

Toscaireacht Meeting

Minutes

Date: 10 May 2004

Time: 13.30

Venue: The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present:

Seoirse Bodley

Theo Dorgan

Alice Hanratty

Fergus Johnston

Brian Maguire

Eric Sweeney (from 14.50)

In attendance: Paul Johnson (Deputy Registrar), Siân Cunningham (Artists' Services Officer, minutes).

Papers before the meeting:

Minutes of meeting 22 March 2004

Draft General Assembly minutes

Proposal for destruction of ballot papers

1. Apologies: Maud Cotter, Anthony Cronin, Paul Durcan.

2. Election of chairperson

Seoirse Bodley was nominated to chair for this meeting.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.1

Under matters arising it was clarified that the cavalier attitude referred to in the minutes of 22 March 2004 was in connection with members not attending the General Assembly and not sending apologies in advance. It also concerned the number of members who do not exercise their right to a postal vote.

3.2

The Deputy Registrar apologised to the members that due to the pressure of work he was unable to provide the statistical information that had been requested at the last meeting.

This will be available for discussion at the next meeting.

It was agreed by all members that the use of percentages in this report would possibly give a false impression of the reality of the situation and that it would be better to provide numerical information.

The members also agreed that should any other useful information come to light during the course of this research it would be welcomed by the Toscairí.

4. Draft General Assembly Minutes

Amendments were suggested and noted.

5. Schedule for Nominations for membership for 2005

The Deputy Registrar confirmed that the next General Assembly will take place some time in January or February 2005.

As part of the schedule leading up to the next meeting the Toscairí will need to look at what was agreed at the last meeting regarding membership and the mechanism for inclusion of architects and choreographers.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the various mechanisms that could be put in place.

Eric Sweeney joined the meeting during this discussion at 14.50.

It was agreed that a full meeting is need in order to have further discussion and agreement on this matter.

6. Meeting with the Arts Council

The Deputy Registrar suggested that a meeting should be arranged between the Toscairí and the Arts Council. Limited opportunities are available before the summer.

The members agreed to invite the Chair, Olive Braiden, Willie Doherty and John McGahern (both Aosdána members) to attend the next Toscaireacht meeting at which an agenda for a meeting with the Arts Council could be drafted.

7. Destruction of ballot papers

The members asked about the purpose of keeping ballot papers?

The Deputy Registrar clarified that it is a tradition since the inception of Aosdána. However, the issue now facing the Council is one of space.

The members agreed that all ballot papers should be retained for one year and a day following a ballot and that papers would then be destroyed.

8. AOB

Eric Sweeney noted for the record that he had made a request to the Director of the Arts Council a year ago for information similar to that being requested of the Deputy Registrar at present (ref: 3.2 above) and that he had to date received none of the information requested.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 14 June at 1.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 15.25.

ENDS