



Minutes of the Capitation Committee

7 September 2022

At 14.00 in the Elizabethan Room, House 6

Present: Chair – Prof Eoin O’Sullivan; Secretary – Aidan Marsh, FSD – Aine Mulcahy, Student Life – Catherine McCabe; CSC – Ronan Hodson, CSC – Claire Stafford, CSC – Sam Carthy, CSC – Tom Hegarty, TSU – Liam Bean, TSU – Andrew Syomushkin, TSU – Gwen McArdle, SU – Gabi Fulham, SU – Chloe Staunton, SU – Zöe Cummins, Publications – Ellen Kenny

Apologies: GSU – Marcos Imbillicieri, DUCAC – Anna Grace Ulses, GSU – Geetika Banga, GSU – Sarah Alyn-Stacey, Publications – Shannon McGreevy

In Attendance: CSC – Joseph O’Gorman; SU – Simon Evans; TSU – Aidan Kavanagh, FSD – Elaine Sharkey, CSC – Eyman Khalil

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

Minutes of the Meeting of 25 May 2022

The minutes of 25th May 2022 were ratified with no changes requested.

Matters Arising

No matters arising

Update on GSU Concerns

The Chair outlined to the Committee the reasons that the GSU’s moiety was currently withheld. A copy of the memorandum of agreement reached between the Capitation Committee and the GSU on 30th May 2022 was circulated to members present. It was noted that the GSU were planning to hold the agreed EGM on 22nd September 2022.

The Chair outlined that further complaints had been received in July 2022 regarding the elections which were run by the GSU in June/July 2022. A copy of the complaints with the identities of the complainants redacted was circulated to the Committee. Also circulated was a document had been received from Mi-Voice confirming that they supported the electoral process, and a letter from the GSU’s Oversight Officer and Chair of the GSU’s Election Oversight Committee outlining that they are satisfied that the GSU’s internal processes have been maintained.

Representatives of the SU requested that, should it prove necessary for the Committee to continue to withhold the GSU moiety, a portion of that allocation be diverted to the SU for the strict purpose of providing support to postgraduate students. SU representatives explained that in the past two years they had seen a severe increase in their workload relating to postgraduate cases, with at least 33% of their recent cases concerning postgraduates. They additionally noted that of 42 recent



educational requests, 12 of those had disclosed that they had contacted the GSU first to no response. The SU Education Officer further noted that they had tried to refer initial cases to the GSU, but had received no response. The SU are concerned that they will not be able to handle this increase in requests from postgraduate students without an increase in funding. It was also noted by other members of the Committee that the college's Postgraduate Advisory Service had also seen an increase in workload.

The Chair raised that a request had been received from the Postgraduate Advisory Service that a portion of funding from the GSU's allocation be used to cover the costs of a number of postgraduate orientation social events which had been organised by the PAS. The request emphasised that these were events which were normally run by the GSU and that, as the PAS has no non-pay budget it would not be possible for these events to run otherwise.

Motion:

Should it be necessary for the GSU moiety to continue to be withheld by the Capitation Committee, a portion of the GSU funding normally used for salary payments will be provided to the SU on a monthly basis for the strict purpose of providing support to postgraduate students.

Additional – The Capitation Committee agree to the request by the PAS to cover the costs of Postgraduate Orientation Events organised by that body in lieu of the GSU with funding provided from the GSU's share of the Capitation Allocation.

Proposed by Gabi Fullam (SU)

Seconded by Ronan Hodson (CSC)

Motion passed by general consensus

It was noted that it was unfortunate that the GSU had been unable to provide a presence at the meeting, The Committee Secretary explained that the GSU President had wished to attend, but that they felt that there may be a conflict of interests with regard to the complaints about the GSU election and so had recused themselves.

A query was raised regarding what role the College should have in relation to these issues. The Chair confirmed that, if necessary, there were processes that could be put in place up to, if necessary, suspending engagement with the GSU.

There followed general discussion on the GSU as a body and whether there was a necessity for two separate unions representing students in TCD, with it being noted that TCD is the only university in Ireland that has separate unions for undergraduate and postgraduate students. It was felt that this was a decision that could only be made by Postgraduate students, and noted that any referendum to determine the long-term future of the GSU would come from the electoral body.

The SU will be engaging in outreach to postgraduate students to see what they wish for in terms of representation.



Update on Presentation of Accounts

GSU

The Secretary read the following statement on behalf of the GSU:

“At the GSU AGM of 2021-22, the 2020-2021 accounts were presented to the GSU members and were subsequently ratified accordingly, and that the said accounts are currently standing as draft accounts awaiting the reinstatement of the drawdown. Once the moiety is restored The GSU Treasurer will be in a position to add the said moieties to the balance sheet and the GSU will present the restored accounts to the FSD and Capitulations.”

SU

SU Accounts are ready in draft format. There is an issue with payments which is being resolved and once complete it will be possible to present and sign-off on the accounts. The SU have been consistently engaging with FSD and keeping them apprised of their progress.

Presentation of Accounts

Publications

Accounts of year 2020 to 2021 were presented, and approved by general consensus. It was noted that FSD have yet to have the opportunity to examine the accounts, and it is possible that should concerns be raised the effected areas of the accounts may require to be brought before the Capitation Committee again for re-ratification.

Any Other Business

Secretary gave the dates for the standard scheduled meetings of the Capitation Committee for College Year 2022-23 as follows:

Wednesday 23rd November 14.00

Wednesday 22nd February 14.00

Wednesday 17th May 14.00

Accounts and annual reports should be ready to be presented at the meeting of 23rd November.

Aidan Kavanagh will be leaving Trinity and is therefore stepping down from his role as In Attendance Officer for the Sports Union.