact and good relations with council.

It was agreed that the Registrar would contact Seán Mac Cárthaigh, the Arts Council's Director of Public Affairs, to speak to members about positive promotion of Aosdána at the next meeting.

The Toscairí noted new financial requirements for members in receipt of the cnuas to provide revenue documents (Tax Clearance Cert, Notice of Assessment) to the Arts Council. It was also noted that members in receipt of the cnuas could no longer apply for Arts Council bursaries.

**4) General Assembly**

*Special addresses to mark Ireland's Presidency of the council of the EU*

It was agreed that the special afternoon event during the General Assembly was very successful and warmly received. The Registrar confirmed that letters of thanks had been sent to speakers Anthony Cronin, Seamus Heaney and Theo Dorgan and to Garrett Cormican for his presentation on the work Camille Souter and to Sé Merry Doyle for the use of content from his documentary on Patrick Scott. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to change the format for the afternoon session and that suggestions for a revised format should be discussed at the November meeting.

It was noted that a motion was passed at the General Assembly regarding discipline ballots:

“In the discipline ballots, a blank ballot will be counted as a vote. All returned ballot papers (including blank papers) will count towards the calculation of the quota.”

It was **agreed** that clear guidelines on completing the ballot paper must be included on the ballot sheet.

**5) Public Service Education Dividend**

The Toscairí welcomed the arts in education charter and the plans to bring artists and schools together. It was agreed that a scheme in which artists could, if they wished, offer supports to schools would be welcomed and valued.

It was agreed that the Registrar should write to the Minister to request a meeting.

**6) Correspondence**

The members reviewed correspondence regarding election procedures at the General Assembly. The Registrar undertook to coordinate responses to Nigel Rolfe and Margaretta D'Arcy.

**7) Draft Specification for Junior Cycle English**

It was agreed that the Registrar would circulate the information (by email) to all members in the Literature discipline for their individual responses.

**8) Dates for future meetings**

The date of 6 November was agreed for the next meeting.

**9) AOB**

The Registrar was asked to investigate how much longer the term of the Toscaireacht was to run.

The meeting ended