

Trinity Legacies Review Working Group

Friday 9th December

10.00am

Present: Eoin O’Sullivan (Chair), Aidan Marsh (Secretary) Gabrielle Fulam (SU), Mihai Mestru (SU), Catherine O’Mahoney (Comms), Helen Shenton (Librarian), Patrick Walsh (Colonial Legacies Project), David O’Shea (Dev. & Alumni), Ciaran O’Neill (Colonial Legacies Project), Francis O’Toole (AHSS), Rachel Moss (IFUT), Evi Numen (HS), Patrick Wyse Jackson (STEM), Catriona Crowe, Cliona O’Farrell (Fellows), Sinead McBride (College Solicitor)

Apologies: Kevin Byrne (SIPTU), Tom Molloy (Comms), Chloe Staunton (SU), Lynne Scarff (NMI)

In Attendance: Martina Hennessy (Old Anatomy)

TLRWG/22-23/005 Opening

The Chair opened the meeting of the working group with introductions and re-introductions

TLRWG/22-23/005 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 23 November 2022 were approved by general consensus

TLGWG/22-23/007 Future of Haddon-Dixon Collection Human Remains from Inisbofin

Members of the Old Anatomy Steering Group gave a presentation on the Haddon-Dixon Collection human remains from Inisbofin, noting that should the working group consider it appropriate to recommend repatriating the remains, there were clear ethical, legal, and professional responsibilities regarding the place of national bodies such as the Irish Medical Council and the National Museum of Ireland in any repatriation process, and additionally noted that any repatriation efforts should be undertaken with the assistance of a duly constituted local authority.

This was followed by an explanation of the current plans for the Old Anatomy Library Museum, which includes making the museum into a fully accredited public museum focusing on Irish medical heritage and advancing the public understanding of the human condition, while providing a locus for interdisciplinary research, and that the remains could potentially have a prominent place in this redevelopment. Additionally, given the history of the remains, which the single test thus far indicates has a median date of 1563, it is believed by the Old Anatomy Steering Group that the remains could be used to track medical history within Ireland, for example the movement of disease. However it was noted that such research would require time and additional testing.

The working group moved to discussion of the public submissions received in relation to the remains. There were few specific comments however it was noted that a significant percentage of the island’s population had indicated an interest in the issue through the petition of concern submitted to the working group by Marie Coyne. This was followed by discussion of existing national legislation and best national and international practice around the deaccession of human remains.

A consensus was reached by the Working Group that a recommendation be made to Board for College to act to facilitate the exploration of the possibilities of what may be done with the remains with the statutory bodies in collaboration with the islanders.