

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Site and Facilities Committee Meeting held on 18th April 2006 in the Boardroom

Present Bursar (Prof. D.C. Williams), Treasurer (Ms. Grace Dempsey), Students Union President (Mr. John Mannion), Prof. Roger Stalley, Dr. J.K. McGinley, **Dr. David Abrahamson, Prof. Christopher Bell, *Secretary (Mr. Michael Gleeson), Director of Buildings (Mr. Paul Mangan)

Apologies Prof. John Kelly, Vice-Provost (Prof. Ruth Byrne)

By invitation Dean of Students (Mr. Bruce Misstear)

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

*Present for items SF/05-06/79 to SF/05-06/90 inclusive

**Present for items SF/05-06/79 to SF/05-06/91 inclusive

The Bursar welcomed Prof. Christopher Bell, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences as Deans' representative to the Committee.

Minutes

SF/05-06/ 79 - The Committee agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2006 should be amended as follows:

SF/05-06/72 – Operation and Management of Buildings

The Committee agreed with Dr. Abrahamson's request to remove the words 'set up' from the minute SF/05-06/72 Student's Representative as and when appropriate to the membership set up.

SF/05-06/ 69 – Provost's House Stables

The Committee agreed with the Secretary's request to correct the name of the Arts Building changing the word 'Block' to 'Building' as follows:

A revised plan was shown to the Committee and the inclusion of a hoist lift from the Arts ~~Block~~ Building basement level to path level was approved.

SF/05-06/ 70 – An Post Site Development

Following a query from Dr. Abrahamson the words 'fall within' in the following sentence in this minute will be changed to 'be met from'.

The Treasurer agreed with the Bursar that very careful financial planning is required and that the cost implications of decanting departments from within Campus could not ~~fall within~~ be met from College funds and that external funding will be required.

SF/05-06/68 – College Flag Flying Protocol

It was agreed that the words 'and that he had been mandated to raise the issue.' be removed from the following sentence:

A memorandum from the Students' Union President was circulated to the Committee proposing a number of changes to the current College flag flying protocol. The SU President said that the issue had been raised at the Students Union Council ~~and that he had been mandated to raise the issue.~~

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2006 were otherwise agreed by the Committee and will be signed by the Chairman once these amendments are made.

Matters Arising

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

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.

The Dean of Students advised that he has received a request to include accommodation for the Trinity Access Programme in a future Student Centre.

The Students' Union President advised that the proposed events venue might accommodate both Student led and College led events.

The Committee noted that following a further meeting of the Director of Buildings, Bursar, Dean of Students and President of the Students' Union a schedule of accommodation and predicted cost will be brought to Site & Facilities Committee.

SF/05-06/81 – Cobble Reduction Programme

The Director of Buildings advised that he has discussed the current proposals and the comments made at the Grounds & Gardens Advisory Committee with Professor Stalley. He said he is awaiting comment on the proposed layout of the Cobble Reduction Programme from the Disability Services Coordinator of the Physical Access Working Group. Professor Stalley advised that, in his opinion, the proposed arrangements are reasonable in terms of layout and that the most important issue will be to use a material that is appropriate architecturally and operationally.

SF/05-06/82 - Proposal to Erect Michael Warren Sculpture

The Director of Buildings advised the Committee that O'Donnell & Tuomey Architects have recommended that the Michael Warren sculpture should be located at the east end of the courtyard at the Provost's House Stables and further advised that this location will not affect accessibility. The Committee agreed to the proposed location of this sculpture.

SF/05-06/83 – An Post Site Development

The Director of Buildings told the Committee that the Associate Dean of Research had briefed the Planning Committee on the outcome of a visit to College by an international review panel which resulted in a recommendation that a dedicated Biosciences / Biomedical Research Institute be established in TCD. Arising from this recommendation the Associate Dean believes that accommodation might be provided for areas such as Biochemistry, Immunology, Organic / Medicinal Chemistry, Bioengineering, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, elements of Molecular Medicine, a possible centre for Health Informatics, supporting Bioresources and other facilities together with

new dedicated national facilities for small molecule characterisation and protein expression. Consideration might also be given to the relocation of certain other related research facilities and other research initiatives that are being pursued.

The Director of Buildings and the Bursar indicated that the decision on the inclusion of various initiatives in the schedule of accommodation would be dependent to a very large extent on their likelihood of attracting both capital funding and recurrent funding to secure their long term viability. In that context the Committee noted that the above list could not be regarded as definitive at this time as some of the proposals are quite aspirational.

The Director of Buildings advised that planning is continuing and that, following a further meeting with the planners and a proposed meeting with the local community it was hoped that a proposed planning application will be outlined to the next meeting.

He advised that it will be necessary to secure further funding to allow detailed design to continue during the period while the planning application is being considered.

SF/05-06/84 – Beckett Centenary

Referring to SFC minute SF/05-06/ 78 – Samuel Beckett Centenary Celebrations , the Director of Buildings advised the Committee that at the Board meeting on the 5th April 2006 the Provost advised Board that in view of the very close association which Samuel Beckett had with the College, the College had facilitated the light show which had taken place on 2nd April 2006.

Section A

SF/05-06/85 – Pavilion Lift

A memorandum from the Architectural Services Officer dated 11th April 2006 was circulated outlining the outcome of a meeting with Dublin City Planners at which he was informed that the proposed location of the lift to the front of the Pavilion was unacceptable. The Director of Buildings said that a plan for a new proposed location will be developed in consultation with the Physical Access Working Group and Sports and DUCAC representatives and will be circulated to the Committee in due course.

