

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Site and Facilities Committee Meeting held on 11th October 2005 in the Boardroom

Present Bursar (Prof. D.C. Williams), Treasurer* (Ms. Grace Dempsey), Secretary** (Mr. Michael Gleeson), Students Union President (Mr. John Mannion), Vice-Provost (Prof. Ruth Byrne), Prof. Roger Stalley, Prof. John Kelly, Dr. Jack McGinley, Acting Director of Buildings (Mr. Paul Mangan).

Apologies None

By invitation Dean of Students (Mr. Bruce Misstear)

In Attendance Ms. S. Mac Mahon (Executive Officer, Director of Buildings Office)

* Present for items SF/05-06/01 to SF/05-06/10

** Present for items SF/05-06/01 to SF/05-06/12

Minutes

SF/05-06/01 – It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 28th June 2005 did not take place (see minute **SF/04-05/101**). This was due to the unavailability of the required number of members for a quorum (7).

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st May 2005 were approved and signed by the Bursar.

Matters Arising

SF/05-06/02 – Physical Access Working Group

The Acting Director of Buildings advised that he has written to the Registrar to request that the PAWG reports directly to SFC, and is awaiting a response.

SF/05-06/03 – Trinity Hall, Sports Hall

The Acting Director of Buildings advised that funding had been allocated by Executive Officers for an Engineer's Report and that this report had been received detailing the works required. He said that the Buildings Office will undertake the essential maintenance work but he pointed out that additional funding will be required to allow significant use of the hall for sporting activities. He said that he has suggested that the warden of Trinity Hall, the Director of accommodation & catering Services and the Accommodation Officer at Trinity hall meet with the Buildings Officer and Director of Sport to determine what works can be carried out within the overall funding available. The Committee noted that Director of Sport had (at SFC 31st May '05) explained that the overall budget for Sport can only provide for one professionally manned sports hall and that only unsupervised recreational sports should be played in Trinity Hall.

SF/05-06/04 – Out of Hours Working

Following submission of a paper from the College Safety Officer and the Facilities Officer to the Site and Facilities Committee, it was agreed that this paper be widely circulated in order that comments may be made prior to a final proposal being brought forward. Subsequently this paper was circulated to all Heads of Departments and to all Safety Officers in College on 3rd June 2005. It was requested that comments be submitted prior to June 20th. A preliminary report was compiled and showed a negative response in general to any new limitations to access being introduced. The Acting Director of Buildings advised that the purpose of these discussions is not to prohibit out of hours working but to regulate lone working for health and safety reasons. It was agreed that a proposed new policy be brought to SFC by the College Safety Officer and the Facilities Officer as soon as practicable.

SF/05-06/05 – Luce Hall Redevelopment

The architects currently working on the proposed Pearse Street Development plan suggested to the Acting Director of Buildings that it would be prudent to delay production of a brochure for funding for the redevelopment of the Luce Hall until an outcome is reached on the Pearse Street Development plan, which may effect the decision on the extent of redevelopment of the Luce Hall. The Treasurer explained that the College currently has a capital deficit of €6 million and therefore there is an absolute requirement for specific fundraising to be carried out in order to fund any works on the Luce Hall. It was agreed that the Bursar, the Dean of Students and the Students' Union President will meet to begin discussion on the proposal for this redevelopment and that a brochure will be compiled in due course.

SF/05-06/06 – Renaming of Parsons Buildings Lecture Theatre

The Committee noted a memorandum from Professor John Fitzpatrick dated 20th September '05. It was agreed that the lecture theatre in the Parsons Building be named the Crossland Lecture Theatre in honour of Professor Sir Bernard Crossland CBE, MRIA, FRS, FEng, FIAE.

SF/05-06/07 – New Square

It was proposed by the Students' Union President that New Square be opened to further recreational activities as per recommendation in the second College Development Control Plan. SFC supports this proposal in principle and it was agreed that this item will be referred to the Grounds and Gardens Advisory Committee to consider the range and supervision of activities that might be appropriate.

