

Minutes of the Capitation Committee

28 May 2020

At 12.00pm via Microsoft Teams

Present: Chair – Prof John Parnell, Secretary – Aidan Marsh, FSD – Elaine Sharkey, Student Life – Prof Kevin O’Kelly, GSU Pres, GSU Treas, CSC Treas, SU Welfare, Ben McConkey, Jemil, Niamh McKay, SU Pres, Lauren Boland, Lee Campbell, Darragh McDonagh, Meg Lynch, Kevin O’Kelly, Eada Hogan, Jemil Saidi, Aisling Leen,, Benjamin McConkey, Laura Beston, Shaz Oye, Judith Robinson, Geetika Banga

Apologies:

In Attendance: CSC – Joseph O’Gorman, DUCAC – Aidan Kavanagh, GSU – Dr Geoff Bradley, SU – Simon Evans, CSC - Lucy O’Connell

Professor John Parnell as chair of the Capitation Committee opened the meeting.

Item 1: Minutes of the last meeting of 12 May 2020 (previously circulated).

No corrections had been raised with the Secretary. Approved by general consensus.

Item 2: Matters arising.

The Dean of Students noted that the intake of students is now expected to be down, contrary to expectations noted at the previous meeting.

Item 4: Effects of Covid-19 on Capitated Bodies

Elaine Sharkey presented two copies of the 2019-20 Grant Allocation based on the Best Case/Worst Case figures. She also noted that the worst case may turn out to be worse than what was presented.

Shaz Oye outlined the issue under discussion, being the question of in light of certain reduction in funding, how can groups best work together/share resources to maintain a quality student experience. Representatives of the Capitated Bodies had met with each other on 25th May and had begun to look at this matter.

The Chair suggested that sharing of resources would be of benefit to Capitated Bodies, and that they continue to meet to discuss how this may be accomplished. He further suggested that for the moment they look at principles, rather than details, which can then be developed later.

The Dean of Students noted that a plan for Academic orientation for Undergraduate and Postgraduate students was being developed by Eimear Rouine.

With regards to the impact on funding, Elaine Sharkey noted that the current funding model had been extended to 2019-20, but no new model had yet been put in place. The Committee Secretary clarified that the Subcommittee had met successfully with the Vice-Provost in March to discuss the implementation of a new model. The Vice-Provost had been receptive and was intending to look at folding an increase to the Capitated Funding Model into the

ongoing review of the finances of Academic Services. However as this took place before the escalation of the Covid-19 situation it is unknown as to whether this will happen.

Concerns about a time limit on the model were raised by Laura Campbell, but it was confirmed that the time appointed was for a review of model, but no time limit was imposed for the allocation itself. Joseph O’Gorman highlighted that it was important to note that funding to the Capitated Bodies is not being cut as it remains the same. Rather it is being reduced due to a decrease in student numbers as that is where the student allocation comes from.

It was noted that there lobbying is taking place for rate cuts and discounts due to reduced student experience. It is suggested that the Capitated Bodies push back against this

Action: Capitated Bodies to discuss among themselves to create a plan for how to deal with the reduction in funding while retaining a quality student experience.

Item 3: Trinity Ball

Joseph O’Gorman outlined documents that were presented to the Committee. The Senior Dean suggested that the Secretary to the Capitation Committee be added to the membership. This was agreed.

Decision: Trinity Ball Committee to move forward with planning and contract negotiations according to the roadmap as presented to the Capitation Committee.

Item 5: Allocation for 2019-20

It was noted that an amount of money had been ringfenced for the Chairman’s Reception at the Ball and a query was raised as to whether this money could be redistributed to cover other costs? Following discussion, it was decided that €3000 would remain ringfenced for Ball-related costs, and the remaining would be redistributed.

The Chair stressed the need for the Capitated Bodies to consider cautious financial management of accounts, including reserves.

Item 6: Any Other Business

This is the last Capitation Committee meeting for Kevin O’Kelly as Dean of Students. The Chair thanked him for his contributions over the years. Catherine McCabe from Nursing and Midwifery is the nominated replacement.

Shaz Oye thanked the Committee for its assistance during her time as President of the GSU.

This is the last Capitation Committee meeting for Elaine Sharkey. The Chair thanked her for her contributions over the years. Her replacement will be Shumane Cleary.

Meeting ended 12.50pm