

# Academy Committees

## Purpose and Aims

The mission of the Royal Irish Academy's multidisciplinary committees is to promote co-operation across and within relevant scholarly disciplines; to advise, contribute to and guide Academy's engagement in these areas and on issues of topical interest, on an all-island basis.

The committees will undertake to approach their work from a multidisciplinary perspective while allowing for consideration of important discipline based issues, should they arise.

The committees exist to provide scientific and scholarly expertise and to promote the value of the sciences, humanities and social sciences. They will strengthen the engagement of these communities in national and international scholarship.

## Duties of the Committee

- To address and raise issues, including those of public concern, relevant to its shared expertise
- To contribute to the public engagement programme of the Academy
- To improve the Academy's capacity to engage with the wider scholarly community in Ireland
- To advise the Academy on the formulation of policy at national, European and international levels
- To enhance the Academy's capacity for increasing the engagement of its Members in its activities and affairs
- To provide support for grant and award review panels
- To be the national adhering mechanism for relevant international unions where appropriate
- To undertake other such activities as might be appropriate

## Membership of the Committee

There will normally be no more than 20 on the committee and there should be a balance of Members and outside experts. In order to achieve this, the membership might normally comprise of a minimum of five Members (MRIAs). The remaining membership will be appointed in a suitably transparent and open manner.

## Term of Office

Members of the committee will normally serve a four-year term. Members may be appointed for a second term.

Committee members will be expected to participate regularly in the meetings and activities of the committee. Members who do not participate regularly may be asked to step down before the end of their term of membership, at the discretion of the Chair in consultation with the Science or PL&A Secretary.

## Officers of the Committee

The committee will be chaired by an Academy Officer for its first meeting as a newly constituted committee. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary shall be elected at the first meeting. Nominations will be sought from committee members at the start of the first meeting. The Chair will normally be a Member of the Academy. If more than one nomination is received, a secret ballot will be taken. After the election of the Chair, the same process will be followed for the roles of Vice-Chair and Secretary.

The Academy Officer will not vote in these elections.

Chairpersons and Secretaries may not succeed themselves in office.

### **Meetings of the Committee**

Meetings should be held as often as is deemed necessary and no less than twice per year. Meetings will normally take place in Academy House, but may be held elsewhere. Notice will be sent at least two weeks in advance of a planned meeting.

The Chair of the committee will be a member of the Academic Board (Board) and will represent the committee at meetings of this Board. If the Chair is unavailable another nominated member of the committee may substitute. The Board may suggest themes and activities and may propose public engagement programmes to the committee.

The committee may establish time-limited Working Groups (WGs) for task-specific projects. Membership of WGs may be open to membership outside of the committee. These WGs for task-specific projects will cease on completion of the task. Working Groups will be required to report to the multidisciplinary committee under which they are established.