

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

Monday 15-12-25 at 10:00am. Midwest Campus/MS Teams

Members

Josephine Feehily – Chair
Vincent Cunnane
Jos Gijbels
John Griffin
Tony Mahon
Pamela O'Brien
George O'Callaghan
Geoff Shannon
Gearoid Folan
Anne Cusack
Marguerite Doyle
Dara Lenihan (Teams)
Kevin McLoughlin (Teams)
Maureen Falvey
Colette Ryan (Teams)
Darina Kneafsey
James Ring

In Attendance: Jimmy Browne, Chief Operations Officer
Raphaella Kane, Chief Academic Officer
Bill Delaney, Secretary
Martina Moran, Minute Secretary

4. Apologies: Catherine Collins, Noel Gavin.

Note: items are recorded in the order they were discussed.

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

1. Chairpersons Opening

With regard to the ongoing HR matter, the Chair advised, that correspondence from DFHERIS is expected requesting details on estimated legal costs.

A presentation will be made to Mr. Tom Kennedy at the Governing Body lunch to acknowledge his significant contribution to TUS and formerly LIT as a member of ARC.

2. Approval of the Agenda

An additional item from the Students Union will be tabled under Section C, as a new agenda item No. 14, subject to this change the agenda was approved.

3. Expressions of Sympathy

[REDACTED]

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest or Loyalty

There was no declaration of Conflict of Interest or Loyalty.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence from DFHERIS re €500 permanent reduction in the Student Contribution and the updated TUS Fee Schedule was noted.

Student Union drew attention to the fact that the temporary reduction granted by DFEHRIS in the two previous academic years was €1,000.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 24th November 2025

The minutes of 24th November were approved.

Proposed by A. Cusack and Seconded by J. Gijbels.

8. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

9. Action Log

The Action Log was reviewed and updates were provided.

'Green' items will be removed from the Action Log.

10. Risk Management

Geo-political tensions and polarisation has resulted in student protests on campuses in some countries. TUS has had no protests on campus. The SU engaged with the President on the recent 'walk-out'. TUS is a University of Sanctuary which provides a safe haven to all domestic and international students.

11. President's Strategic Update and Report & 16. TEF Funding announcement

The President gave an update on TEF (Targeted Enhancement Fund) which is managed by the HEA. TUS was awarded €6.3m for projects commencing in January 2026 until 31 December 2028. THE CAO and COO led a Team in submitting the revised TUS proposal. TUS applied for ten professorship posts within the TEF application and were awarded funding for five.

The President and the leadership team were congratulated on TUS being the leading university of graduate employment for the third year running.

The COO gave an update on Student Accommodation; he advised that a strategy is expected to be presented to Cabinet shortly. If a Nomination Agreement process is approved, it will give TUS the potential to begin negotiations with potential suppliers.

The Laundry building at LSAD received planning permission to convert use to a Design Hub. A condition of the planning application is to reflect historical, cultural and social history of the laundry/entire Clare Street campus.

Level 6 module certificate in STEM is being piloted with a secondary school in Longford, a similar pilot will be explored to extend the programme to other secondary schools.

TUS hosted a launch of a landmark book on Ireland's Policing Reform. The book entitled Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024: Annotations and Commentary was authored by a team of leading legal academics including TUS Lecturer in Law - Dr. PJ Ryan, Dr. John P. Byrne, Raymond Burne and Dr. TJ McIntyre.

The President's report was noted.

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

Finance & Physical Development (FPDC) Report 28th November 2025

G. O'Callaghan briefed Governing Body on the FPDC Report of 28th November 2025.

12.1 TUS Draft Consolidated Financial Statements 2024-25

Noted. The draft Financial Statements were submitted to the C&AG for audit, which commenced on 1-12-25. A final Audit Report will be presented to the Joint ARC & FPDC meeting on 14-5-26 and onwards to Governing Body for approval, signing and final submission to the C&AG.

TUS received additional funding from the HEA in the amount of €3.150m for 2025, towards the cost of national pay awards. This funding will be reflected in the final Financial Statements as it was confirmed after draft 1 was submitted for audit.

12.2 Budget and Financial Update – 2024-25

Noted.

12.3 TESS Midlands Ltd, CSS Clg & TESS Midwest Clg (Subsidiaries 7th & 10th November '25)

12.3.1 Annual Reporting subsidiaries 2024-25

Appendix A – Financial Statements

12.3.2 Auditors Management Letter 2024-25

Noted.

A query was raised in relation to the signatures to the Financial Statements and a possible conflict of interest. It was noted the Financial Statements (FS) for each of the three companies are signed by the board chairperson. It was also noted that, as previously approved by the Governing Body there are external chairpersons for both TESS Midlands and Midwest and the President is chairperson of CSS Ltd. The continuation of the President as chairperson of CSS was agreed due to the close alignment of CSS catering activities on campus and the charitable status of CSS.

The Commercial Manager for CSS also works with the external catering service provider on the Moylish campus to ensure alignment of strategy and service offering. An external member with expertise in catering service management has joined the CSS Board as a Director.

The FS are also signed by one other director, which is the VP F&CG for the Midlands based companies and the COO for the Midwest based companies.

It was noted that CSS reported a financial loss for 2025 (notwithstanding the fact that CSS still have a positive Balance Sheet). The CSS Board have implemented a changed catering service provision for the Coonagh campus and introduced a tariff increase to improve the financial performance going forward. This matter is kept under regular review by the Board.

TESS Midlands and TESS Midwest made an unprompted voluntary Disclosure to Revenue (VAT issue) for the period 1/7/21 – 30/6/25, the matter remains ongoing with Revenue.

The three companies received clean audit reports and there were no medium or high matters reported in the Auditor's Management Letters.

A sector wide HEA Review of Subsidiary companies has been undertaken and the report is expected to be available by Quarter 1 2026.

13. GNC Report

13.1 Conflict of Interest Policy – Annual Summary Report

GNC meeting scheduled for 9th December was cancelled, however, the Annual Summary Report was considered and reviewed by consensus. Management's proposal to move the timelines for GNC review to April each year going forward was noted.

One SIPO return remains outstanding, however, this individual did not attend any meeting in 24/25 and this update will be included on the report.

On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body approved the Conflict of Interest Policy – Annual Summary Report.

Proposed by J. Feehily and seconded by D. Kneafsey.

SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NOTING

14. Students Union

SU President is due to meet with Minister Lawless later in the week, items for discussion will include:

TU Walkout, No room for Learning – Accommodation and Cost of Living Report, Student Accommodation, Professorships, Postgrad Stipends, Teaching and the Irish Language.

Governing Body members were encouraged to forward further items for discussion to the Students Union.

Student Strategy once published could be released by the end of 2025.

15. Staff Appointments

Appointments for TUS: Midlands Midwest 24/11/25 were noted.

16. Presentation: Faculty of Business and Hospitality and Faculty of Business and Humanities

Dr. James Griffin and Seadna Ryan gave a Power Point presentation on the joint Faculty of Business, Humanities & Hospitality. The Deans were commended on their collaboration in driving the merger of both faculties with shared programmes, portfolios and research activity across Faculties. The Faculty is also looking at closer collaboration with LSAD.

It was noted that there are currently 33 students on the Bachelor of Education in Home Economics and Technology programme on the TUS Athlone campus.

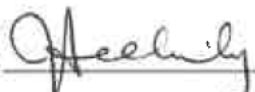
SECTION D: AOB

15. AOB

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.45pm.

The Chair and President wished all members a Happy Christmas.

The next meeting will take place on 19th January 2026, in the Midwest Campus.

Signed: 
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 19-1-26