

Mary Mulvihill Association
AGM, 27 November 2019 (Teachers' Club at 7.15pm)
Minutes

Present:	Margaret Kelleher (Chair), Therese Caherty, Brian Dolan, Nóirín Mulvihill, Ena Prosser, Cormac Sheridan, Catherine Coxon, Liam Ryan, Mary Coghlan, Nigel Monaghan, Deirdre Ní Dhuillearga, Mairín Nic Eoin, Ronnie Creighton, Fionnuala Murphy, Rebecca O'Neill, Anne FitzGerald
Apologies:	Brian Trench, Anna Heussaff, Anne Mulvihill, Catherine Cronin, Jane Grimson, Lorna Siggins, Roisin Ryan, Tom O'Connor, Niamh Shaw

The meeting opened with a minute's silence in memory of the recently deceased Simon Brooke. Simon was a member of the Association and his wife, Anna Heussaff, is one of its founding members and was a very close friend of Mary's. The meeting extended its sincere sympathy to Anna and their son Conall and agreed that it was appropriate to cancel the post-meeting reception as a mark of respect to Simon.

1. Chairperson's address

Margaret introduced this item by noting that it would be her last such address after three years as Chair of the Association. She highlighted the progress which had been made on the Association's initial objectives, noting particular the embedding of the Mary Mulvihill Award in the annual science communication calendar, the republication of *Ingenious Ireland* in November 2019 and the transfer, during 2019, of Mary's materials to the DCU archive. She expressed her appreciation of DCU's support and enthusiasm in taking over stewardship of Mary's archive and she expressed the hope that the Association and DCU would be able to work together in continuing to promote Mary's inspirational work and activities.

Margaret paid tribute to the generosity of Brian Dolan and Anne and Nóirín Mulvihill in sharing Mary's work and life, both professional and personal, with the Association and the wider public, always holding firm to Mary's strong ethical and value standards.

Margaret thanked the hard working committee and sub-committees which had achieved so much in such a short period of time, noting both the fun and high standards which had been integral to all of the Association's activities. She concluded by wishing the in-coming committee well and continued fulfilment in the future.

2. Adoption of the agenda and election of tellers

- (i) The meeting agreed to replace the circulated document for Item 9 on the Agenda - Approval of membership fee - with that tabled at the meeting.

- (ii) The meeting agreed that as it was unlikely that tellers would be required none would be appointed.

3. Adoption of minutes of AGM held on 21 November 2018

The minutes of the AGM held on 21 November 2018 were approved and signed.

4. Election of Officers

The following were elected as Officers for 2019/20:

Chair: **Therese Caherty**: proposed by Brian Dolan and seconded by Anne FitzGerald
Treasurer: **Ena Prosser**: proposed by Nóirín Mulvihill and seconded by Brian Dolan
Secretary: **Fionnuala Murphy**: proposed by Anne FitzGerald and seconded by Margaret Kelleher

In recording the election of the three Officers, the meeting noted that the in-coming committee may consider designating one of the Ordinary committee members as a Co-Chair to assist Therese in her role.

5. Secretary's Report including reports from sub-groups

The Secretary's Report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was taken as read and adopted. Anne F, as out-going Secretary, thanked the Committee and Association members for their support and help during her term of office. She also noted the Association's thanks to the IFI for facilitating Committee and Association meetings over the past four years.

Margaret thanked Anne warmly for her professionalism and care as inaugural Secretary to the Association.

6. Treasurer's Report

Ena invited attention to her Treasurer's Report and Accounts for year ended 31 August 2019 which had been tabled. She noted that, in preparing the accounts, professional financial and legal advice had been provided by Quaestor Management Services Ltd and Mason Hayes Curran respectively.

Ena advised that the Association's Auditor, Ciaran O'Sullivan of Quaestor Management Services Ltd. had audited and signed the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ireland. The meeting noted that the auditing fee for this work was €100 + VAT for which the meeting expressed its appreciation.

Ena reported that the new business banking arrangements, which had been completed in November 2018, had proved useful in vendor qualification for events such as the Mary Mulvihill Award and the republication of *Ingenious Ireland*, where audited accounts are required by the associated organisations and donors. It was agreed that the arrangement to maintain a small reserve of €300 in a private account in the names of Brian Dolan/ Ena Prosser, which is reviewed annually, will be continued for another year up to 31 August 2020.

