

**Minutes of the Capitation Committee**  
**27 February 2020**  
**At 11.00am in the Elizabethan Room, House 6**

**Present:** Chair – Prof John Parnell, Secretary – Aidan Marsh, FSD – Elaine Sharkey, Student Life – Prof Kevin O’Kelly,

**Apologies:**

**In Attendance:**

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Aidan Marsh, Committee Secretary, Circulated the attendance sheet for members signature. Professor John Parnell as chair of the Capitation Committee opened the meeting.

**Item 1: Minutes of the Last Meetings of 2 December 2019, and Special Meeting of 30 January 2020 (Drafts Previously Circulated)**

No corrections had been raised with the Secretary. The Chair ratified the minutes.

**Item 2: Matters Arising**

GSU Report: The Secretary confirmed that the GSU had submitted an annual report for the year 2017-18

Student Number Capitation Allocations: Elaine Sharkey (FSD) confirmed that the final figure for the Capitation Allocation is taken in March and consists of all regular students, visiting students, standalone, CBD, etc. The figure does not include independently run courses, and does not include students who dropped out after registering.

**Action: More information on the Capitation Allocations to come as it is received.**

It was queried as to whether the timing of the information snapshot would result in the Capitation Allocation being lower than it might otherwise be, however it would be hard to say if this was the case as a very low drop rate is expected.

Auditor Changes: There had been some discussion between Capitated Bodies on this subject. Publications indicated a willingness to change auditors.

**Action: Chairs of the Capitated Bodies to give formal report to the Committee Secretary by end of March regarding changing auditors.**

**Item 3: Effect of Semesterisation on Society Activity**

The CSC has conducted a survey of 126 societies, with 46 responders. Preliminary results of the survey indicate that semesterisation has impacted Society activity with responders noting that it was increasingly hard to get attendance to events following reading week.

John Bolton (DUCAC) noted that the impact that semesterisation had on activity at the Pavilion Bar amounted to roughly €125,000.

**Action: Arrange to get report materials to circulate among Capitation Committee and pass report on to Student Life.**

Lucy O'Connell (CSC) noted that societies were experiencing an increased difficulty in booking venues due to block booking from the Exams Office.

**Item 4: Trinity Ball Oversight by the Capitation Committee**

Joseph O'Gorman summarised the history of the Trinity Ball and Trinity Week.

The Dean of Students noted that there was now a lack of the involvement of students in the processes of the Ball, and felt that the lack of representation was a missed opportunity for learning experience. Joseph O'Gorman responded that this was because there were functionally no decisions to be made. Attempts had been made to bring in student representation before, but these failed as there was effectively nothing for them to do.

**Action: Simon Evans (SU) to send information on Meetings related to the Ball to the Committee Secretary.**

**Action: Trinity Ball subcommittee to be established. Subcommittee will consist of the following:**

**Senior Dean**

**Simon Evans**

**Joseph O'Gorman**

**SU Ents Officer**

**Representatives from the remaining Capitated Bodies.**

Joseph O'Gorman confirmed that permission had been granted for the Ball to take place on 16 April 2021.

**Item 5: Any Other Business**

Academic Registry have provided the Levy. The CSC and SU have given permission for the Levy to be transferred minutes the loan. An account has been created to ringfence the funding subject to the approval of the Capitation Committee. This met with general approval.

The Loan from College to the Capitated Bodies for the improvement of student spaces has been repaid.

Meeting ended at 12.10pm