



TUS

Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest
Ollscoil Technoleicté na Sionainne:
Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest**

Monday 14th of February 2022 at 10.30am via MS Teams & in person – Moylish Campus.

Members: Ms. Josephine Feehily – Chair (in person)
Mr. George O’Callaghan (in person)
Professor Vincent Cunnane (in person)
Ms. Colette Ryan (Teams)
Mr. John Griffin (Teams)

In Attendance: Ms. Áine Daly (in person)
Mr. Cormac Dillon (in person)
Ms. Anne O’Leary (in person)
Ms. Brigid Delamere (Teams)
Mr. Tony Mahon (Teams)
Ms. Shelley Ann McCarthy Buckingham (Teams)
Mr. Eoin Woodlock (Teams)

In Attendance: Mr. Bill Delaney, Corporate Secretary (in person)
Ms. Martina Moran, minute taker (Teams)

1. Chairperson’s opening.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Update on the process for appointments of the remainder of Governing Body members will be discussed under matters arising.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Expressions of Sympathy



5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest noted.

6. Correspondence

The Chair has received correspondence from the HEA regarding AIT legacy accounts and AIT/LIT Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 which will be discussed under Item 11.

7. Minutes of GB meeting of 13th January 2022.

The minutes were approved.

Proposed by J. Feehily and seconded by V. Cunnane

The Minutes of 24th of January 2022

The minutes were approved.

Proposed by C. Ryan and seconded by J. Griffin.

The Minutes going forward will reflect Action/By Whom/When. The Action Log will be populated with these actions. B. Delaney to follow up with action dates for all items.

8. Matters arising

Reports from the Finance and ARC meetings will be presented to the next Governing Body meeting. In relation to the Financial Statements, the President and B. Delaney will prepare a narrative for the Chair which will reflect that the Financial Statements relate to a dissolved body, and subsequent implications of assurances being given by the President and the Chair.

Action	By whom	By when
Provide a narrative in order for the Chair to sign the Financial Statements	President and B. Delaney	End of March

The Chair has clarified her request with the Chair of ARC in relation to the commonality of Directors between TUS Governing Body members and the subsidiaries, this item was discussed briefly at the last ARC meeting and will be further discussed in context of the Code of Governance for Subsidiaries at the next ARC meeting, the outcome of these discussions will be presented to Governing Body.

Action	By whom	By when
Discuss commonality of Directors between TUS Governing Body and the Subsidiaries	ARC	Next ARC meeting

Expression of Interest for external Governing Body membership closed on Friday 4th of February 2022. The Nominations committee will commence a process to evaluate the applicants. The Nominations Committee will make recommendations to Governing Body for 3-8 external members at the meeting of 28th March 2022. The criteria to assess candidates will be decided by the Nomination Committee who may need to have two meetings to finalise same. The Nominations Committee and the Executive have taken great care in handling confidentiality of all expressions of interest.

Staff election panels – Panel A, phase 1 is now closed, (the election process is open to all staff). Voting for panel A will take place on Wednesday & Thursday this week. The timeline for completion of the full election process is March 11th. The first Governing Body meeting of all members will take place on the 11th of April.

Section B.

9. Risk Management

Covid Restrictions Update: notwithstanding the fact that issues around Covid have decreased, staff and students are still experiencing Covid related issues.

70,000 antigen tests have been received and these have been distributed to students and a further 7,500 distributed to staff. Covid restrictions will remain in place on all campuses i.e. wearing of masks, sanitising and perspex screens for the foreseeable future.

Minister Harris comments on student fees was noted in the context of the funding risk.

The European Commission's evaluation of the Cassells Report which was due to be published in January is now expected to be released as part of the of Government's budget in October.

10. Governing Body Work Plan

The purpose of the Work Plan is to provide members with a visual of an Annual Schedule of Work. Governing Body discussed the Work Plan and were requested by the Chair to review same with a view to identifying items which may not have been included in the schedule. It was noted that all statutory items have been included on the Work Plan, however, this is a 'living document', and will constantly evolve and be updated.

