

## **Royal Irish Academy Committee for Modern Language, Literary and Cultural Studies**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Aims of the Committee**

The Academy Committee for Modern Language, Literary and Cultural Studies is a committee of the Royal Irish Academy, with a remit to pursue strategic and policy development in the sphere of modern languages on an All-Ireland basis. The Committee is constituted in such a way as to have available expertise across all of the main languages taught in Ireland and areas of expertise and competence in language, literary and cultural studies. It further aims to:

- Advance the study of modern languages and cultures in Ireland.
- Promote interdisciplinary research in the area of modern languages, literatures and cultures.
- Enhance the relationship between scholars in this country and abroad.
- Promote post-graduate research in language, literary and cultural studies.
- Foster linguistic and intercultural competence throughout the island of Ireland.

#### **Operating Arrangements**

1. The membership of the Committee shall not normally exceed twenty in total, plus four advisory members. Membership of the Committee will be for a four-year period. The Committee shall be chaired by an Academy Officer for its preliminary meeting, which shall have the sole task of deciding the final composition of the Committee. At the first full meeting a Chairperson shall be elected to serve a four-year term. The Committee will also elect a Secretary at this meeting. Meetings will normally take place in Academy House, but may be held elsewhere.

In order to ensure representation across languages, disciplines and academic institutions, the committee will seek membership from several different institutions, in two stages.

#### **Stage 1:**

- i. The Academy shall appoint two members
- ii. Irish Universities not represented through nomination of their staff by the Academy shall be invited to nominate one member each;
- iii. The Universities Council for Modern Languages, Northern Ireland section, shall be invited to nominate two representatives, one of whom shall normally have a teaching and/or research profile in languages for education.

**Stage 2:**

This committee shall meet and discuss the spread of languages and disciplines represented by them. They shall recommend the nomination of eight further members, to be drawn from various sectors of language, literary and cultural studies beyond the confines of the universities, so that, where possible, all major modern languages and disciplines taught within language studies in Ireland, as well as a range of third-level and some second-level institutions are represented.

Bearing these considerations in mind, at the second stage nominations shall be invited from various appropriate bodies. Specific suggestions about the language and disciplinary background required of nominees may be made when such nominations are invited. Normally such nominations shall include the following:

- i. Not fewer than three people from the IT sector;
  - ii. Not fewer than three people who are primarily from a teaching background, including second-level teaching;
  - iii. In addition, the heads of the French, German, Italian and Spanish cultural institutes in Dublin shall be invited to each nominate an advisory member.
2. Members of the Committee who are unable to attend three consecutive meetings shall be asked to consider whether their position should pass to an alternative nominee.
  3. The Committee shall meet only when it has a substantive agenda to discuss.
  4. The Committee shall undertake a campaign of publicising its role and of engaging with government and other bodies to promote the teaching of modern languages in Ireland.
  5. The Committee will seek to engage the active support of Officers of the RIA in furthering the aims of the Committee.
  6. In furtherance of its All-Ireland remit, the Committee shall nominate one member to the Committee of the Universities Council for Modern Languages, Northern Ireland section.
  7. The Committee may initiate amendments to the above at any time, subject to approval from RIA Council.