SF/05-06/08 – New Audio System for Public Theatre

The Committee noted a memorandum from the Assistant Director of IS Services, Mr. John Murphy, dated 21st June 2005. The Committee agreed that a new system be purchased and that IS Services should seek tenders from the market for the works and equipment required. The Secretary suggested that a table microphone be incorporated in the list of requirements.

SF/05-06/ 09 – Pearse Street Development Planning Application

The Acting Director of Buildings advised that following the submission of the College's planning application a request for additional information was received on 26th April '05 from the Dublin City Council Planning Department. He said that it appeared that the planners have little difficulty with the substantial elements of the scheme and that their concerns relate to the proposed demolition of Nos 183 – 187 Pearse Street. In response the architects (O'Donnell Tuomey) have prepared new drawings indicating a scaled down entrance for approval by SFC which were circulated prior to the meeting held on 11th October. Members of the Committee expressed the opinion that the proposed new North Entrance and associated public space are important elements of the scheme that should be retained. The consensus view was that the revised entrance proposal is architecturally and operationally inadequate. In response to a query from the Treasurer, the Acting Director of buildings advised that the original proposal had been developed in consultation with local residents and that the revised proposal has not been discussed with them.

SF/05-06/10 - An Post Site

Committee noted a memorandum from the Acting Director of Buildings dated 5th October 2005 outlining the current status of the proposed development of the An Post site. Tenderers were invited to submit costed proposals for developing the site to its maximum potential. After some discussion, Committee nominated a group comprising the Bursar, Acting Director of Buildings, Dean or Associate Dean of Research, Treasurer (or Deputy Treasurer), Prof. Roger Stalley, and Brendan Merry & Partners (Quantity Surveyors to assess tenders) and identify a preferred contractor with whom the College would advance the project.

It was noted that, at a later date, a group will be appointed to decide on the College components of this proposed development.

The Committee agreed that College will underwrite, up to a limit of €500,000, from funds to be provided from SFI, the costs of site investigation works and a planning application in the event that the College decides not to proceed with the scheme.

SF/05-06/11 – Provost’s House Stables

Committee noted a memorandum from the Acting Director of Buildings outlining progress to date on this project, together with drawings that had been circulated. Prof. Stalley highlighted the need for a picture store and asked that this issue remain on the agenda. The Secretary asked if access to St. Patricks Well could be improved as part of the scheme. The Bursar asked if the access route across the courtyard could be simplified to aid accessibility. Subject to these comments, the Committee approved plans for submission for planning permission.

SF/05-06/ 12 - Campus Christmas Tree

Committee noted a memorandum from the Facilities Officer dated 7th October 2005 enclosing minutes of the Grounds and Gardens Advisory Committee meeting of 7 October. The Committee considered a proposal that had been put to the Grounds and Gardens Committee that a Christmas tree be erected in Front Square the year. A ‘once off’ cost of approximately €10,000 is required to put in place the infrastructure, cabling, equipment etc. to hold a Christmas tree and a tree will cost approximately €1,500. After some discussion Committee agreed to the proposal.

SF/05-06/13 – Insurance Renewal

The Committee noted a memorandum from the Acting Director of Buildings and the Treasurer dated 28th September 2005 (endorsed by Executive Officers on 3rd October) setting out details and costs for insurance cover for the following year.. The Acting Director of Buildings highlighted important changes to note.

SF/05-06/14 – Capital Project Updates

Committee noted progress reports on the following capital projects:
North East Corner Development
Front Square Residences
Trinity Centre Tallaght
Small Projects (various)

SF/05-06/15 – Any Other Business

1. Prof. Roger Stalley asked if there is any way that the tarmacadam on the route from the Campanile to the Rubrics can be surface dressed in a different material and colour.
2. The Acting Director of Buildings invited members to note some neon lighting that has been erected on the Beckett Centre for the Dublin Theatre Festival as he anticipated that a proposal will be made for its retention on a permanent basis. .
3. The Bursar suggested that College Building Management Committees be established or reactivated and that they should meet more regularly.
4. A request must be submitted to Board to nominate two members to the North East Corner Planning Committee.

SF/05-06/16 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Site & Facilities Committee will be held on 8th November 2005 at 11am in the Boardroom.

Signed

Dated