The meeting noted that the Association is registered with the Revenue Commissioners and is not currently VAT registered. Ena advised that should the Association elect to change the governance from its current status as an Unincorporated Association to a Limited Company or a Registered Charity it would be prudent to seek further advice on the implications for registration with the Revenue Commissioners at that time.

Ena outlined the main trends in the Association's accounts noting in particular that during 2018/19 that:

- (i) there were no significant costs against the Archive project and that targeted fund-raising had resulted in the republication of *Ingenious Ireland* being cost neutral to the Association. Ena noted that since the Accounts had been filed, the Association

had decided to support the funding of a seat in the IFI Mary's memory at a cost of €300.

- (ii) there was a significant increase in membership fees due to an intensive membership drive during the year. She noted that the Committee's proposal to allow five-year membership, if passed by the meeting, will be reflected in the reported income in future years.

In conclusion, Ena outlined the need to accrue for events in the coming year so as to ensure good financial management and she outlined her proposals in this regard.

The meeting then approved the accounts which were proposed by Therese Caherty and seconded by Ronnie Creighton.

Margaret thanked Ena for her diligence in ensuring the best possible financial governance for the Association.

7. Proposed Amendments to the Governing Instrument

Noting the advice which had been received from the Association's legal advisors, the following resolutions, which had been proposed by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 4 November 2019, were passed by the meeting, with immediate effect.

A Election of Executive

To replace Section 5.4.3 with the text below.

- 5.4.3** Unless Members of the Association, at a properly convened AGM, agree otherwise:
- (a) an individual Member will occupy an Officer position for not more than three consecutive years.
 - (b) an individual Member will occupy an ordinary Executive position for not more than three consecutive years.

Where agreed at a properly convened AGM, a Member may occupy an Officer or Executive position for a further term of a maximum of three consecutive years, upon the expiration of which, that Member will not be eligible for election to an Officer or Executive position until a period of three years has elapsed.

B Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

To add new sections 6.5 and 6.6 to Section 6: Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

- 6.5 The quorum for an EGM will be one-quarter of the paid-up Members of the Association.
- 6.6 An EGM will be subject to the same rules of conduct as an AGM, as more particularly specified in clause 5.7.

8. Election of Ordinary Members of the Executive

The following were elected as Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee for 2019/20:

Nóirín Mulvihill: proposed by Brian Dolan and seconded by Anne FitzGerald

Anne Mulvihill: proposed by Therese Caherty and seconded by Margaret Kelleher

Brian Trench: proposed by Brian Dolan and seconded by Nigel Monaghan

Carmel Hennessy: proposed by Anne Mulvihill and seconded by Anne FitzGerald

Catherine Coxon: proposed by Anne FitzGerald and seconded by Brian Dolan
Cormac Sheridan: proposed by Nigel Monaghan and seconded by Catherine Coxon
Liam Ryan: proposed by Therese Caherty and seconded by Cormac Sheridan
Nigel Monaghan: proposed by Catherine Coxon and seconded by Noírín Mulvihill
Rebecca O'Neill: proposed by Fionnuala Mutphy and seconded by Nigel Monaghan
Deirdre Ní Dhuillearga: proposed by Therese Caherty and seconded by Margaret Kelleher

9. Approval of Membership fee

The meeting approved an annual Membership fee of €5 as proposed by the Executive Committee and also approved the Committee's proposal that members be offered an opportunity to pay their fee for a five-year period if they so wished.

10. Election of Auditors and setting audit fee

The meeting approved an Auditor and proposed provision for fees as follows:

C O Sullivan & Co, Chartered Accountants

Quaestor Management Services Ltd

50 Fortfield Park, Terenure

Dublin 6W

€100 + VAT for account preparation and TAX registration for 2018/19.

11. AOB

Under Other Business, Cormac thanked the out-going Officers, Margaret and Anne F for their contribution in getting the Association established on a firm footing for the future. Therese, as in-coming Chair, reviewed the Associations achievements since its first informal meeting in November 2016, and re-iterated Cormac's thanks to Margaret and Anne F and to all who had been involved. She looked forward to the future and exhorted all to take heart from the success of the past and not to be afraid in developing an ambitious future for the Association.

Noírín, speaking on behalf of Brian D, Anne M and herself expressed their personal thanks to the out-going Officers and the Committee for what she described as an incredible journey over the past four years with achievements that were way in excess of their initial expectations, culminating in the republication of *Ingenious Ireland*.

Margaret thanked all contributors and closed the meeting.