

Irish Council for Bioethics
Comhairle Bithéitice na hÉireann

Minutes of Council Meeting
Thursday 30th April 2009

- In the Chair:** Dr Dolores Dooley
- Present:** Dr Peter Mckenna; Professor Andrew Green; Dr Richard Hull; Professor Cliona O'Farrelly; Mr Asim Sheikh; Professor John Vincent McLoughlin; Professor Richard O'Kennedy; Dr Mary Henry; Dr Sheila Willis; Mr Turlough O'Donnell
- Apologies for absence:** Dr Alan Donnelly; Professor David Smith; Mr Stephen McMahon; Mr Paul Ivory
- Also present:** Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan; Ms Emily de Grae; Ms Emma Clancy

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed.

2. Report from the Managing Scientific Director:

Dr O' Sullivan informed Council that she had attended the first meeting of the International Dialogue on Bioethics on 19th February in Brussels. Dr O' Sullivan explained that the International Dialogue aimed to facilitate information sharing and open dialogue between European and non-European national ethics councils and to achieve mutual understanding of each other's opinions through debate. Dr O'Sullivan informed Members that the meeting proved a very worthwhile initiative and one that the European Commission has decided to run on an annual basis.

3. Danish Youth Forum on Bioethics:

Ms De Grae informed Council that she travelled to Copenhagen in April to meet with representatives of the Danish Council on Bioethics to learn about the Danish Council's Youth Forum on Bioethics and to assess whether it would be feasible to hold a similar forum in Ireland. Ms De Grae gave a presentation of the operational procedures as well as the advantages and disadvantages of hosting a youth forum. The Council agreed that the benefits students would garner from a forum were unique and discussed how funding may be obtained.

4. Biometrics Report:

Dr O'Sullivan assured Council that a draft of the biometrics report would be presented for review at the June Council meeting.

5. Begotten Not Made – The Four Courts:

Dr O' Sullivan informed Council that *Begotten Not Made* had been performed in St Michan's Church for members of the Judiciary and the Bar Council of Ireland. She reported that the reading had been very well received and resulted in a very interesting post-performance debate. Dr O'Sullivan thanked Mr Turlough O'Donnell, Mr Asim A. Sheikh and Ms Inga Ryan (Bar Council of Ireland) for their help and support in enabling the play to be performed in such unique setting. The Council discussed the possibility of staging the play in other diverse arenas. Dr O'Sullivan also informed Council that the playwright, Mr Paul Meade had won the Allianz Business to Arts Award for Best Commissioned Work for *Begotten Not Made*.

6. ICB Budget:

Dr O' Sullivan informed Council that following the recent supplementary budget, the Council's funding had been cut significantly, which would limit the future work of the ICB. Council agreed that lobbying for support for the ICB was of the utmost importance.

7. Research Governance

It was agreed that the Research Governance document would initially be constituted as a discussion paper, which could be expanded into a report at a later date.

8. Any Other Business

Dr O'Sullivan explained to Council that in order to apply for charitable status, minor changes needed to be made to the Memorandum and Articles. The members of the Company present agreed to the changes and signed the requisite documentation.

Dr O'Sullivan informed Council that the ICB secretariat would be relocating to its new premises at 1 Ormond Quay Lower in the coming weeks.

9. Dates Of Next Meeting

Thursday 4th of June 2009, in the Radisson SAS Hotel. Rearranged to Thursday 25th of June 2009.