

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

Monday 19th of December 2022 at 10:00am

via MS Teams & in person – Midwest Campus

Members: Ms. Josephine Feehily – Chair (in person)
Prof. Vincent Cunnane (in person)
Mr. John Doyle (in person)
Ms. Anne Meagher (in person)
Mr. George O’Callaghan (in person)
Mr. Kevin McLoughlin (Teams)
Mr. Tony Mahon (in person)
Mr. Martin Quinn (in person)
Mr. John Griffin (Teams)
Ms. Marguerite Doyle (in person)
Mr. Niall Naughton(Teams)
Mr Shahboz Babaev (in person)
Ms. Colette Ryan (Teams)
Ms. Anne Cusack (in person)
Ms. Catherine Collins (Teams)
Ms. Brigid Delamere (in person)
Mr. James Ring (in person)

In Attendance: Mr. Bill Delaney, Governing Body Secretary (in person)
Ms. Martina Moran, Recording Secretary (Teams)

4. Apologies: Mr. James Hadnett, Mr. Noel Gavin.

(Items were recorded in the order they were discussed.)

Section A: Standing Items

1. Chairperson’s opening and introductions.

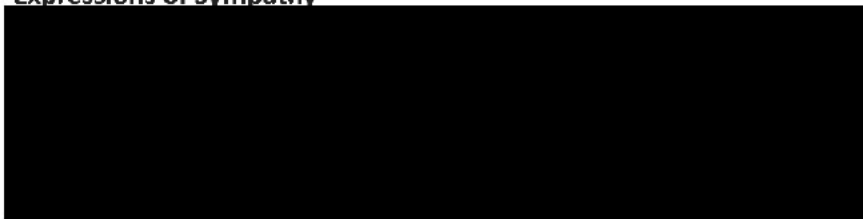
The Chair advised Governing Body that the meeting of TU Chairs with Minister Harris has been rescheduled and will take place in January 2023.

A meeting of the Chairs and Presidents of the five TUs took place in Athlone in November and two further meetings have been scheduled for the new year, these meetings will take place in Galway and Dublin.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Expressions of Sympathy



5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There was no declaration of conflict of interest.

6. Correspondence.

Further legal correspondence has been received regarding an outstanding matter, while the matter is not resolved yet, it is being dealt with at various Government Department levels.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 21st November 2022.

The minutes of 21st November 2022 were approved.

Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and seconded by A. Meagher.

8. Matters Arising

The President advised Governing Body at the November meeting that the postgraduate student stipend rate would be increased to ██████ per month for the students in the Midwest campus effective from 1st December 2022. This provides parity of the student stipend rate across TUS. The student representatives noted that there are two different payments systems in operation for the Midlands and Midwest and the Midwest students are being paid in a monthly arrears. The Students Union President and the VP for Finance & Corporate Governance have been corresponding regarding this and various payment options have been reviewed and the preferred option is to pay the relevant students ██████ on the 23/12/22. However, while some students are in acceptance of this there remains a number of students who are not. The VP for Finance & Corporate Affairs advised that he is available to the Students Union to discuss this further and the Chair encouraged the Students Union to avail of this.

9. Action Log

The Governing Body secretary gave an update on the following item which will be coded appropriately:

Item 29 – Risk Register (timelines) – Code green

Governing Body agreed to close off items in 'green' on the Action Log and Item 29 (as above) and to remove same from the Action Log.

'Amber' items will be reviewed at the January '23 meeting.

10. Risk Management – Review of Risk Register

All substantive changes in the Risk Register were noted. The Chair of ARC advised that as ARC wanted to give as much time as possible at ARC meeting to focus on the Risk Register, it has been agreed that there will be a focus on one item at each meeting going forward and an update will be subsequently given to Governing Body.

After some discussion the following amendments on the Risk Register were noted:

Risk # 1 Strategy – update for strategic plan development and include HEA Strategic Compact process and timelines

Risk # 12 Governance Structures & Systems – update risk description to reflect enactment of the HEA Act 2022.

