

# FEASTA Trustee Meeting

**Held:** via Zoom

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> June, 16:00 UTC

**Present:** Mike Sandler (Chair), Michele Brady, Mark Garavan,  
Brent Ranalli (minute taker), John Sharry

**Apologies:** Willi Kiefel, Graham Barnes,

**Attending:** Caroline Whyte, Morag Friel

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## AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
3. Financial and Membership Update
4. Caroline Activities Update
5. New Trustees: Process, Roles
6. COP-27
7. North America Update
8. AOB.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies received: John will be late, Michele will be late, Willi will be absent, Graham will be absent.

### 2. Minutes of last meeting

May minutes (version 3) approved with minor amendments entered by Morag (affecting spelling and the EEB item), without objection.

### 3. Finance & membership update

Reports reviewed as circulated (see appendices).

### 4. Caroline activities update

Presented by Caroline Whyte – Communications report. One item discussed:

- Potential funding from a UK donor – a representative of the donor will be meeting the network of WEAll Hub: Derry Playhouse, EHFF, Social Justice Ireland, Cultivate, QUB School of Law on June 28
  - o 3-year all-island project – encouraging artists to do things around the wellbeing economy
  - o Main venues: Cloughjordan & Derry
  - o Admin support for programme from South & North. Roles to be defined with MoU (Memorandum of Understanding)
  - o Southern activity would be administered through Feasta, with Feasta charging usual admin fee. Around 1-1.5 days of work per week for three years, presumably split between Morag and Caroline. John says: consider asking for more resources, if we think we could do more. Morag thinks the work could fill 2 days per week.
  - o Plan to approach other funders as the donor likes being co-funders

## 5. New Trustees: Process, Roles

- Three candidates responded to call, two women in Ireland and one woman in Australia. Caroline is having initial conversations. From first conversation: Candidate in Donegal seems like a good candidate but has limited availability. We could consider trial of a few months later this year. Caroline will report back after other initial conversations.
- Morag points out: Caroline's involvement is great, but recruitment of trustees is really a trustee function and task.
- Mark suggests that we review the role of trustees before bringing on board new trustees, to set the right expectation. As noted at past meetings, the point of the monthly trustees meeting should not be simply reporting by staff. This topic deserves an in-depth conversation. Mark points out that Feasta is supposedly composed of "groups" working on different topics, but these are no longer well defined or even in some cases active. And it is valuable to hear reports from Morag and Caroline. Caroline shared that in John Jopling's time there were "operational" groups. (Caroline shared in chat, from <https://www.feasta.org/about/executive-committee-2/>: "Feasta's Executive Committee was replaced by five self-governing groups with the remit of developing specific primary activities: Projects and Brand Management; Feasta Fundraising; Publicity and Website; Organising Events; and Networking.") John says that since Feasta doesn't have an executive staffer or executive board, the board of trustees has partly been filling that role by default. Michele says this is a conversation worth having, perhaps we could devote one monthly trustee meeting to the topic. Mike: we need to make sure new volunteers come in with the right understanding of the organization and the culture. Morag: There are two related challenges, recruiting leaders and recruiting active members to reinvigorate the autonomous groups. Mark: Trustees' role should include strategy. Brent: it would be valuable to have a meeting to discuss trustee roles and responsibilities, as Mark and Michele proposed. Also, should the subcommittee that oversees staff periodically report to the full meeting of trustees? Morag: yes; that subcommittee meets quarterly. Mike suggests: let's discuss trustee roles and responsibilities on a separate call, not the regular monthly call. Michele: will write up the newly formalized legal requirements for trustees in Ireland.

## 6. COP-27

Some young people interested in attending. It is in Egypt this year.

## 7. North American update (see notes attached)

Brent distributed notes (see appendices). Not discussed. (Out of time.)

## 8. AOB

Morag will confer with Michele about accounts when Michele is feeling better.

## 9. Next meeting

Monday, July 11, at 16:00 UTC

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Mike Sandler \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Dated: \_\_\_\_11/07/2022 \_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Brent Ranalli \_\_\_\_\_  
Director

Dated: \_\_\_\_11/07/2022 \_\_\_\_