

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Site and Facilities Committee Meeting held on 16th May 2006 in the Boardroom

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

Apologies Secretary (Mr. Michael Gleeson), Dr. J.K. McGinley

By invitation Dean of Students (Mr. Bruce Misstear)
Mr. Brendan Leahy, Buildings Officer (for item SF 05-06/99)

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

*Present for items SF/05-06/98 to SF/05-06/104 inclusive

**Present for items SF/05-06/95 to SF/05-06/100 inclusive

***Present for items SF/05-06/95 to SF/05-06/100 inclusive

Minutes

SF/05-06/95 - The minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2006 were signed by the Chairman.

SF/05-06/96 - The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2006 were approved subject to the following amendments:

SF/05-06/80 – Redevelopment of Luce Hall

The Dean of Students asked that further detail surrounding the discussion held on this item be added to the minute as follows:

The Director of Buildings advised the Committee that the Dean of Students furnished him with a memorandum which is preparatory to producing a schedule of accommodation for the Luce Hall. The Dean of Students listed various activities that might be accommodated in the Luce Hall including an events venue, café, bar, administration offices, meeting rooms, shop, games room etc. He drew attention in particular to the reference to the possibility of including multi-faith areas and additional prayer rooms and stated that this redevelopment would be a very suitable location to address the issue of a lack of prayer rooms in College.

SF/05-06/87 – Revised 'Operation and Management of Buildings' Document

The word 'document' was added to the second paragraph of this minute to read as follows:

It was agreed by the Committee that following these amendments this document will be circulated to members for comment and subject to the Committee's endorsement a final document will be submitted to Board for approval.

The second last sentence was amended to read:

The Secretary said that communication of these principles will be a challenge and Dr. McGinley suggested that Heads of Schools / Departments etc should be requested to sign off their acceptance

of their appointment as Persons in Control and arrangements associated therewith and that a central list of Persons in Control should be maintained.

SF/05-06/ 90 – Capital Projects Report

It was agreed that the following text be added to the minute:

‘about the purchase of a building that requires considerable refurbishment,’

To read:

In response to a query from Dr. Abrahamson about the purchase of a building that requires considerable refurbishment, the Director of Buildings said that the decision to purchase Dunlop Oriel House was made approximately four years ago and its close proximity to the College Campus was one of the main deciding factors when this decision was taken.

Matters Arising

A number of matters arising from the minutes were discussed and have been recorded below, (see Minutes **SF/05-06/97 and 98**).

SF/05-06/97 – Sale of Cumberland Street Store

Arising from a number of queries from Prof. Stalley the Director of Buildings advised that the timescale for the completion of the sale of Cumberland Street Store to the ESB will be at least 6 months. He further advised that the Buildings Office is currently taking an inventory of the items stored there and that any items of historic value will be flagged during this process. He confirmed the intention to notify members of the College of the proposed closure of the store. The Director of Buildings highlighted the need for space to store items that are not required at present but that are of value to the College; he mentioned that the Railway Arches will be returned to College shortly and these will provide some of the space needed.

SF/05-06/98 – Cobble Reduction Programme

The Director of Buildings advised that the Physical Access Working Group met on the 15th May 2006 and had identified priorities for the provision of accessible routes and had indicated that diagonal routes were favoured for this programme. Dr. Abrahamson said that he was present at the PAWG meeting and that a lengthy discussion took place leading to the decision that diagonal routes were preferable and further advised that the minimum width required for wheelchair access is 1200mm.

The Committee noted that the proposals would be submitted to the Grounds and Gardens Advisory Group for review and comment. The Director of Buildings said that the proposals would then be presented to the Site and facilities Committee for decision having regard to comments from these groups and other factors including safety issues. In response to a query from the Vice Provost the Director of Buildings said that he will seek comments from the College Safety Officer on this programme. Arising from a request from Prof. Stalley, the Director of Buildings undertook to bring samples of the possible materials to be used to the next meeting of SFC.

Section A

SF/05-06/99 – Buildings Office Service Catalogue

The Buildings Officer, present by invitation, invited the Committee’s attention to the draft Buildings Office Service Catalogue dated 10th May 2006 which had been circulated. A number of queries arose during the ensuing discussion and were answered by the Buildings Officer as follows:

- i) The provisions in the draft service catalogue reflect the maximum level of service that can be provided within current funding levels.
- ii) The services are described on the basis of buildings in College rather than Schools.
- iii) The services are based on academic buildings on the main campus and in the city centre. There will be slightly different arrangements for buildings outside of the city centre.

iv) It was agreed that the term 'Head of Building' will be amended to 'Person In Control' throughout the document.