SF/05-06/86 – Proposed Routes for Metro North/RPA Public Consultation

An email was circulated on the 13th of April to the Committee by the Director of Buildings along with an image of a map showing the 3 proposed routing options for the Metro in the city centre, all of which run under the College.

The Director of Buildings advised that in order that a response from the College can be drafted in time to meet the deadline for submission of comment to the RPA of the 30th April he has commissioned O'Connor, Sutton, Cronin Engineers (engineers for the Ussher Library project) to advise College of the implications of the routes proposed by the RPA and their potential effect on historic buildings. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the College response should highlight the geotechnical and archaeological issues that will arise and the importance of avoiding any damage to such architecturally significant and historic College buildings.

The Director of Buildings undertook to submit a paper to Executive Officers for approval outlining how he intends to signal the College's serious concerns over the proposed routes.

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

A revised version of the Operation and Management of Buildings document was circulated to the Committee. Following a brief discussion it was noted that a number of minor amendments are required to ensure consistency and clarity.

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 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. This was agreed by the Committee.

SF/05-06/ 88 – Sale of South Cumberland Street Store

A memorandum was circulated by the Director of Buildings dated 10th April 2006 outlining the proposed sale of the South Cumberland Street Store to the ESB. The background to this proposal is that the College requires a substantial increase in its electrical supply and the ESB has agreed to supply the additional capacity on the condition that the College will sell it this suitable site. The Committee endorsed this proposal and asked that notice be given prior to the disposal of items stored, that all items be disposed of in an environmentally friendly way and that consideration be given to offering any useful items to members of the College who wish to have them.

Section B

SF/05-06/89 – Proposed Development at Enterprise Centre Site

A memorandum dated 10th of April 2006 and a map of the Enterprise Centre Site were circulated by the Director of Buildings outlining a proposal being developed under which the College will enter into a joint development of part of its lands at this site with two adjoining property owners. The Director of Buildings advised the Committee that a Co-operation Agreement is currently being drawn up. It was agreed that this agreement should be submitted to Executive Officers for approval. The Director of Buildings further advised the Committee that the project would be advertised in the EU Journal following receipt of consent from the IDA and indicated that he will update the Committee at the next meeting. The Committee noted progress to date and recommended that the College should proceed to the next stage.

The Bursar advised that he has invited the Associate Dean of Research to outline for the Committee the proposal to rename the Enterprise Centre the 'Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus'. The Committee reiterated the fact that the naming or renaming of College buildings is a matter for the Site and Facilities Committee.

SF/05-06/ 90 – Capital Projects Report

A report entitled Capital Projects: Summary Information on Financial Position and Other Matters – Issue 8 – April 2006 was circulated by the Director of Buildings.

The Director of Buildings drew attention to the changes since the previous issue and drew attention to any areas of significant risk to the College. In response to a query from Prof. Bell on the outstanding ICT Skills funding promised to the College he advised that the College has allocated and spent the full amount offered by the HEA and is awaiting the outcome of a request put to the Department of Education to honour this promised allocation of funds.

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.

The Committee noted that the report indicated an overall capital deficit of €5.9m and agreed that, although small relative to the overall scale of the developments covered by the report, this represents a significant sum that will have to be addressed. The Committee agreed to a suggestion from the Treasurer that the deficit be highlighted when forwarding this to Board.

SF/05-06/ 91 – Refurbishment of 3-4 Foster Place

A memorandum dated 10th April 2006 and a series of drawings were circulated by the Director of Buildings. In response to a query from the Treasurer and Prof. Stalley relating to the apparently

limited amount of usable space indicated, the Director of Buildings advised that the focus of this proposal is the provision of space for academic use and therefore the proposed layout includes many separate offices. He said that an alternative proposal for an open plan layout was not developed at this time as it would not be suitable for academic use. He agreed that such a layout would be more space and cost efficient and would be more suitable for commercial letting. In response to a number of queries relating to the provision of rental space for commercial businesses the Director of Buildings and the Treasurer advised that the income stream from letting space less suitable for academic use, e.g. at ground level, could be used towards the redevelopment costs.

The Committee agreed that an application for planning permission based on the drawings circulated be completed and submitted for approval to Dublin City Planning Department.

Section C

SF/05-06/92 – Provost’s House Stables Project

A memorandum from the Director of Buildings dated 11th April 2006 was circulated to the Committee outlining the programme for this project and including a cost report. The Committee noted the programme and cost report.

SF/05-06/ 93 – Parking Restrictions for the Trinity Ball 2006

A memorandum from the Facilities Officer, Mr. Noel McCann was circulated to the Committee outlining the parking restrictions necessary prior to, during and after the 2006 Trinity Ball. The Committee noted that 2 members of the Car Parking working Group had expressed reservations regarding the proposal. Arising from a query submitted to the Director of Buildings prior to SFC from Ms. Leo Dungan of the Car Parking Working Group, the Committee was told that it will not be possible to take over parking spaces on a staggered basis. The Director of Buildings advised that the restrictions, though disruptive, are considered necessary for the safety of pedestrians. The Committee agreed to the parking restrictions as proposed but asked that, in future, all the implications for the College during the Trinity Ball period, including parking, should be considered by Board at the time of the initial proposal to stage the Ball.

SF/05-06/ 94 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Site & Facilities Committee is scheduled to be held at 11am on the 16th May 2006 in the Boardroom.

Signed

Dated