

Áine Lynch	Present
Ann Mulcahy	Present
Anne Howard	Apologies
Anne Loughnane	Present
Bryan O'Reilly	Present
Catherine Doolan	Present
Catherine Moynihan	Present
Ciaran O'Donnell	Present
David O'Sullivan	Present
Declan Fahie	Present
Eamon Dennehy	Present
Eamonn Shaughnessy	Present
Fergal McCarthy	Present
Gerry Leydon	Present
Gráinne Conachy	Present
Jean Beswick Duignan	Present
Kathleen Burke	Present
Liam Ó Néill	Present
Mai Fanning	Apologies
Mary Magner	Present
Mary Curley	Present
Michael Delargey	Present
Michelle Keane	Present
Niall Duddy	Absent
Niamh Hourigan	Present
Niamh Dennehy	Present
Noel Cronin	Present
Paul Moroney	Present
Peter McCabe	Present
Rosena Jordan	Apologies
Séamus Ó Fearraigh	Present
Seán Ó hArgáin	Present
Seán Ó Dubhlaing	Present
Seán O'Neill	Present
Teresa O'Doherty	Present
Tracie Tobin	Present

Staff in attendance: Lynn Ramsey, Director; Phil Fox, Deputy Director; Harry McGeary, Head of Finance and IT; Siobhan Healy, Head of Registration; Finola O'Dwyer, Solicitor & Head of Professional Standards; Bríd Murphy, Head of Initial Teacher Education & Induction, Carmel Kearns, Head of Teachers' Learning and Research, Ruth Flynn Head of Corporate Affairs and Human Resources,

1. Attendance & Apologies

1.1. Opening Remarks by Chairperson

- i. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.
- ii. The Chair extended a welcome on behalf of the Council to the new Director, Dr Lynn Ramsey, at this her first meeting of Council.

1.2. Noting of Apologies

Apologies were noted from Anne Howard, Niall Duddy, Mai Fanning, and Rosena Jordan.

1.3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Noel Cronin declared a conflict for item 6.2.

Members of the Disciplinary Committee who have previously considered the matters are conflicted for items 6.1 & 6.2.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

2.1. Minutes

The minutes of meeting 12 December 2022 were approved having been proposed by Bryan O'Reilly and seconded by Mary Curley.

The minutes of meeting 16 January 2023 were approved having been proposed by Jean Beswick and seconded by Seán Ó Dubhlaing.

The minutes of meeting 23 January 2023 were approved having been proposed by David O'Sullivan and seconded by Paul Moroney.

2.2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising noted.

3. Standing Item

3.1. Appointments to Committees & Panels

The Chair noted the resignation from Council of Mary Rose Cremin which comes into effect at midnight on 06 March 2023.

The following members were appointed to the Code of Practice Working Group

- o Michelle Keane
- o Ann Mulcahy

- o Niamh Dennehy
- o Mai Fanning
- o David O'Sullivan
- o Seán O'Neill
- o Michael Delargey
- o Eamonn Shaughnessy

having been proposed by Noel Cronin and seconded by Mary Magner.

4. Directors Report

Avril Lennon, Communications Manager joined the meeting for this section.

4.1. Update from Director

The Director's report was taken as read and the following points were noted by the Director:

- o The collation of the work of the management team regarding the legislative reform is almost complete and will progress to Executive Committee. Reform requests will be split into two categories for the Departments consideration, immediate amendments required to ensure continued effective and efficient operation of the Council and less urgent amendments which will travel with the PCR.
- o It is a requirement, under the Code of Practice for State Bodies, that Council minutes be published on our website and Council will implement this.

The following point was noted in the ensuing discussion:

- o The Council currently has two open cases with the Ombudsman. The Head of Registration clarified that the Ombudsman can examine the decision-making process of the public authority and not the substantive decision of the authority.

5. Items for Decision (Finance Committee)

Shane Gorey, Corporate Affairs and HR Manager joined the meeting for this section.

