

Toscaireacht Meeting

Minutes

Date: 9 May 2007

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square

Present:

Anthony Cronin

Roger Doyle

Seoirse Bodley

Theo Dorgan

Cecily Brennan

Paul Durcan

In attendance

Stephanie O'Callaghan (Acting Deputy Registrar)

Niamh McCabe (Acting Artists' Services Officer, minutes)

Papers before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of meeting

1. Election of Chairperson

Seoirse Bodley was nominated to chair the meeting.

2. Apologies

Jennifer Johnston, Michael Kane.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

Subject to agreed changes, the minutes of the previous meeting of the Toscaireacht were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Discussion re: Cnuas

The issue of the re-evaluation of the Cnuas was raised by AC. Stephanie O'Callaghan informed the Toscairí that it will be re-examined in Book of Estimates.

A conversation ensued regarding the most appropriate way of ascertaining an appropriate figure for the Cnuas.

Several options were considered and agreement was reached that €20,000 is an appropriate figure to be put to the Arts Council.

Anthony Cronin also suggested that this be backed up with figures based on the change in Civil Service EA wages from 1982-present and the change in the industrial wage over the same time. These figures are to be provided by the secretariat in advance of a meeting between Anthony Cronin and the Director of the Arts Council.

4. General Assembly 2007

Various matters regarding the General Assembly were raised by the Toscairi

Roger Doyle raised a query made by Siobhan Cleary in relation to the basis on which a certain number of places were not allotted.

Anthony Cronin clarified the situation, pointing out that this was because candidates didn't reach the quota. It was also mentioned that in the past quotas varied greatly from candidate to candidate but that a new change in the voting procedure passed by a motion at the General Assembly meant that the quota is now fixed and is based on all votes received.

Alice Maher suggested that motions should be submitted on time for the Toscaireacht to meet and evaluate them before General Assembly.

Cecily Brennan raised Anne Madden's query re: why some motions were discussed in public and others in private business during the General Assembly

Anthony Cronin suggested that it be communicated to Anne Madden that her motion referred to the structure and procedures of Aosdána and these are generally discussed in private.

It was agreed that discussion of Minutes of the General Assembly should be deferred until the next meeting.

Anthony Cronin pointed out a letter he received calling for an amendment re: the presentation of motions.
It was agreed that this should be examined.

Media correspondence in respect of Motions re Israel

It was decided by the Toscairi that members should read the communication before them resulting from the General Assembly and any they felt should be answered should be brought to the next meeting of the Toscaireacht.

New members

Stephanie O'Callaghan informed members of the Toscaireacht that the Arts Council are in the process of organising a new members reception.
This should be clarified within the next 3 or 4 weeks.

5. Election of new Toscaireacht

Stephanie O'Callaghan outlined the two-pronged approach involved and suggested that the approx. time-frame would be circulated to current members of the Toscaireacht.

Theo Dorgan questioned whether this process could be initiated in advance of next meeting. This was agreed.

6. Conferring of torc – Patrick Scott

Stephanie O'Callaghan informed the Toscaireacht that the secretariat is currently in touch with the office of the President to identify an appropriate date. A Provisional date of the 11th September has been suggested.

7. AOB

Anthony Cronin made a query in regarding the appointment of officers to deal with particular disciplines.

Stephanie O'Callaghan outlined the new structure of the Arts Council, within which there will be a visual arts team/literature team etc. with support and expert advice.

Paul Durcan raised the issue of the Arts Council of move to Kilkenny as part of Government restructuring.

Stephanie O'Callaghan confirmed that while this is not planned in the immediate future, it is certainly on the agenda.

The Toscairí then set a provisional date for the next meeting of the Toscaireacht.