

## **Toscaireacht Meeting**

### **Draft Minutes**

**Date:** 4 April 2006

**Time:** 12.25

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

#### **Present:**

Seirse Bodley  
Cecily Brennan  
Anthony Cronin  
Roger Doyle  
Jennifer Johnston  
Michael Kane

#### **In attendance:**

Paul Johnson (Registrar)  
Siân Cunningham (Artists' Services Officer, minutes)

#### **Papers before the meeting**

Agenda  
Minutes of meeting, 17 January 2006  
Draft minutes of the General Assembly, 2006  
Correspondence

#### **1. Election of Chairperson**

Seirse Bodley was nominated to chair for this meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

Clare Boylan, Theo Dorgan, Paul Durcan, Alice Maher.

#### **3. Minutes/Matters Arising**

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

##### **3.1 Matters Arising**

The members agreed that items for discussion at the General Assembly, which are raised by members of the Toscaireacht are to be agreed at by Toscaireacht in advance of the meeting.

##### **3.2 Matters Arising**

A discussion was held about the length of time that is allocated for nominees to speak to their nominations at the General Assembly.  
It was agreed that this item be included on the agenda of a future meeting.

#### **4. General Assembly minutes**

Subject to one name change on page 5 (Alice Hanratty should read Alice Maher), the minutes of General Assembly were adopted as an accurate draft, to go forward to the next Assembly.

#### **4.1 Matters Arising out of General Assembly Minutes**

The issue of the Cnuas was discussed. Members agreed that it is becoming increasingly difficult to live on the Cnuas at its current value, particularly in Dublin city. The value of the Cnuas should be discussed with the Arts Council.

The matter of expanding the membership of Aosdána was also discussed. Choreographers and architects are now eligible for membership Aosdána; one architect was elected this year.

The Registrar pointed out that the Arts Council would like to see choreographers elected for membership. The Toscaireacht agreed that they undertook this issue and did as much as they could to encourage members without interfering with the electoral process.

A discussion then ensued with regard to the issue of the future of Aosdána

A question arose with regard to architecture and choreography and if these now constituted a new discipline. Anthony Cronin suggested that they are not yet a new discipline as more members would be required in those areas to constitute a discipline.

A discussion was held about ways in which architects and choreographers could be elected to Aosdána, but no agreement was reached as to how this could happen.

#### **5. Louis Marcus correspondence**

The Toscaireacht took note of the idea presented in the Louis Marcus' letter. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at a future meeting, when more members were in attendance.

#### **6. Motions**

The Toscaireacht welcomed the NCAD motion put forward on the day of the General Assembly and agreed that similar motions should be encouraged in the future.

#### **7. Meeting with Arts Council**

It was agreed that this item be included on the agenda of next meeting.

The Toscaireacht expressed concern at the fact that it has been suggested that Aosdána members in receipt of the Cnuas, should be excluded from applying for Bursaries.

The Registrar confirmed that from 2000, the rule excluding Cnuas recipients from applying for Bursaries was relaxed due to the rising costs. The fact of membership doesn't impact positively or negatively on an application.

It was noted that the costs for artists making work in the areas of new media where specialist equipment and professional technical expertise was required were extremely high. This was difficult to undertake on the Cnuas alone.

**ENDS**