



Minutes of the Capitation Committee

30 November 2022

At 15.00 in Arts Building Room 2026

Present: Chair – Prof Eoin O’Sullivan; Secretary – Aidan Marsh, FSD – Aine Mulcahy, Student Life – Catherine McCabe;, CSC – Tom Hegarty, CSC – Daniela Williams, CSC – Sam Carthy, TSU – Liam Bean, TSU - Andrew Syomushkin, TSU – Anna Grace Ulises, TSU – Gwen McArdle, SU – Gabrielle Fullam, SU – Chloe Staunton, Publications – Shane Donnellan

Apologies: CSC – Ronan Hodson, SU – Zöe Cummins

In Attendance: CSC – Joseph O’Gorman; CSC – Lucy O’Connell; SU – Simon Evans; Publications - Jack Smyth

The Chair opened the meeting of the Capitation Committee. As there were new members of the committee introductions were made

Minutes of the Last Meetings of 25 May 2022 and 20 September 2022

The minutes were approved by consensus

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Presentation of Accounts:

CENTRAL SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

There were no queries about the CSC Accounts

SPORTS UNION

A significant jump on outgoing costs was highlighted under the category of Special Events. This was explained as the auditors allocating outgoing funds into the category they felt fit best. There had not been a change in Special Events, and a meeting was being arranged with the auditors to correct the accounts.

It was highlighted that there had been an increase in Sales at the Pavilion Bar, serving as an indicator towards an improvement in student life, and recovery from the pandemic period.

STUDENTS' UNION

2021 Accounts

There had been several issues to deal with which lead to the significant delays to the presentation of the 2021 accounts. Primarily among these is a COVID-payments scheme and following discussions between the SU and FSD a programme of actions was decided upon whereby the SU agreed with Revenue that these employees would be removed as EWSS workers and EWSS payments returned to the Revenue. This has been completed up to December 2021 to date. This required making significant changes to the SU’s records resulting in the delays to the submission of the 2021 Accounts. The SU has worked closely with FSD to keep them informed as the updates progressed and the SU has confirmed that the unwind of the EWSS is reflected correctly in the 2021 accounts presented.



It was noted that the 2021 accounts presented were in draft format as some final sign-offs are still required, and that the final document will be circulated when prepared.

With the completion of the 2021 accounts, it is expected that the SU's 2022 accounts will be ready for presentation by January, but the possibility was recognized that unforeseen circumstances could cause additional delays.

The committee recognised that the SU have been keeping the Chair and FSD representative constantly updated regarding the 2021 Accounts.

TRINITY PUBLICATIONS

Due to technical issues, Publications were not able to have their accounts ready for presentation. It was noted that they had been providing constant updates on the situation with the Chair and the FSD representative.

Annual Reports

CENTRAL SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

The CSC annual report recognised the effort which had been put in by Societies for their work in recovering from COVID-19. Also highlighted was the ongoing work to improve inclusivity in societies, and the new Disability Inclusion award present at the annual awards ceremony.

SPORTS UNION

The TSU Annual Report was presented to the Committee

STUDENTS' UNION

The SU are to send on report following the meeting, to be circulated by the Committee Secretary.

TRINITY PUBLICATIONS

Highlighted as part of the Publications Annual report was an amendment to the Publications Constitution that allows a student who had not previously held a position on the Exec Committee to run for, and be elected as, Chairperson of Publications.

Updates on GSU

The Chair summarised the current situation with the GSU as it stood.

An independent external review of the finances of the GSU had been commissioned by College which had commenced work a number of weeks prior.

The SU have begun a process of consultation with postgraduate students to find out what is desired in terms of future postgraduate representation. The key concern raised at meetings was regarding the GSU financials. Meanwhile, the SU have elected postgraduate representatives and are working towards choosing postgraduate representatives to serve on committees. It is uncertain as to how graduate representation was calculated by the GSU due to a lack of communication.

The SU have not yet had to undertake any major internal reform, to allow for the additional significant postgraduate representation, however it may be necessary in future depending on the outcome of the consultation process.



An email had been received by the Chair of the Capitation Committee requesting that the committee resolve debts in excess of €700 that were owed to student Lazlo Molnarfi by the GSU as a result of their mandate to support the organisation Students4Change. It was noted as concerning that the malfunction of a student body could lead to an individual student being out of pocket. However, as the GSU remains an extant organisation which, until very recently, had retained access to its accounts, the Committee recognised that the onus was on that body to resolve its own debts, and that the Committee would not take on responsibility for resolving those debts at this time.

Review of the ToR of the Capitation Committee

Two meetings were held and a report will be furnished at the next Capitation Committee meeting.

Any Other Business

Concerns were raised about reported issues within the University Times. The SU explained that the editorial independence of the UT is enshrined within the constitution of the SU, and that the structural power of the editorial position is derived from a mandate from the student body, and not from the SU. Therefore the only body with the power to sanction the UT is the student body.

A new CSC Constitution has been approved which was passed on to the Secretary of the Capitation Committee for noting