5.1. Draft Budget 2023

The Head of Finance & IT presented the budget for 2023 to Council. The following points were noted in the ensuing discussion:

- o The significant operating deficit is driven by an increase in the underlying cost base of the Council, particularly increased staffing costs.
- o The Head of Finance confirmed that the current reserves held by the Council were accumulated in the years before some of the functions outlined in the Teaching Council Acts 2001-2015 were commenced and it was recognised that they would be used to cover future deficits.

- Although the council does not currently have a reserves policy, consideration will be given by the Finance Committee to reviewing at what juncture Council would need to act to secure additional funding from various sources.
- There is an ethical clause in the Council Investment portfolio.

The budget as presented was approved having been proposed by Peter McCabe and seconded by Ann Mulcahy.

5.2. Bank Mandate Update

The update to the Bank Mandate were approved having been proposed by Seán Ó Dubhlaing and seconded by Catherine Doolan

5.3. Procurement Process for Facilities Management Services

The Corporate Affairs and HR Manager delivered a presentation on the Facilities Management Services Tender process, evaluation and outcome.

The tender process and appointment of K-Mac was approved having been proposed by Bryan O'Reilly and seconded by Seán Ó Dubhlaing.

5.4. Procurement Process for Website

The Corporate Affairs and HR Manager delivered a presentation on the Website Tender process, evaluation and outcome.

The tender process and appointment of New Graphic was approved having been proposed by Áine Lynch and seconded by Declan Fahie.

5.5. Procurement Process for Telephone System

The Corporate Affairs and HR Manager delivered a presentation on Telephone System Tender process, evaluation and outcome.

The tender process and appointment of Magnet+ was approved having been proposed by Noel Cronin and seconded by Catherine Moynihan.

6. Items for Decision (Disciplinary Committee)

Declan O'Leary, Head of Disciplinary Unit, joined the meeting for this section.

The following Disciplinary Committee Members absented themselves from consideration of this section having considered publication at Disciplinary Committee: Tracie Tobin, Paul Moroney, Sean O'Neill. Declan Fahie, Áine Lynch, Mary Magner. Fergal McCarthy was also not in attendance for consideration of this section.

6.1. Decision whether to publish website notice pursuant to section 46B of the Teaching Council Acts – registered teacher [REDACTED]

The Head of Disciplinary Unit presented this item outlining the outcome of the inquiry in this matter and providing a synopsis of the submissions from the Director's team with regard to the issue of publication of finding and sanction and relevant correspondence with the teacher.

The recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee was outlined to Council and the options available to Council under section 46B of the Act in terms of publication.

A decision was made to publish the finding and sanction on the Teaching Council website (including [REDACTED] name, as per the Disciplinary Committee's recommended draft), pursuant to section 46B(b) of the Teaching Council Act, having been proposed by Mary Curley and seconded by Liam O'Neill

6.2. **Decision whether to publish website notice pursuant to section 46B of the Teaching Council Acts – registered teacher [REDACTED]**

Noel Cronin left the Council meeting for consideration of this item, 6.2.

The Head of Disciplinary Unit presented this item outlining the outcome of the inquiry in this matter and providing a synopsis of the submissions from both the teacher's solicitor and the Director's team with regard to the issue of publication of finding and sanction. The recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee was outlined to Council and the options available to Council under section 46B of the Act in terms of publication.

A decision was made to publish the finding and sanction on the Teaching Council website (not naming [REDACTED] as per the Disciplinary Committee's recommended draft), pursuant to section 46B(b) of the Teaching Council Act, having been proposed by Bryan O'Reilly and seconded by Seán Ó Dubhlaing Item for Decision

7.1. **Protected Disclosure Annual Report**

The Protected Disclosure Annual Report was approved for publication on the Teaching Council website having been proposed by Paul Moroney and seconded by Peter McCabe

7. **Items for Decision**

8.1. **Appointment of Returning Officer for Election 2024**

Council approved the appointment of Brendan O'Dea as returning officer for Election 2024 having been proposed by Áine Lynch and seconded by Fergal McCarthy

8.2. **Election Regulations (no decision required)**

The Head of Corporate Affairs gave a brief update on the ongoing work regarding potential amendments to the Election Regulations. In the ensuing discussion the following point was noted:

- o Council agreed that a communications campaign would be put in place to promote the work of Council and its members. The campaign may include videos of members speaking about the benefits of being a Council Member, in the context of the professional learning opportunities, it provides.

