

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of Special Board Meeting, 9 October 2002 – 10.00 am

Present Provost (Dr J Hegarty), Vice-Provost (Dr J B Grimson), Registrar (Mr R A Stalley), Bursar (Dr J W O'Hagan), Senior Lecturer (Dr S M Greene), Dr S P A Allwright, Mr B Connolly, Dr L E Doyle, Ms E Drew, Dr J A Fitzpatrick, Dr H Gibbons, Dr C Horn, Mr H Kearns, Ms M Leahy, Dr J G Lunney, Dr J M Mossman, Mr I Moynihan, Mrs J O'Hara, Dr J C Sexton, Dr F Shevlin, Ms E K Stokes, Dr D L Weaire, Dr T T West.

Apologies Dr S Duffy, Ms A-M Gatling, Dr A N M Ní Chasaide, Mr W Priestly.

In attendance

(ex officio) Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary.

(by invitation) Director of Buildings.

2/32 Contractual arrangements for IITAC Building Introducing the topic, the Provost invited Board's attention to a number of external factors which are influencing the College's need to progress the construction of the IITAC building without delay. The Provost advised Board that other capital projects, which are currently being considered by the College, will proceed more slowly until the strategic plan is adopted, noting that the Plan will provide the overall strategic context for future capital developments.

The Provost invited Board's attention to the academic benefits of locating ICT and neuroscience research in one location, noting in particular the strategic benefits of such interdisciplinary research. He also pointed out that these projects had been identified some years ago as flagship research projects for the College, with both promoted for PRTL funding and proving major successes for the College, noting that, as such, the College was committed in a very strategic way to accommodating these important research groups in as timely a manner as possible.

The Provost, noting concerns about the reduced teaching space in the IITAC building as currently proposed, invited Board's attention to the Site and Facilities Committee's proposal that one new lecture theatre be included in the current design of the IITAC building and that there should be sufficient flexibility in its design to facilitate the incorporation of additional theatres should sufficient funding become available in the future.

The Provost also invited Board's attention to a memorandum from the Bursar and the Director of Buildings, dated 4 October 2002, which had been circulated summarising the key issues associated with the development. The Board also noted the draft minute of its discussions on the North East Corner on 25 September 2002 which will be before the Board meeting scheduled to take place on 23 October 2002.

The Director of Buildings, present by invitation, invited Board's attention to the design for the building which would allow, by the removal of a ground floor, the development of lecture theatres at a future date, provided that the accommodation commitments given in regard to IITAC and the Neuroscience Institute were met. The Board noted that it was proposed to locate some elements of the Neuroscience Institute in the Bioresources space in the Luce Hall thereby introducing a small element of flexibility into the design of the IITAC building and lessening pressure on costs.

The Director of Buildings also advised Board that, following a third party appeal, full planning permission for the North East Corner development had been granted by An Bord Pleanála.

In the course of an extensive discussion on the proposals the following points were made by Board members:

- (i) every effort should be made to incorporate at least two lecture theatres into the building;
- (ii) social space with comfortable seating and, where possible, coffee bars should be included in the design of the building;
- (iii) the stonework which was removed from the Dixon Hall should be incorporated into the new building;
- (iv) there should be adequate facilities for the house-keeping staff.

The Bursar and the Director of Buildings advised Board that all of these points will need to be addressed in the context of the binding constraints of the limited size of the building, the research space committed under the terms of the PRTLTI funding and the overall fixed budget for the building.

The Bursar and the Director of Buildings answered the following specific queries from Board members:

- (a) in order to fulfil commitments to the funders of the research programmes alternative accommodation would have to be found for some elements of the research activity located in the IITAC building, should the ground floor be removed to construct lecture theatres;
- (b) the installation of a ground floor as proposed would not require any adjustment to the planning permission which has been granted;
- (c) the elimination of the Sports Complex from the North East Corner development is the only amendment required to the planning permission which the College has been granted;
- (d) the standard penalty clauses would apply to the developer for delays in the completion date arising from his own actions; any adjustments by the College to the agreed design or any delays incurred as a result of actions by the College would result in additional costs to the College;
- (e) the external atrium included in the design of the building will be a link between the Sami Nasr Institute for Advanced Materials and the IITAC building and will not offer any potential for social space whereas the building's inner atrium will;
- (f) the relatively high water table in the vicinity of the site significantly increases the costs of digging below the levels which are proposed;
- (g) avoidance of the water table may necessitate a 400mm reduction in the height of the proposed lecture theatre
- (h) tenders for buildings are sought on the basis of a defined design which is then adjusted on the basis of the costs to match the funds available for the project.

Incorporating any amendments approved at subsequent Board meetings

The Provost advised Board that every effort will be made to secure the funding necessary to provide new teaching facilities in the area, noting the potential which the proposed development of Pearse Street offers in this regard.

The Director of Buildings advised Board that if the contract with the developer is signed immediately work can commence in November 2002, noting that it will be necessary to complete the design of the building by the end of December 2002 and that the building will be due for completion within twenty-two months.

The Board, noting that final decisions in relation to the design of the building would be the responsibility of the building's planning committee, agreed that a contract should be signed with the developer and requested the Planning Committee to take note of the issues raised by Board members in relation to the design of the building and to adopt as flexible approach as possible to the design within the various constraints.

2/33 Dunlop Oriel House The Secretary advised Board that the Dublin Dental Hospital Board at its last meeting had not reached a final decision as to whether it would accept the College's offer for the purchase of Dunlop Oriel House and that it had indicated that a decision would be reached at its next meeting scheduled for late November 2002. The Secretary advised Board that should the previously agreed conditions of the purchase of the property change in any way the matter would be referred to Board before any final contracts were signed.

2/34 Pearse Street Competition Under Other Business in response to a query from Mr Connolly, the Director of Buildings advised Board that the winning entry in the Pearse Street competition would be put on display as soon as possible.

Signed:

Date: