

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

**Date** 27 May 2009

**Time** 2pm

**Venue** No 70 Merrion Sq

### **Present**

Seóirse Bodley, Dermot Healy, Eibhlís Farrell, Mary FitzGerald, Mannix Flynn, Alice Hanratty, Brian Maguire and Sam Walsh

### **In attendance**

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

### **Papers before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of General Assembly

### **Agenda**

- Election of Chair
- Apologies
- Previous Minutes and Matters Arising
- Matters arising from General Assembly
- Issues relating to meeting with Arts Council
- AOB

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

Sam Walsh was elected to chair the meeting

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies from Anthony Cronin and Macdara Woods were noted.

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

The minutes of the meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> April were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

#### **4. Matters arising from the General Assembly**

The Toscaireacht expressed their disappointment with the venue used for the General Assembly.

It was noted that out of the seven architects who had received nominations none had been voted through the discipline ballot. It was agreed that further discussion regarding the Architecture discipline within Aosdána was needed. Brian Maguire agreed to draft a motion for the next meeting.

In response to the issue raised at the General Assembly regarding Google Books, the Registrar informed the meeting that the Royal Irish Academy would be hosting an information session on the subject.

The Toscaireacht expressed concern regarding the failure of the Arts Council to issue a press release announcing the motions agreed at the General Assembly. It was noted that the press release was only sent out 1 week after the event and that the Arts Council had to be specifically asked to issue the press release. One member felt that this amounted to censorship and that this demonstrated that the Registrar had failed to act in the interests of Aosdána. There was a proposal for a vote of no confidence in the Registrar. After discussion it was decided that it was the 'position' of Registrar that was at issue. Members agreed that the role of Registrar had been compromised since the Director of the Arts Council relinquished the post. It was proposed that the structure of Aosdána within the Arts Council should be reviewed.

There was a discussion concerning the letter sent to Aosdána by Vincent McCabe. It was noted that receipt of the letter had been noted in the Toscaireacht report delivered to the General Assembly but that no official response had been issued on behalf of Aosdána. It was agreed that the Toscaireacht should welcome Vincent McCabes initiative.

## **5. Issues relating to meeting with the Arts Council**

In preparation for meeting members of the Arts Council it was suggested that the Toscaireacht should ask to jointly review at senior level the operational processes and procedures of Aosdána.

One member felt that it should be stressed to the Arts Council that support to individual artists should be prioritized in the context of the current difficult economic circumstances

## **6. AOB**

