

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, Friday 7 November 2014 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

**Present:** Anthony Cronin, Rhona Clarke, Vivienne Roche, Mary FitzGerald, Brian Lynch, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Seoirse Bodley

**Apologies:** Shelley McNamara, Jane O'Leary and Brian Maguire

**In attendance:** Liz Powell, Registrar

### **Previous minutes and matters arising**

Minutes were read and agreed; proposed by EnD and seconded by VR.

### **Matters Arising**

It was requested that clarification should be sought from the Arts Council's Director of Finance on whether it can be ascertained if USC should be paid on the cnuas, where a member has tax exemption status.

### **Toscaireacht chair**

AC raised the position regarding the establishment of the position of chair of the Toscaireacht. This was not a position that had existed formally heretofore. It was agreed that in formalising the existence of the position, the terms of the position should also be clarified: that the holder did not hold an executive position within Aosdána and that all decisions would be taken in consultation with the Toscaireacht. It was also agreed that the term of Chairmanship should coincide with the term of the Toscaireacht.

### **Resignation of Toscaire and co-option of new member**

MF noted, with regret, that Brian Maguire had tendered his resignation from the Toscaireacht on health grounds. The members noted their thanks to Brian for his work on the Toscaireacht and wished him well. It was agreed that a new member should be co-opted and that ideally, the member should be from the visual arts discipline. Following some discussion, it was agreed that Mary FitzGerald should approach a potential candidate.

### **Saoi nomination**

It was confirmed that following the vote by members, William Trevor had been elected to the position of Saoi. The Registrar confirmed that a letter had been sent to WT congratulating him on his election.

Members were informed that a further Saoi nomination had been received. Members noted that the nomination was undertaken according to rule and it was agreed that the Registrar could proceed with a ballot of the membership.

### **General Assembly**

1 Public Session

It was discussed that Toscairí had received communications from members of Aosdána expressing concern regarding the abolishing of the private session of the General Assembly. Concerns were also raised regarding the proposal to change the voting system at the GA. It was agreed that members should be balloted on the election procedures and the opening of the General Assembly.

Re the latter, BL proposed that the members be balloted on a) maintaining status quo; b) opening the entire GA to the public; c) opening all elements apart from the nominations. This proposal was seconded by RC. The proposal was agreed

## 2 Discipline nominations

The Toscaireacht considered nominations received from members and confirmed that all should proceed to the discipline ballot stage

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence from Paddy Bushe, Peter Sirr and Paul Mosse was discussed. It was agreed that MF should respond to them.

### Date of next meeting

It was agreed that a meeting should be held in early February to plan for the General Assembly.

The meeting ended