



Trinity Legacies Review Working Group

Thursday 7th November 2023

2.00pm

Present: Eoin O'Sullivan (Chair), Aidan Marsh (Secretary), László Molnárfi (TCDSU), Aoife Bennet (TCDSU), Evi Numen (HS), Rachel Moss (IFUT), Kevin Byrne (SIPTU), Helen Shenton (Librarian), Catherine O'Mahony (Comms), David O'Shea (TCD Dev. & Alumni), Patrick Walsh (TCL), Ciaran O'Neill (TCL), Catriona Crowe (formerly of the NAI), Lynn Scarff (NMI)

Apologies: Hamzo Bana (TCDSU), Francis Hendron (UNITE), Cliona O'Farrelly (Fellows), Sinead McBride (College Solicitor), Francis O'Toole (AHSS), Siobhan Ward (HS)

TLRWG/23-24/001

Minutes of the Meeting of the 12th April 2023

The minutes of the meeting of 12th April 2023 were approved.

TLRWG/23-24/002

Updates on the Inisbofin Crania

A ceremony took place in the College Chapel the crania were returned to Inisbofin where they were inhumed following a ceremony on the island. The Chair attended representing the Provost and a number of other members of the TLRWG also attended. The event received favourable publicity and there seems to have been a general public approval for the decision and subsequent actions.

TLRWG/23-24/003

Updates on the Memorialisation of George Berkeley

The Library - The library formerly known as the Berkeley Library will be known as The Library in communications and records until a new name is bestowed. This carries out the Board decision to remove the name 'Berkeley', without introducing more operational complications and confusion from having an interim name. The sign on the building with Berkeley's name is presently covered as it cannot be unilaterally taken down without approval of Dublin City Council, because the building is a protected monument. The decision to dename the library received moderate publicity with most correspondence being broadly positive, endorsing the decision of the Board to dename. It was noted that the ability to provide the submissions and research supporting the decision, as well as the transparency of the processes, have proven useful in acceptance of the Board's decision.

Stained Glass – The Chapel Committee have discussed this matter following the decision of Board to retain and explain the window in the Chapel and are in the process of updating the Chapel's informational booklet with the additional information and hope to have the new booklet available before Christmas. A plaque was considered by the Chapel Committee, but the area was deemed to be too inaccessible for a plaque to be a feasible option.

Gold Medals – The Department of Classics favoured denaming the medals and this was endorsed by Board; however advice has been received from the Financial Services Division that this would require a decision of the High Court and possibly the Charitable Commissioners due to the nature of the bequest that funds that the medals. As bringing this single item before the High Court is felt to be an inefficient use of the Court's time, it has been decided that the medals will be

administratively denamed but will retain the name for legal purposes until there are enough similar administrative tasks to warrant bringing a collection of items to the High Court.

Three portraits – Portraits of Berkeley remain in the Common Room and the Exam Hall, with a third portrait unlocated. Following the recommendation in April that a *College-wide policy on the display of memorials be instituted, the Provost asked the College Curator and Head of the University Art Collections* to re-establish an advisory group on memorials in public spaces.

TLRWG/23-24/004

New Advisory Committee on the Restitution and Repatriation of Cultural Heritage

A new government advisory committee has been established by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Once this committee is in operation it is understood that the Chair may consider recruiting additional members from the University sector. It is intended that College will feed into this broader government initiative to establish guidelines, rather than acting unilaterally, as this will be the most efficient and well-informed path. It was noted that while awaiting developments,, it may be useful for College to examine and tighten up existing guidelines that may not be covered by this committee.

TLRWG/23-24/005

Renaming of the Library

The working group has been tasked with advising the Provost on providing a new name for The Library. It is intended that part of this task should include a public consultation on the new name; however it was also recognised that a clear and detailed rationale for any possible new name must be provided before it would be considered by the working group. It was further noted to be aware of setting precedent for the process of naming buildings. It was recognised that any action taken by College with regard to names will likely be of interest to both other institutions and by the general public.

The working group noted that College is increasingly a public space, and that any new name for the Library must recognise this, and, importantly, must align with College's values. It was recommended that evidence be provided for all submissions, and that any new name should have a link with College. The working group also suggested that names of living individuals should not be considered. In discussing criteria for a name, it was felt important to make it clear that suggestions that do not relate to people would be welcomed, including dates, places, concepts, etc, though it was also decided that all admissible suggestions must in some way have a meaningful connection with College.

The Board decision had been to 'dename and explain'. The working group agreed that the legacy of the period that the Library was named after Berkeley should not be erased, and that some sort of acknowledgement should be put in place following the conclusion of the naming process. It was suggested that College could invite artists to contribute proposals on how the history of the name might be recognised.

Ideally the Library Name submission process will be completed by the end of the year. It was highlighted that from a practical perspective it would be useful to have a decision on a new name, so that it is in place by the beginning of the next academic year.

TLRWG/23-24/006

TLRWG Website and Submission Process

Work on the Legacies website has begun. Site structure has been built and some content has been added. Currently the website is basic text, but some images have been provided that will be edited to fit on the website.

It is currently intended that there will be three separate videos on the front page of the website; The first will be an overview of the process, explaining its importance and why we are undertaking this work, including an address from the Provost, and the second and third videos detail the process and outcomes of the work in relation to the Inisbofin crania and The Library.

It is currently intended that all submissions received as part of the general submissions process will be hosted on the website along with all records of the working group. There will also be a basic template for general submissions, along with a separate submission process for any submissions related to human remains.

A suggestion was raised that links be provided for the Trinity Colonial Legacies Project archive and audit documents and the members of this project have agreed to provide this information.

It was queried as to whether a catalogue of human remains could be held on the legacies website. It was noted that there is no accurate and up-to-date catalogue of human remains in College, though this is a matter that is being actively worked on. It was thought that it may be possible to put up a partial catalogue.

It was noted that any material relating to specific legacy matters uploaded to the website will need to have the maximum amount of context attached.

It was suggested that future content on the website could include what projects, tasks, and investigations are currently ongoing in relation to Legacy issues.

It was suggested that the Trinity Academic and Artistic Collections, while incomplete, may be a useful document to have on the website.

TLRWG/23-24/007

AOB

Next meeting to take place in October after website goes live.