

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Site and Facilities Committee Meeting held on 7th February 2006 in the Boardroom

Present Bursar (Prof. D.C. Williams), Treasurer (Ms. Grace Dempsey), Students Union President (Mr. John Mannion), Vice-Provost (Prof. Ruth Byrne), Prof. Roger Stalley, Prof. John Kelly, Dr. J.K. McGinley, Dr. David Abrahamson, Director of Buildings (Mr. Paul Mangan).

Apologies Secretary (Mr. Michael Gleeson)

By invitation Dean of Students (Mr. Bruce Misstear)
Mr. David Brown, RKD Architects
Mr. John Hanley, RKD Architects
Mr. Willie White, PJ Walls Ltd.

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

SF/05-06/ 44 An Post Site Development – Presentation

The Director of Buildings described the planned development including proposed composition and following a detailed presentation by Mr. David Brown of RKD Architects a number of questions and points were raised by members of the Committee.

Mr. David Brown advised that Dublin City Planners were broadly supportive of the proposal but that they had indicated the importance of high quality architecture and streetscape design if the required density is to be achieved. He advised also their concern with the exterior finishes. They have expressed a preference for a stone finish in keeping with the architecture of College and the surrounding area. Prof. Stalley expressed concern about the use of stone veneers to the extent used in Goldsmith Hall and the Director of Buildings said that arising from previous difficulties encountered using that particular stone finish, a very light colour would be preferable.

Arising from a query from Prof. Kelly, Mr. Brown said that all aspects of security and safety can be addressed satisfactorily, in particular with regard to work with chemicals.

The Treasurer asked for clarification on the extent of involvement of Iarnrod Eireann in the scheme if plans for a direct access route to Pearse Street Station are to be incorporated. It was agreed that discussions should take place with Iarnrod Eireann and any other relevant party. The Committee noted also the need for clarification in relation to the route of the proposed underground rail Interconnector as this may impact on the development site.

The Director of Buildings welcomed Dr. McGinley's suggestion to liaise with the local community and local Councillors.

Clarification was sought by the Treasurer on the cost implications to College of the Planning Application process. The Director of Buildings advised that the sum of up to a limit of €500,000, from funds to be provided from SFI, will be used to cover the costs of site investigation works and a planning application, with the Developer PJ Walls Ltd. covering any cost over and above that amount.

Minutes

SF/05-06/45 – The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of January 2006 were approved by Committee and signed by the Bursar.

Matters Arising

SF/05-06/46 – Cobble Reduction Programme

The Director of Buildings advised Committee that the Planning Application for the cobble reduction programme is close to completion and will be submitted shortly, following further internal consultation.

SF/05-06/47 – Grounds & Gardens Advisory Group

The Director of Buildings told Committee that the next meeting of this Group will be held on 16th of February 2006 and reconfirmed that the issue of opening New Square to additional recreational activities is on the agenda.

SF/05-06/48 – Building Users Groups

The Director of Buildings advised that Prof. James Lunney, Head of School of Physics has agreed to head a Users Group for the Sami Nasr Institute. He said also that arrangements are being made to convene a User Group for the Trinity Centre at St James's Hospital.

The President of the Students Union mentioned the lack of left handed seating in College, and in particular in lecture theatres as an issue to be dealt with by User Groups. The Director of Buildings advised that since 1995 allowances are made for 10% of all new seating arrangements to be left handed. He said that alterations to other areas will be made to the extent that funding is available.

SF/05-06/49 – Luce Hall

The Director of Buildings, Dean of Students and President of the Students Union met to discuss the proposed redevelopment of Luce Hall. As part of the preliminary planning process, visits to centres at NUI Maynooth and UCD are arranged. A brief will be prepared for submission to Site and Facilities Committee following these visits.

SF/05-06/ 50 – Lone Working Policy

Arising from a query from Dr. Abrahamson, the Director of Buildings said that the Secretary will circulate this proposed policy to all Heads of Schools/Divisions/Departments/Buildings and further advised that he has requested the College Safety Officer and the Facilities Officer respond to any queries arising from submissions received previously from Heads.

SF/05-06/ 51 - Luas Line BX

It was agreed by Committee that the Director of Buildings will submit a paper to Board outlining the College's response to the RPA indicating a preference for option B. The Director of Buildings said he will confirm the deadline for submission of comment to the RPA and if necessary circulate a paper directly to Board members for comment if the deadline is prior to the next meeting of Board.

SF/05-06/ 52 – Provosts' House Stables

The Director of Buildings advised the Committee that the Planning Application for this project was approved with the exception of the proposed route of the access ramp from the Arts Building. Dublin City Planners cited the probable adverse effect of the proposed works on two trees (the mature sycamore at the top of the existing steps from the Arts Block basement and the mature maple adjacent to the proposed opening in the east wall of the outhouse). It was agreed that the Director of Buildings would explore further access possibilities with the Architects and the Planners.

SF/05-06/53 – Capital Projects Requirement for Funding

The Committee considered a memorandum dated 2nd February 2006 from the Director of Buildings outlining funding requirements for a number of priority projects/issues facing the College in the immediate future and agreed as follows:

Fire Certificate, Arts Building – Fire Certificate works are required to be carried out in order that College complies with planning requirements and the Director of Buildings expressed concern that the College is exposed to significant risk or loss if the situation continues. The Vice Provost, as Chair of the Safety Committee said that these works should be given priority. No funding is currently available and it was agreed that the Committee will ask for Board approval to write to the HEA to request funding for these works.

Rubrics – The Director of Buildings highlighted the need for extensive restoration work to the exterior of the Rubrics and the need for renovation of the interior. On the Bursar's recommendation it was agreed that a study will be carried out on the long term use of the buildings. Dr. Abrahamson suggested that funding might be forthcoming from the Trinity Foundation.

Restoration/Stone Cleaning – The Treasurer advised that the previous scheme for stone restoration was funded by a special grant from the HEA and suggested that College applies again for a similar grant to continue these works.

Access Control/ID Cards – On the Treasurer's recommendation it was agreed that the requirement for funding for these works be presented as part of the estimates to Executive Officers.

SF/05-06/ 53 – North East Corner Development, Proposed Commemorative Plaque

Following a request from Dublin Fire Brigade a memorandum from the Director of Buildings dated 1st February was circulated seeking Committee approval to erect a plaque to commemorate 3 Firemen who died while fighting a fire in no. 163/164 Pearse Street in 1936. The Committee agreed in principle to the erection of a plaque and will revisit this request when a more detailed proposal is put forward upon completion of the building.

SF/05-06/ 54 – Car Parking Working Group Minutes

The Committee noted the minutes of the Car Parking Working Group held on 17th January 2006. Dr. Abrahamson deferred his request for discussion on this item until the next meeting of SFC on 21st March 2006.

SF/05-06/ 55 – Trinity Ball

The President of the Students' Union advised the Committee of the use of Fellows Square during this years' Trinity Ball. The Director of Buildings advised that the College Safety Officer and the Facilities Officer have no objection to this proposal provided the necessary safety measures are put in place and that satisfactory access arrangements are agreed with An Garda Síochána.

SF/05-06/56 - Use of College Flagpoles

The President of the Students' Union also asked for discussion at the next meeting in relation to the protocol for use of the flag poles at the front of College. The Director of Buildings advised him to discuss this issue with the Facilities Officer prior to the next meeting.

SF/05-06/ 57 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Site and Facilities Committee will be held on 21st March 2006 at 11am.

Signed

Dated