During this discussion it was agreed by the Committee that a provision/guidelines for the resolution of disputes relating to service, costs etc. should be incorporated in the Service Catalogue.

The Buildings Officer advised the Committee that consultation with users of two buildings, the SNIAMS and the Lloyd Institute, will commence shortly.

A detailed discussion took place separately in relation to the proposal by the Buildings Officer to charge for non-maintenance transport services. The Buildings Officer explained that the purpose of this proposal was to allow resources to be concentrated on the core maintenance functions.

The Committee approved this draft Services Catalogue and the proposal to charge for transport services. It was agreed that the services would be reviewed one year from the date of implementation.

SF/05-06/100 – Pearse Street Development Planning Permission

A copy of the notice of intention to grant permission, subject to conditions, was circulated to the Committee. The Director of Buildings invited the Committee's attention to conditions 2 and 11 in particular. He advised the Committee that condition 2 relates to the College's proposal to demolish no's 183-187 Pearse Street and condition 11 relates to the requirement for a planning contribution of €1.724m which, he confirmed, is consistent with the practice of the planning authority of levying a standard charge per sq.m. of new space.

The Director of Buildings advised that the proposed permission represents a very satisfactory outcome for all the proposed new accommodation but is disappointing in that it will not allow the creation of a major new entrance from Pearse Street which was a major element in the brief and the competition winning design. He outlined a number of possible responses to the decision as follows:

1. Accept permission as it is.
2. Appeal against the conditions.
3. Accept the permission and resubmit for the demolition of the houses and the creation of a new entrance.

The Director of Buildings outlined the advice received from the Planning Consultants and he advised of the advantages and disadvantages of the various options. The Committee noted these implications and agreed that the Director of Buildings should proceed in the manner most likely to achieve the outcome desired by the College, having regard also to the possibility of a third party appeal.

SF/05-06/101 – Refurbishment of Luce Hall

A memorandum dated 8th May 2006 from the Director of Buildings was circulated to the Committee. The Director of Buildings advised the Committee that preliminary discussions have taken place among the working group comprising the Bursar, Dean of Students, President of the Students' Union and the Director of Buildings. He said that the working group has agreed that the full range of activities that might be accommodated should be identified and that the scale of the project be determined having regard to the maximum capacity in and around Luce Hall and the funding that is likely to be available. He advised the Committee that, at present, only €1m funding is available. In the course of the discussion the possibility of putting in place a student levy to aid in raising funds for the project was raised and the Dean of Students highlighted the need to bring the benefits of the redeveloped Luce Hall to those contributing as soon as possible if this course is taken.

In response to a query from Prof. Kelly the Bursar said that the existing Bioresources Unit will remain in the Luce Hall and that security of the unit is not expected to present significant difficulty.

The Committee approved the establishment of a Luce Hall Planning Committee as follows:

- The Bursar (Chair)
- The Dean of Students
- President of the Students Union
- Central Societies Committee Representative
- Director of Careers Advisory Service
- Board Representative
- Director of Accommodation and Catering Services
- Director of Sport
- Director of Buildings
- Building Projects Officer (Secretary/Convenor)

It was further agreed that the terms of reference for this Committee will provide for the Treasurer or representative to be consulted on financial matters and invited as and when appropriate to attend meetings. Also representatives from the Bioresources Unit and Department of Botany will be consulted as appropriate.

Section B

SF/05-06/102 – Renaming of Trinity Enterprise Centre

Following the expression of reservations by some members of the Committee at the SFC meeting held on 21st March 2006 surrounding the use of the word ‘Campus’ in the proposed new name for the Trinity Enterprise Centre, the Associate Dean of Research was asked to submit a more detailed paper on this matter (ref: SF/05-06/67). After a brief discussion the Committee approved the proposal to rename this site the Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus.

SF/05-06/ 103 – Trinity Enterprise Centre – Proposed Developments

The Director of Buildings circulated a report detailing a number of proposed Capital Developments at the Trinity Enterprise Centre. In response to a query from the Treasurer the Director of Buildings said that he will circulate a more detailed estimate of costs at a later date. After a brief discussion the Committee noted and approved the proposed developments.

Section C

SF/05-06/ 104 - Proposed Routes for Metro North

There having been no request for discussion, the letter dated 28th April 2006 from the Director of Buildings to the RPA was deemed to have been noted.

SF/05-06/105 - An Post Site Planning Committee

There having been no request for discussion, the minutes of the meeting of the An Post site Planning Committee held on 12th April 2006 were deemed to have been noted.

SF/05-06/104 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Site & Facilities Committee is scheduled to be held at 11am on the 20th June 2006 in the Boardroom.

Signed

Dated