

Trinity Retirement Association

**Inaugural Meeting
Trinity Tuesday, 8th April 2014
Edmund Burke Theatre, Arts Building**

Background

In the summer of 2013, TCD pensioners were invited to express their interest in the proposed establishment of a Trinity Retirement Association. Over 300 individuals returned an expression of interest form to the Pensions Office in Trinity. A Steering Group was formed and its first meeting was held in December. Following several months' work by the Steering Group, the Inaugural Meeting of the Trinity Retirement Association was scheduled for 8th April 2014. Invitations to the meeting were extended to those who had returned an expression of interest form in the summer of 2013. Respondents were also invited to a meeting of the Trinity EngAGE project (scheduled an hour before the Inaugural Meeting) with guest speaker Professor Des O'Neill. The Provost, Dr Patrick Prendergast, opened the morning's events with a welcome address.

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Following Professor O'Neill's lecture, those invited to the Inaugural Meeting of the Trinity Retirement Association reconvened in the Edmund Burke Theatre. Welcome Packs were distributed and these included the draft constitution, an application form, and information on scheduled 'taster' events.

On behalf of the Steering Group, Mr Tommy Murtagh welcomed everyone to the meeting. He outlined the overall objectives of the Association as stated in Section 2 of the draft constitution, noting that it had mainly a social focus. Several 'taster' events had been scheduled and potential members were invited to suggest other activities. An initial website had been developed and a membership email address established. The Steering Group had also set up a bank account.

Mr Murtagh then invited Ms Michelle Tanner, Head of Sport and Recreation in Trinity, to give a short presentation. Ms Tanner encouraged attendees to become involved with the various activities in the Sports Centre. She elaborated on the various options for Association members that had been outlined in the Welcome Pack, such as reduced price membership of the Sports Centre, a pay-as-you-go option, and classes for the over 50s group.

Following Ms Tanner's presentation, Mr Murtagh invited those present to review the circulated draft constitution for the Association. Membership of the Association would be open to retired College staff and their spouse/partner and the Association would be self-financing and self-governing. A membership subscription of €15 was proposed for 2014. It was also proposed that there should be an Executive Committee for the day-to-day running of the Association. The Steering Group was seeking approval to act as pro-tem Executive Committee until the first Annual General Meeting in Hilary Term 2015.

In the discussion of the draft constitution, the following amendments were agreed as noted below.

Section 1: It was suggested that the abbreviation 'TRA' was already in use in College by the Trinity Researchers Association but it was noted that the latter was the Trinity Research Staff Association with the abbreviation 'TRSA'.

Section 3.7: The second sentence was amended to read ‘Should a member not pay the membership fee by 1st March, their name shall be removed from the membership list and, in such circumstances, the member will be precluded from voting in any Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association or participating in any Association-affiliated activities. Anyone who has been so deleted from the membership list can be reinstated on payment of the appropriate fee for the full year.’

Section 5, Officers: It was noted that the Steering Committee had recommended against using the title ‘honorary’ for the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Section 6, General Meetings: The heading item on this section was incorrectly numbered Section 7 and this was amended to Section 6.

Section 7.4 was amended to read ‘At the AGM, the Chairperson, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the six ordinary members of the Executive Committee who are to be elected, shall be elected in that order for the following year.’

Section 9, Insurance Matters: There was some discussion regarding insurance matters and Mr Murtagh stated that the Steering Committee had consulted widely in drafting this section. He emphasised that the Association had not effected an insurance policy for any of the activities of the Association or Association-affiliated member events. It was noted that for general meetings on College premises, the College’s public liability insurance policy would apply. For member events not held on College premises, the Association did not hold insurance cover.

Members were invited to review the draft constitution, subject to the amendments agreed above, and submit an application form for membership of the Association. Completed application forms and annual subscription would be accepted by committee members at the end of the meeting.

Following further discussion, those attending the meeting were asked to consent to the formal adoption of the constitution for the Trinity Retirement Association, as proposed and with amendments above, in accordance with Article 11 of the draft constitution. Mr Murtagh invited those present to indicate by a show of hands their acceptance of the draft constitution. This was carried with an overwhelming Yes vote.

The meeting also agreed that the Steering Group should act as pro-tem Executive Committee, with three officers and six ordinary members, until the first Annual General Meeting in Hilary Term 2015. Membership of the Executive Committee was agreed as follows:

Ruth Potterton (Chair)	Nap Keeling
Gay Duffy (Treasurer)	Norah Kelso
Vivien Jenkins (Secretary)	Tommy Murtagh
Mary Coffey	Kay O’Neill
Mike Jones	

Mr Murtagh thanked everyone for attending and participating in the Inaugural Meeting of the Trinity Retirement Association. He stated that the Association’s initial website (<http://tra.tcdlife.ie>) would go live the following day (9th April 2014) and that members could book the ‘taster’ events on the website using the email trinityretirementassociation@gmail.com. Members could also contact the Association by post c/o the Pensions Office, House 4, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Mr Murtagh extended his thanks to all who had helped the Association to become established, and in particular, to Michael McKeown and Sharon Nelson from the Pensions Office. He also acknowledged the help of Zhanna O'Clery (Trinity Foundation), Professor James Lunney (Physics), Professor Shane Allwright (Registrar), Professor Yvonne Scannell (School of Law), Michelle Tanner and Rosie King (TCD Sport and Recreation). Thanks were also extended to Dr Matthew Jebb (Director of the National Botanic Gardens) and Dr Edward McParland (Department of the History of Art and Architecture) who had offered to lead two of the 'taster' events.

Those present at the meeting were also invited to a light lunch in the foyer area of the theatre which had been kindly provided with the support of the Trinity Foundation.

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Signature

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Date