# Minutes of the Capitation Committee 27 March 2024 At 14.00 in the Elizabethan Room

**Present:** Senior Dean – Prof Eoin O'Sullivan, Secretary – Aidan Marsh, FSD – Aine Mulcahy, Dean of Students – Richard Porter, CSC – Ámhra Carey, CSC – Ronan Hodson, CSC – Grace Gallogley, CSC – Adam Ó Ceallaigh, CSC – Noelle Joyce, TSU – Fergus O'Brien, TSU – Donncdha Carroll, TSU – Jane Prendergast, Publications – Lara Mellett, SU – Aiesha Wong

**Apologies:** CSC – Samuel Isijola, TSU – Michelle O'Dwyer, Publications – Shane Donnellan, SU – László Molnarfi, SU – Aoife Bennet, SU – Catherine Arnold

# CC/23-24/021 Minutes of the Last Meetings of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The minutes of the meetings of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved.

# CC/23-24/022 Matters Arising

# **Trinity Ball Accounts Update on Auditors' Report**

The Trinity Ball in 2023 had a deficit of 1400 euro which will be covered by the Trinity Ball Committee from its reserves. Overall losses on the event were significantly higher, with MCD making good on the total Ball losses of €46,521. The final accounts are yet to be signed by the Auditor; however, this should be accomplished before the next meeting of the Committee.

# CC/23-24/023 Trinity Ball Update

The Court hearing to determine permission to go ahead will be taking place today. This is the final formal step in the approvals process for the Ball to go ahead. It is expected there will be no issues.

Invitations to Committee Reception have been circulated. The final invitation list includes members of the Capitation Committee, its parent committee, and significant figures to the running of the Ball.

The ticketing process was improved on the previous year, with fewer issues arising. The advice to students to use their own wireless networks rather than the college networks was beneficial and will be repeated in future years. Organisers have been working with Ticketmaster to resolve what issues have arisen, and it is noted that none of these have been major.

The Meeting with Dublin City Corporation was successful, and a licence has been granted for the event to occur.

Two training events for staff involved in the running of the Ball will be taking place this week.

It was raised by the Sports Union that the closure of the Pavilion Bar on the night of the Ball results in a potential revenue loss of €15,000. It was advised that the Sports Union raise the matter with College.

### CC/23-24/024 Student Centre Levy Funds Proposal



A proposal was put to the Committee by the CSC and SU that funding from the Student Spaces Levy be used for renovations in the Atrium, Hamilton Building, and the Old Stone Building at St. James Hospital. A costing of €19,151.90 was given for the intended renovations in the Atrium. A costing has not been made for the other proposed renovations.

The Dean of Students noted that an ongoing survey of spaces which are, or could become, student spaces was being undertaken by College, and that there is an ongoing project to renovate these spaces. This will include consultation with stakeholder groups including students, societies, and capitated bodies. It was suggested that the proposed renovations be folded into this ongoing project. It was noted that this may take longer however that the existing proposal before the Committee and it was hoped that the proposed renovations could be completed before the start of the next College year.

The SU, CSC, Dean of Students and Senior Dean will meet to discuss how, and if, this proposal might be incorporated into the wider project.

Regarding the proposed renovations to society rooms in the Atrium, it was queried as to why the CSC was not using its own funds as these are rooms for society use, and not general student use. The CSC noted that they did not have room in their budget for such expenditures.

The Committee were willing to approve the proposal in principle, however clearer information regarding the plans and necessary costs would be required.

# CC/23-24/025 Financial Matters

# **Discussion of GSU Funds**

A breakdown of the funds previously allocated to the Graduate Students' Union has been agreed upon between the Capitated Bodies. This breakdown will be ratified by the Capitation Committee on an annual basis at the beginning of each College Year. The agreed upon breakdown follows:

Students Union63.72%Central Societies Committee14.64%Trinity Sports Union14.64%Publications7.00%

# **Change of Auditors**

Aine Mulcahy gave a presentation to the Committee on the importance of regularly changing auditors. Following the presentation, she provided the recommendation that the Capitated Bodies move to using the same auditing firm with a new shared auditor for 2024.

It was agreed that, as a matter of good practice, a change in auditors should be examined and undertaken, however it was also acknowledged that it would not be possible to arrange new auditors in time for the 2024 audits, but that the Capitated Bodies would begin the process aiming to have new auditors for the 2025 audits. It was noted that existing systems may need to be reexamined should a new auditor require different or additional information for different levels of test checking.



The Capitated Bodies will undertake an initial examination of what is required from an auditor and will speak on the matter at the next meeting of the Capitation Committee.

# CC/23-24/026 Any Other Business

# Update on changes in the CSC

In the last 18 months the CSC has been implementing major operational and management changes and is establishing a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) which will be responsible for employment and HR matters relating to the CSC. A Memorandum of Understanding has been established between the CSC and this new organisation, the Central Societies Committee Administration Company (CSCAC) and work is being done on transferring existing employment from the CSC to the CSCAC.

The CSCAC's governing body consists of Declan Meehan, Holly Furlong and Martin McAndrew. It is the intention that this new organisation will provide the CSC with greater stability and legal support than the previous structure.

Ronan Hodson noted that with this work completed, his time with the CSC has come to an end, and he will be stepping down from his role as CSC representative on the Capitation Committee. The Committee thanked Ronan for his work during his time on the committee.

#### Article 4.5

A complaint about the conduct of the members of the Students' Union, and concerns of unconstitutional actions, has been raised under Article 4.5 of the Capitation Committee's Terms of Reference. The Chair will call a separate meeting of the Committee to review the matter.

A tentative date was set for the next meeting of the Capitation Committee for 2.00pm on Thursday  $4^{th}$  April 2024.