

Minutes

Meeting of Aosdána Toscaireacht

1pm – 3pm, 7 February 2019 at The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Present

Michael Holohan (Chair); Cathy Carman; Anne Haverty; Thomas McCarthy; Samuel Walsh; Bob Quinn; Eamon Colman

In attendance

Karen Hennessy (Aosdána Registrar)

Apologies

Vincent Woods, Rhona Clarke, Geraldine O'Reilly

Previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 7 November were adopted. The minutes and follow up to the meeting of 19 November regarding nominations were discussed. All follow up in relation to nominations completed by the Registrar.

Saoi Election - Update

The deadline to vote in the Saoi election is 20 February. To date 88 postal votes and 18 email votes have been received. No envelopes have been opened.

Registrar to circulate reminder to members by mid-week 11 Feb. It was noted that postal ballot more popular than email with only 50 members approximately opting for an email ballot. The email ballot is not anonymous and this might be a deterrent. The value of a purely postal vote was discussed. A postal vote is anonymous. The envelope could be designed so as to represent the torc, the symbol of Aosdána and of the Saoi. It is estimated at least 150 votes need to be returned in order for a positive outcome of 123 votes. Discussion ensued on use of Supreme Court to sign off outcome of election. This no longer happens. It is the membership themselves that confer the honour.

At present the ceremony can differ depending on the nominee and has taken place at the home of the nominee as well as at the Arts Council offices. In all cases the President of Ireland confers the honour of Saoi. In 1986 a reception was held to honour Samuel Beckett, organised by the Arts Council. Beckett's niece, Caroline Murphy, attended in Beckett's place and the ceremony consisted of a lunch in the Berkeley Court Hotel to which Taoiseach Garrett Fitzgerald was invited and gave an address.

It was agreed that Eamon Colman would carry out the Saoi ballot count with the Registrar on 21 Feb after the deadline of 20 Feb.

President as Patron

The President of Ireland is confirmed as Patron of Aosdána and this is now noted on the current web site. It will also be incorporated in to the new web site.

General Assembly Cork, April 2019 - Update

An update was given by the Registrar on the Anthony Cronin Award in the context of the General Assembly. The response to the Award has been positive. There are good strong applicants. The Toscaireacht are to consider who will present the Award at the General Assembly in Cork and let the Registrar know what they think would work best.

The schedule for the call for standing orders/agenda items and the discipline ballot vote were discussed. It was decided to wait until 20 Feb and the end of the Saoi ballot before issuing the discipline ballot vote so as not to confuse members in any way. Registrar to issue the call for standing orders week beginning 11 Feb. Registrar outlined a timescale which was adopted. It was discussed that some of the motions could be included in the morning session so as to facilitate the afternoon session allocating time for music performance as well as the announcements of new members and the Anthony Cronin announcement. Registrar to update the discipline ballot vote paper so that marking is clear and issue discipline ballot vote after 21 Feb.

The statistical research carried out by the Registrar for the working group was discussed. It was agreed for the Registrar to present the findings of this research in a clear visual way as part of the morning session.

The outline schedule of events drawn up by the Registrar for the 4 and 5 April was reviewed. It was agreed to amend the word 'readings' to 'presentations' to give the option in future years for presentations by visual artists. It was agreed that Rhona Clarke should go ahead and liaise with UCC on the music programme. The layout of the room was discussed and it was agreed for the Registrar to liaise with UCC on a combination of tables with chairs and then chairs with side tables attached so as to not let the capacity of the room go below 110/120. The capacity of the room entirely theatre style is 150 members with 70 public seats also possible depending on the coffee/tea facility at the end of the room. The capacity of the room when layed out with tables for all chairs reduces to 80 with no capacity for the public

Government Files 1981, National Archive

This item was moved.

Report on Working Group meeting 21/1/2019

This item was moved.

AOB

Samuel Walsh outlined that for personal reasons he may need to step down from the Toscaireacht in the summer of 2019 and a replacement may need to be found in his place. He is unsure of the exact timeframe and will keep the Toscaireacht informed.

Private Session

A session for the Toscairi.

Follow Up

Registrar to circulate reminder to members of the Saoi election by mid-week 11 Feb.

Registrar to do Saoi ballot count with Eamon Colman on 21 Feb.

Registrar to liaise with Toscaireacht on who will present the Anthony Cronin Award at the General Assembly.

Registrar to compile visual presentation on statistical data and analysis compiled for the working group at the General Assembly.

Registrar to liaise with UCC on a combination of tables with chairs and then chairs with side tables for the Aula Maxima.

Registrar to issue call for standing motions week of 11 Feb.

Registrar to carry out discipline ballot vote after 21 Feb.

Timeframe for preparation of documentation for General Assembly adopted.

12-Feb-19	Call for motions and agenda items issued
25-Feb-19	Deadline for motions
21-Feb-19	Discipline ballot papers issued (SAOI BALLOT CLOSES 20 FEB) (include reminder of call for motions deadline)
14-Mar-19	Discipline ballot deadline
15-Mar-19	Discipline ballot count and Toscaireacht meeting to agree motions and agenda for GA
18-Mar-019	GA papers issued
05-Apr	General Assembly