

Meeting of Toscaireacht, via Zoom.

11am – 1pm, 4 February 2021 via Zoom

Present

Anne Haverty (Chair), Enda Wyley, Geraldine O'Reilly, Gerard Smyth, Mary O'Donnell, Theo Dorgan, Eamon Colman, Deirdre Kinahan

Apologies

Michael Holohan, Grainne Mulvey

Zoom Host

Karen Hennessy (Registrar Aosdána)

Minutes and Matters arising

A number of corrections were made to the previous minutes. Enda Wyley proposed the minutes and Gerard Smyth seconded.

Discussion on how to commemorate members

It was agreed that this item could be moved to another Agenda. It was thought that it should be kept separate to welcoming new members. There are many ways to do this and more reflection is needed. It was noted however that there is some urgency to address this as many members were lost in 2020.

General Assembly 2021

It was suggested that this could take place via zoom however it was thought that a discussion on the document *Aosdana in a Changing World* would be difficult via zoom. It was suggested that email could be used as well as zoom. Zoom can allow different conversations and a general assembly could be re-imagined to work on zoom. The timeline for the discipline ballot vote and elections impact on the date of the General Assembly. Given current level 5 restrictions it was proposed by the Registrar that the discipline ballot vote be completed by end May instead of end March and this would then make a postal vote for elections timely in the Autumn. Theo Dorgan proposed this timeline and Deirdre Kinahan seconded it. Should level 5 restrictions continue beyond the Spring it may require outsourcing the photocopying required for the discipline ballot vote process. The Registrar will look into how to outsource this task if needs be.

40th Anniversary Publication

A meeting of the selection panel was held on 29 Jan to decide on who to approach as independent panel member. Anne Haverty joined this meeting to help with this selection. [REDACTED] was identified as the first choice and was approached however is unable to take on the role. Other suggestions are [REDACTED]. Theo Dorgan

suggested [REDACTED] also. It was discussed that an all male selection panel was not desirable. Gerard Smyth will raise this with the panel.

Cnuas Update

Members of the working group outlined that a tender process is on-going and shortly a tax expert would be appointed to examine the Cnuas. This examination will take into consideration the value of the Cnuas, the options around different thresholds and the relationship between the Cnuas and the State pension. The Toscaireacht working group members outlined that the Chair said an increase is intended and would be backdated to 1st January, it is for this reason that a tender has been agreed to by the Council and that it is taking place in order to consider all aspects of the Cnuas which require examination.

Nominations 2021

The issue of one member nominating two different artists was discussed. It was thought that this is to the disadvantage of the nominees. It was decided that a motion should be presented at the next General Assembly that a member should only nominate one artist in a given year. However a member can second more than one nomination.

The Registrar is to update the nomination guidelines with detail around third party quotations and circulate to all.

Altogether there are 35 nominations across the disciplines of literature; visual art and music. There were no nominations in the disciplines of choreography or architecture.

Private Session

Discussion and approval of nominations.

Action items

- To include item on commemorating new members on next Agenda.
- Registrar to look into out-sourcing photocopying for discipline ballot vote should this be required due to Level 5 restrictions
- To suggest [REDACTED] for selection panel and advocate for a mixed gender panel.