



Minutes of the Estates Policy Committee Meeting of 05 June 2020

Microsoft Teams

Present: Prof. A. Seery (Chair), Bursar & Director of Strategic Innovation – Secretary to the Committee, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Director of Campus Infrastructure, President of the Graduate Students Union, Prof. J. Parnell, Mr C. O'Connor, Mr A. Grainger, Prof. C. Casey, Chief Operating Officer

In Attendance: For item 4: Roisin Smith, Quality Officer

Apologies:

Statement of Interest: None declared.

EPC/19-20/024 Minutes of 06 March 2020 meeting
These minutes were signed off as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.

EPC/19-20/025 Matters arising
A verbal update was provided:
EPC/19-20/017 Old Library Redevelopment Project: this project will present to Finance Committee and Board in June 2020, and subject to their approval will submit an application for planning permission. The project will return to Estates Policy Committee with a detailed design as it emerges, including an update on the proposed intervention for the Castle staircase.
EPC/19-20/018 E3 Zoology decant: an application for planning permission for the temporary structures has been submitted.
EPC/19-20/019 Space Allocation Policy: this draft policy document has been updated to reflect the comments in the last meeting.
EPC/19-20/020 Terms of Reference: the draft Terms of Reference have been updated to reflect the considerations of this Committee and will be brought to Executive Officers Group for approval.

Section A

EPC/19-20/026 **Institutional Review 2020**
Roisin Smith, Quality Officer attended for this item.
The institutional review of Trinity College Dublin had been planned for 23-27 November 2020; it has been confirmed with Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) that this review is now to be deferred to a later date (to be determined).
The Quality Officer requested the Committee's input on spaces which should be included on campus tours for the reviewers. The Chair invited the



Committee to give their views. It was noted that some previous quality review reports have highlighted the desirability of inclusion of parts of the estate off the main campus. It was further noted that it would be useful for the Grounds & Gardens Committee to have notice of proposed tour routes.

There was discussion of space utilisation. It was noted as desirable that we consider the estates holistically in terms of space utilisation, to consider how we progress the estate post-Covid 19. It was noted as desirable that reviewers see examples of both good space utilisation and suboptimal space utilisation, to highlight resourcing constraints. Further, presenting a broad range of examples of Trinity's estate may counter a limited public perception of Trinity as a well-endowed historic island campus.

Several buildings were proposed for the reviewers' campus tour:

- The Arts Building provides a good showcase for the reviewers, as an example of a modest investment centred on student experience.
- Trinity Centre in St James's Hospital as an example of integration of research and teaching space co-located with patients, offering a broad student experience.
- Historic buildings which are actively in use for teaching and research, e.g. Museum Building. It was recommended that constraints regarding maintenance funding for historic buildings be highlighted to the reviewers.
- Trinity's estate in Santry would highlight the playing fields, as well as issues related to the space constraints and cost of Library storage.

A query was raised regarding a finding of the Spatial Review, which noted that the optimum use of the historic campus can conflict with the use of historic buildings for didactic purposes.

The Quality Officer thanked the Committee for these suggestions and queries; the Quality Officer will work with the Bursar, who sits on the Institutional Self-Evaluation Team, to ensure content of interest to the Committee is included in the documentation for reviewers, and will liaise with the Chief Financial Officer regarding financial figures. If members of the Estates Policy Committee wish to recommend a case study for the self-reflective documentation, they may contact the Bursar or the Quality Officer directly.

The Chair thanked the Quality Officer, and wished her well for the review. The Quality Officer left the meeting, and the Chair invited comments from the Committee.

- Data on space utilisation pre- and post-Covid 19 would be very useful.
- The conditions survey will provide powerful evidence on the investment required for the estate.



Action	EPC/19-20/026/001	Quality Officer to revert to Estates Policy Committee with details of the final schedule for the institutional review visit, to confirm what areas/sites on and off campus are to be included in the on-site visit schedule. Bursar to inform Grounds & Gardens Committee of sites to be visited.
	EPC/19-20/026/002	Quality Officer will work with the Bursar to ensure content of interest to the Committee is included in the documentation for reviewers, and will liaise with the Chief Financial Officer regarding financial figures.
	EPC/19-20/026/003	If members of the Estates Policy Committee wish to recommend a case study for the Institutional Review self-reflective documentation, they may contact the Bursar or the Quality Officer directly.
	EPC/19-20/026/004	Director of Campus Infrastructure to liaise with Quality Officer regarding data on space utilisation pre- and post-Covid 19 and from the conditions survey for inclusion in reviewer documentation.

EPC/19-20/027 TTEC Development – 2/3 Grand Canal Quay ‘Swap’

The Director of Campus Infrastructure presented this item. The Chair noted to the Committee that this item is strictly confidential and contains commercially sensitive information.

This item relates to a Trinity Technology & Enterprise Centre (TTEC) land acquisition around 2/3 Grand Canal Quay, which will create a more contiguous TTEC site.

It was noted that there are maintenance costs associated with 2GCQ; 3GCQ will require some minor works if acquired, but this will be factored into early activation.

The Director of Campus Infrastructure requested the Committee’s approval to proceed to Finance Committee.

The Committee congratulated the Director of Campus Infrastructure on this practical and positive initiative. A query was raised regarding the likely timescale of the freehold acquisition; in response it was noted that to date there has been good engagement and good progress.

There was discussion of the impact of Covid 19; it was agreed that at this stage it is too early to assess this impact.

The Committee approved this item’s progression to Finance Committee.



Section B – no items

Section C

EPC/19-20/027 **Finance Committee decisions relevant to Estates Policy Committee**
No comments on this item.

EPC/19-20/028 **Proposed dates for next meetings**
Proposed dates for 2020/21:
04 September 2020 – a new date for September to be proposed.
04 December 2020
05 March 2021
04 June 2021

EPC/19-20/029 **AOB**
This is the final meeting for our current President of the graduate Students Union, Shaz Oye – on behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Ms Oye for her work and contributions to this Committee in providing representation for the student body, and wished her well in future endeavours.

The Chair thanked all Committee members for their work in 2019/20.