8.3. **Election Categories and Constituencies**

Council approved Audit and Risk Committee to review the allocation of registered teachers to Categories and Constituencies, provide additional feedback regarding the updating of this Regulation 6(2) if necessary and recommend for decision to Council in May having been proposed by Eamonn Shaughnessy and seconded by Seán Ó Dubhlaing.

8. Item for Decision

Barry Fagan, Solicitor, Fieldfisher, joined the meeting for this section.

9.1. Section 37 Regulations

The Deputy Director delivered a presentation to Council members on the Section 37 regulations before them for decision.

The Section 37 Regulations were approved having been proposed by Áine Lynch and seconded by Gráinne Conachy

9. Item for Decision

The Head of Corporate Affairs introduced the Risk Register to members. In the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

- o Members requested that scores regarding Teacher Supply likelihood be reviewed with a view to increasing the likelihood having regard to the current issues with teacher supply.
- o Members requested further consideration of the scoring of the likelihood of a breach of research ethics.
- o Members also requested further consideration of the teacher release scoring and the inclusion of the legal advice received to date.

It was agreed that the Management team would review the Risk Register and bring it to Council via the Audit and Risk committee in May.

10. Item for Discussion

The Director introduced the Action Plan as circulated to members. She requested feedback from members on what additional information (eg KPI's) would be helpful for Council in their use of this plan. Members agreed that the addition of KPI's as well as defined timelines would be of benefit. The Director agreed to review the document with the Management team and bring it back to Council before the end of the academic year.

11. Items for Noting

12.1. Executive Committee

The Update from the Chair was noted.

12.2. Education Committee

The Education Committee Chair's report was noted.

The Head of ITEI advised the Council that following several meetings with the Department of Education a pragmatic approach to the provision of Droichead Cluster meetings in the 2023/2024 school year was evolving. Once finalised a proposal will be put before Education Committee and subject to its recommendation, to Council for approval.

12.3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee Chair's report was noted.

12.4. Registration Committee

The Registration Committee Chair's report was noted.

12.5. Investigating Committee

The Investigating Committee Chair's report was noted.

12.6. Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee Chair's report was noted.

12.7. Audit & Risk committee

The Audit & Risk Committee Chair's report was noted.

12. Item for Noting

13.1. Council Calendar

The Head of Corporate Affairs introduced the proposed Council Calendar for the academic year 2023/2024 which was noted.

13.2. Discussion on arrangements for meetings of Council

Members expressed concern regarding the number of Tuesdays being used for meeting, in particular for the Panel meetings who have seven Tuesdays.

It was agreed that the Director and Deputy Director would invite the Boards of Management and School management bodies of Council members to Maynooth for an information session on the work of the council and to acknowledge their continued support in this work.

13. Item for Noting

14.1. Teacher Release Update

The Deputy Director Updated members regarding the legal advice received regarding legislation for Teacher release for Council business.

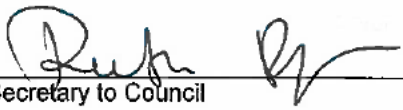
It was agreed that a suggested amendment allowing for Teacher Release be included in the current amendments that are in progress. The Terms of Reference for the PCR will be shared with Council as soon as the Department has finalised them.

It was further agreed that the management team would seek legal clarification on the legislative basis for Oireachtas leave for serving teachers.

Meeting Ended 15:40

Signed: Michelle Keane
Council Chair

Date: 22.05.23

Signed: 
Secretary to Council

Date: 22/05/23

23-05-23


Michelle Linn

APPENDIX 1

Actions Arising from Council Meeting 06 March 2023

Action	Owner	Timeframe
Communications Package for Election 2024 to be Developed	Head of Corporate Affairs & Comms Team	Summer 2023
Risk Register to be reviewed as requested	Head of Corporate Affairs	ASAP
Action Plan to be reviewed as discussed	Director	ASAP
Legal Advice regarding Oireachtas Leave for Teachers	Deputy Director	ASAP