It was noted that there is no update from Academic Council scheduled on the Work Plan as yet – the President stated that there is a lack of clarity on the role and reporting structure of Academic Council to Governing Body, and legal opinion has been sought in this regard which is scheduled on the Work Plan for the two meetings in March. Dr. T. Twomey will also present on the GB regulations (including membership, selection and appointment and term) for Academic Council and GB review of Academic Council at its meeting of 7th March, particularly in relation to the running of elections for a wider Academic Council body.

A discussion took place with regard to the timeline of the Strategic Plan. The President advised Governing Body the Strategic Plan will be developed within an inclusive process. After this discussion the following timelines were agreed:

External engagement to take place during the months of June, July and August 2022

Staff and student engagement to take place September, October, November 2022

Initial write up in December 2022

Present a draft Strategic Plan to Governing Body in January 2023

Action	By whom	By when
Upload Work Plan for Finance and ARC to Resource section of Decision Time	B. Delaney	With Immediate effect
Key Actions – upload to Resource section of Decision Time	B. Delaney	With Immediate effect
Advise President and B. Delaney if additional items need to be uploaded to Work Plan	Governing Body members	With Immediate effect

11. TUS Midlands (former) AIT and LIT HEA Feedback Annual Governance

Correspondence from the HEA regarding AIT and LIT HEA feedback on Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 was uploaded on Decision Time. Governing Body discussed this and each item was addressed and a range of actions agreed.

Action	By whom	By when
The new template for 20/21 will be uploaded to the Resource section of Decision Time	B. Delaney	With Immediate effect
Governing Body review of its own performance: GB Self-Assessment will now take place in June 2022 – Work Plan to be amended	B. Delaney	With Immediate effect
GB External Review to take place in June 2023	B. Delaney	
GB Meeting without executive or other internal members to take place in March and July 2022	B. Delaney to arrange	28 th March & 18 th July '22
Intellectual Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy – to be tabled at Governing Body	VP of Research	28 th March '22

12. HEA Oversight Agreement

Governing Body discussed the HEA Agreement and broadly approved same. The Chair will discuss further with the Secretary prior to signing.

With regard to item 18 – HEA reporting requirements e.g. Compact – the AIT/LIT Compact document will be presented to Governing Body by J. McKenna at the Governing Body meeting of 28/3/22, Mr. McKenna will also be requested to give a Compact overview (this will be updated in the Governing Body Work Plan). The President stated that the Impact Case Study Submission will be based on Springboard activity.

A new TUS Compact will be developed in the next number of months and will be brought to Governing Body.

Action	By whom	By when
Update GB Work Plan to include Compact Overview by J. McKenna at GB meeting of 28 th March	B. Delaney	With Immediate effect

Section C

13. Presidents Update

The tender for the appointment of a consultant to assist with the Strategic Plan development closed today. An evaluation process will now commence.

Two all staff briefings will take place this week:

16th of February - Athlone Campus and 17th of February - Moylish Campus

National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP) proposal on Digital Transformation is expected next week, this is a €40m funding opportunity for the wider TU sector over two years.

RUN-EU European Alliances and Microcredentials - meeting took place with 21 European alliances with Commissioner Gabriel on Microcredentials and their role and uptake. Funding of €442k has been given by DFHERIS to all Irish partners in the European Alliance.

Ms. Maura McNally, has been appointed Chair of new Governing Body of the Atlantic Technological University, the process for Presidency is nearing completion.

CAO comparative numbers will be available in the next couple of months.

TUS Post Primary sponsorship of TUS Harty Cup Final and TUS Corn Ui Mhuiri Final was noted.

The Chair wished the President well on all strategic matters.

14. Staff Appointments

Staff appointments for TUS Midlands-Midwest were noted for information.

15. Presentation by Orla Thornton and Shane Malone – Marketing Communications and Branding: CAO Update

O. Thornton and S. Malone gave a presentation on TUS CAO Update to Governing Body which was followed by Q&A.

Shane and Orla were thanked for the presentation.

Section D

16. AOB

There was no other business noted.

17. Private Session (Members only)

This section of the meeting took place in private and considered a HR Matter.

The next meeting will take place in Athlone/Teams on Monday 7th of March at 10.30am.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm.

Signed:



Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date:

7/3/22.

