

PARTNERSHIP GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 13th October 2004 at 11.00 a.m.

- Present:** Roy Green (Chair), Mary O’Riordan, Jim Ward, John Gaffney, Pdraig McDonagh, Kieran Hoare, Grainne Morahan, Colm Moriarty, Kieran Loftus, Marie Reddan, Mary Quinn, Martin Crowley.
- Apologies:** Jim Browne, John Gibney, Seosamh Mac Cárthaigh, Kieran Hoare.
- In Attendance:** Susan Gallagher, Colm Flannery.
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Roy Green welcomed the Group to the meeting. He advised the Group that the minutes of the Special Meetings held on the 29th September and on the 1st October would be circulated.

1. Minutes of Meeting of 15th September.

The minutes were amended to read “all aspects of the scheme” and not “all categories of staff” under the heading “Sick Leave entitlement for Staff”. Minutes were then approved and signed.

2. Matters arising.

(a) Sick Leave Entitlement for Staff

The Group was advised that the Sub-Group on Sick Leave Entitlement expect to meet in the coming week.

(b) Partnership Facilitator

The meeting was informed that the Partnership Facilitator vacancy would be advertised in the Irish Times on Friday 15th October. Roy Green stated an interview board would need to be devised. It was stated that the facilitator

would report to the Vice-President for Student Services & Human Resources and also to Roy Green. Roy Green asked if a union representative could be nominated and stated that either the Director of Human Resources or the Deputy Director of Human Resources would act on the board also.

(c) Parking Scheme

Jim Ward advised that the agreed recommendation from the Special Meeting has been discussed with the Students Union. The President of the Students Union advised that what was agreed at Partnership was not acceptable from a student point of view. He advised that they discussed the recommendation and has asked for one amendment – that 70 spaces near the Quincentennial bridge be allocated for students. He stated that the proposal being sent to UMT would include an additional 70 spaces for student parking which will give students a total of 340 spaces (including new spaces at Dangan). He stated that this leaves 860 spaces for staff and that there will be a further 300 spaces for pay and display which was a reasonable recommendation. He explained that this will go forward to Údarás on Friday 15th October.

Grainne Morahan asked that the 70 additional spaces for students should be taken from pay and display and not from the staff allocation.

Jim Ward reported that another 50 additional spaces have been identified and will be marked out as soon as possible.

Mary Quinn asked about the parking capacity in St. Anthony's and stated that there is only half of the spaces that were there originally. Jim Ward stated that the number of spaces would be restored following completion of the construction work.

Further discussions took place in relation to public parking and charges proposed for pay and display parking.

4. Term Time Working Scheme

Mary O'Riordan stated that a Working Group had been set up consisting of herself, John Cox, Seosamh Mac Cárthaigh and Grainne Morahan. She advised that they looked at the scheme for NUI, Galway based on one used in the Department of Finance. She stated that the scheme is specifically geared towards administrative and library staff. The basis of the scheme is that there are some areas within the University where term time working is possible and will allow for staff to look after their children during the summer holidays. The scheme will allow for salary to be paid over 12 months instead of 9. It

was decided that applications would have to be made in November of previous year.

It was agreed that the Group would look at the scheme and make changes if necessary at the next meeting of the Partnership Group on Wednesday 10th November. Following this it would go to the HR committee on the same day. This would allow for it to be brought to the December meeting of Údarás so that it could be operational for next year.

5. Any Other Business.

Roy Green raised an issue in relation to the staff fee concession scheme and advised that a case had arisen where a staff member was looking for support in relation to the scheme, but was rule ineligible. He stated that this scheme was potentially a Partnership issue and that he would like to raise the question of definitions of part-time programmes, having regard to the resource needs of departments.

Mary O'Riordan advised that the scheme has been revised recently and that a Group has been established by Údarás to look at the scheme. Chris McNairney also advised that this scheme is within the scope of the Finance Resources Committee but that the Partnership Group could express a view if it wished.

Meeting concluded at 12.20 p.m.