

Minutes of the Capitation Committee

14 October 2021

At 12.00pm via Zoom

Present: Chair – Prof Eoin O’Sullivan, Secretary – Aidan Marsh, FSD – Shumane Cleary, Student Life – Prof Catherine McCabe, DUCAC – Matthew Simons, DUCAC – Anna Grace Ulises, CSC – Ben McConkey, CSC – Ronan Hodson, CSC – Alice Lennon, CSC – Vince Casey. SU – Sierra Mueller-Owens, SU – Bev Genockey
GSU – Gis le Scanlon

Apologies: SU – Leah Keogh, Publications – Grace Gageby (In Attendance)

In Attendance: Supernumerary DUCAC – Aidan Kavanagh, Supernumerary CSC – Joseph O’Gorman, Supernumerary SU – Simon Evans, Supernumerary GSU – Prof Sarah Alyn Stacey, External GSU- Conor Duff

Professor Eoin O’Sullivan as Chair of the Capitation Committee opened the meeting.

A clarification to the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 23rd September 2021 was raised by Prof Alyn-Stacey and accepted by the Committee. The Committee Secretary will amend the minutes accordingly.

Gis le Scanlon introduced Conor Duff who proceeded to explain to the Capitation Committee that the GSU could not provide its externally commissioned report to the Committee due to concerns over data protection, and emphasised that this report was received by the GSU Board, should have been considered by them, and that it was incorrect of them not to do so in preparing their report.

In light of this, Mr Duff requested that the Capitation Committee overturn its decision to withhold funding from the GSU.

The Chair asked for opinions from the rest of the Capitation Committee.

Ronan Hodson stated that the CSC felt that the matter needed to move forward, and with this in mind wished to bring a proposal before the Committee for the restoration of funds to the GSU as follows:

- Capitation Committee requires that the GSU hold a new general meeting. It must be convened under the constitution enacted at the 2007 AGM of the GSU and amended on 5th July 2017, and at that meeting proposals for amendments to the constitution must be rerun.
- Capitation Committee requires there be independent oversight of the process.

- It was recommended by CSC that the Capitation Committee should invite the Postgraduate Student Support Officer (Martin McAndrew), as a long-standing and experienced member of the Postgraduate community, to form an independent electoral commission for the oversight of the process.

Giséle Scanlon protested the recommendation of Mr McAndrew, as she felt that he could not be considered to be independent as he had served on the GSU Board.

Aidan Kavanagh spoke on behalf of DUCAC. He agreed that the matter needs to move forward and supported CSC's suggestion for doing so.

Bev Genocky outlined that the SU's priority is student representation and support and noted that it was not in the interests of Postgraduate Students for the moiety to continue to be withheld. However the SU acknowledged that there are still unresolved issues concerning the EGM and would be in favour of releasing the moiety today provided the conditions of the CSC's proposal were met, implementation of which would be reviewed at a later meeting of the committee.

Conor Duff stated that the Capitation Committee do not have the power to approve these recommendations, citing Section 4.5 of the Capitation Committee Terms of Reference.

Giséle Scanlon wished it noted in the minutes that she considered that language being used at the meeting was inappropriate, and requested that language be kept professional.

Prof Alyn-Stacey stated that she was concerned that the Capitation Committee has not been dealing with the matter appropriately, and that she will be requesting that an investigation into the Committee's processes take place.

Prof McCabe noted that separate to the discussion around the report of the GSU Board or the report externally commissioned by the GSU, there still remained the issue of the EGM and the concerns around it.

As discussion was not progressing further, the Chair asked that the Committee vote on the proposals which were being brought forward as follows:

The proposal of the GSU that the moiety be restored with no further action needing to be taken by that party:

This proposal had one vote in favour.

The proposal of the CSC (previously documented):

This proposal had eight votes in favour.

The GSU noted that they would be appealing the decision of the Capitation Committee.

Meeting ended

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. O'Sullivan', written in a cursive style.

Eoin O'Sullivan, Senior Dean