

## **Toscaireacht Meeting**

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2003, 1pm**

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

**Present: Maud Cotter, Alice Hanratty, Seoirse Bodley, Theo Dorgan, Eric Sweeney, Anthony Cronin, Michael Kane (from 2.25pm).**

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

**Apologies: Patricia Quinn, Brian Maguire, Paul Durcan.**

Maud Cotter was nominated to chair for this meeting.

**Agenda item 1 – Apologies** (as above)

### **Agenda item 2 – Minutes/Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting, with one correction on page 2. Alice Hanratty will reword this with Paul Johnson to amend the record.

Under matters arising Theo Dorgan said that he has not yet provided the text for the Aosdána handbook in relation to the nomination process but will contact Paul Johnson accordingly about this.

### **Agenda item 3 – Discipline Ballot Results**

A list of successful applicants in the discipline ballot was sent to the Toscairí with the papers for this meeting.

The total number of nominations to be brought to the General Assembly is 21. There are 6 places to be filled (5 through normal procedures and 1 through attrition).

Paul Johnson is in the process of contacting the 14 nominations carried forward from the last General Assembly to check that they are still willing to be included at the 2004 ballot.

Paul Johnson also thanked Alice Hanratty who oversaw and helped with the counting of the discipline ballot papers.

### **Agenda item 4 – Aosdána policy on writing in Irish**

Clarification on this item was given by Alice Hanratty as the previous minutes and the agenda for today's meeting are not an accurate reflection of what she had raised.

A discussion was held on the matter. It was agreed that as this issue has already been discussed and agreed with the Arts Council, that the position of the Toscaire cannot change. The increase in the number of the membership in this area is an

attempt to increase the number of people capable of making a judgement in this area.

### **Agenda item 5 – Aosdána Handbook**

Paul Johnson will post out a copy of the draft handbook next week to the Toscairí for comment.

The handbook will be electronically published.

It was agreed that a printed version of the handbook (rules and regulations, not the biographies) be made available to all members.

The Arts Council executive will be responsible for this.

It was also agreed that this printed version be available at the General Assembly and that a copy should be sent in the post to those who did not attend.

### **Agenda item 6 – Draft Toscaireacht Report**

Paul Johnson will also post this report out next week.

The following deadlines were agreed:

Monday 12 January 2004 – final date for receipt of motions for General Assembly

Monday 19 January 2004 – date of next Toscaireacht meeting

### **Agenda item 7 – AOB**

Paul Johnson brought two pieces of correspondence to the attention of the Toscairí – an email from Alice Maher and a letter from Tom Kilroy.

The issue of having a written procedure for suspending the Cnuas was discussed. It was agreed that the Arts Council executive will compile a Frequently Asked Questions information sheet. This is to be ratified by the Toscairí in advance of use and dissemination.

The Toscairí requested that Paul Johnson pass on their congratulations to the Council on the news of the increased budget for 2004.

The meeting concluded at 2.40pm.

**ENDS**