

Meeting of Toscaireacht 13 February 2013

Present:

Anthony Cronin, Theo Dorgan, Mary FitzGerald, Alice Hanratty, Brian Maguire, Shelley McNamara, Jane O'Leary.

Apologies:

Mary O'Malley, Colm Tóibín

In attendance:

Orlaith McBride, Director, Arts Council

Toby Dennett, Strategic Development Manager, Arts Council

Catherine Boothman, EU Presidency Programme Coordinator

Liz Powell, Registrar, Aosdána

1. Introduction and apologies
2. Previous minutes and matters arising
3. New member nominations results
4. Streamlining relationship with Arts Council and reviewing rules and procedures
5. General Assembly including EU Presidency aspect
6. AOB

Brian Maguire welcomed all present.

Orlaith McBride joined the start of the meeting to describe the Arts Council's staffing structure and the role changes, which saw Toby Dennett moving to the Council's new Strategic Development Department and Liz Powell taking over the role of Registrar. She offered the Council's support for the 2013 General Assembly. She reiterated the Arts Council's desire to continue close links with Aosdána and proposed a date of 14 May for the next joint meeting of the Arts Council and Aosdána. She confirmed the value and importance of having Colm Toibin sit on the Arts Council and be a member of the Toscaireacht and the circularity of information this would ensure.

Finally, Orlaith mentioned the new Arts and Education charter, which had been launched by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Education and Skills. She noted that specific reference had been made to Aosdána in relation to the Public Service Education Dividend (PSED). It was agreed that this item should be included on the agenda for the next Toscaireacht meeting.

2 Minutes of Previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed.

Proposal to accept the minutes: Jane O'Leary; seconder: Alice Hanratty.

Matters arising:

Nominations for co-opting a new member of Toscaireacht

It was noted that Colm Toibin has accepted the invitation to join the Toscaireacht.

Request from Dublin City Council re nomination to public art panel.

It was reported that the nominees are Alice Hanratty and John Tuomey.

Report on consultative meeting with HEA re Review of Higher Education Provision in the Creative Arts and Media in the Dublin Region

Brian Maguire noted his disappointment at the make-up of the review panel and the terms of reference for the review.

It was **agreed** that the Toscairí should respond to the HEA outlining that it had no confidence in the terms of reference and therefore any report issuing from the committee.

Note of the informal meeting of 26 November were read and agreed.

Proposed by Shelley McNamara; seconded by Theo Dorgan.

3 New member nomination results

The registrar outlined the results of the discipline ballots.

The registrar clarified that all nominators of nominees carried forward from the last General Assembly would be contacted to ascertain that they are happy to proposed candidates again and that nominees are happy to re-stand at the General Assembly.

Correspondence from Paul Mosse was discussed and Brian Maguire undertook to reply to him.

4 Streamlining relationship with Arts Council and reviewing rules:

Further to the motion raised at the 2012 General Assembly and following submissions and observations received from members, the Toscaireacht held a long discussion and debate on the merits of a range of voting options. BM proposed a change such that returning a blank ballot would contribute towards the quota. This would require a change to the wording of the explanatory note on completing a discipline ballot paper. The wording currently reads:

“A blank ballot will be counted as a spoilt vote and will not count towards the calculation of the quota.”

It was proposed the new wording should read:

“In the discipline ballots, a blank ballot will be counted as a vote. All returned ballot papers (including blank papers) will count towards the calculation of the quota.”

It was **agreed** that clear guidelines on completing the ballot paper must be included on the ballot sheet.

The motion was **carried**.

The meeting discussed the possibility of a nominator or seconder nominating a proxy speaker in the event of neither the nominator nor the seconder being able to attend the General Assembly. It was **agreed** that the current rules should remain in place, whereby in the absence of either party, the nomination would be carried forward to the next General Assembly.

5 General Assembly

The Registrar reported that no motions of specific relevance to the arts and artists in society had been received by her office in advance of the General Assembly.

European dimension

The registrar updated the meeting on the planning of special addresses or presentations by a number of the Saoithe in relation to a European dimension to their work, which would be part of the General Assembly 2013.

It was suggested that the Registrar should offer alternative presentation options to those Saoithe who indicated they did not wish to speak.

It was **agreed** that Catherine Boothman (CB) would work with Brian Maguire to build a list of guests and members of the press for the General Assembly European presentation strand.

It was **agreed** that Theo would write a short introduction to be read in advance of the Saoithe's presentation.

It was noted that Arts Council Director, Orlaith McBride would be at the General Assembly 2013, and it was **agreed** that Aosdána should invite her to speak.

It was agreed that the Saoithe's addresses should take place directly after lunch.

6 AOB

BM to write Toscaireacht report