Risk # 9 Academic Governance, Regulations and Infrastructure – mitigations to be updated to include timelines.

Risk # 9 CORU – include as a reputational as well as an operational risk category and update mitigation to reflect current position and submissions to CORU

Staff were acknowledged for their huge effort and input regarding CORU particularly within the tight time frame.

Risk # 7 Research – it was acknowledged that there are funding challenges for Research particularly postgraduate stipends, and a new group has been convened at national level to look at this. This will be kept under review.

11. TUS Key Strategic Priorities Progress Report and Presidents Update

The President gave an update on the Key Strategic Priorities.

The President had hoped to give an update on student numbers, as these numbers are only finalised in November for the SRS Returns, this needs to be discussed at the Joint VP/Deans Council first and should be presented to Governing Body in January '23.

Action	By whom	By when
Presentation on Student Numbers	President	23-1-23

A meeting of the five TU Presidents with the Secretary General of DFHERIS, Jim Breslin, discussed among other matters student accommodation. The Department hope to be in a position in the new year to announce details on the Borrowing Framework for the sector. A group convened under THEA are engaged in an ongoing process in this regard.

The OECD Report on a new academic contract and structures has just gone through cabinet and is currently awaiting endorsement by the Government, once published a process will commence. A lot of work including at national level is envisaged in the first half of 2023.

Action	By whom	By when
Upload OECD report on Decision Time and provide a copy for members for the January meeting	Governing Body Secretary	January '23

Capital Projects:

Thurles Campus – Progress from Gate 0 to Gate 1 (moving towards a Feasibility Study)

Clonmel Campus (Kickham Barracks) – Moving from Gate 0 to Gate 1

Both of these projects will serve both further education students and higher education students. The President was encouraged to communicate with all staff on the various campus projects.

Section B: Items for Discussion/Approval

12. Finance and Physical Development Committee Report 29-11-22

The Chair of Finance and Physical Development Committee briefed Governing Body on the Report of 29-11-22.

TUS Draft consolidated Financial Statements August 2022.

Both the Chair of Finance and Physical Development and the VP for Finance & Corporate Affairs gave a top-level overview of the draft Consolidated Financial Statements.

The draft statements have been submitted to the C&AG and the final post audit statements will be an agenda item at the Finance and Physical Development Committee in May '23.

The TUS Draft consolidated Financial Statements August 2022 were noted.

The C&AG will commence their audit of TUS in January 2023.

The American Foundation and Trusts will be dissolved.

Tax issue (on-going revenue aspect query) – it is expected that this issue will be resolved early '23.

Budget and Financial Update at August 2022

The VP for Finance & Corporate Affairs gave an overview of the Budget and Financial update, the following were noted:

Funding towards the cost of the 3% national pay award is awaited from the HEA.

Management are monitoring closely the requirement for additional staff appointments as there could be a potential risk to finance sustainability.

All current and future projects will have timelines.

The Budget and Financial Update August 2022 was noted.

Annual Review of Finance Committee Effectiveness 2021/22

The report highlighted that the committee are satisfied they are operating successfully and no significant issues were identified.

The VP for Finance & Corporate Affairs advised the committee that an external evaluation of the effectiveness of GB and its committees has been approved by GB and a draft scope of work for same will be presented to the next GNC. It was also noted that an Executive Summary and analysis will be included going forward.

The Annual Review of Finance Committee Effectiveness 2021/22 was noted.

Capital Projects Update

A high level overview of current capital projects which are at different stages of development on both campus was given. The Chair conveyed best wishes to the teams involved with all the capital projects, and thanked the VP for Finance & Corporate Affairs, the Finance team and members of both the Finance and Physical Development Committee and ARC.

The VP for Finance & Corporate Affairs acknowledged and thanked Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Finance Manager (Midwest campus) who is moving to a new position in January '23 and wished him every success in his new role.

A query was raised in relation to a legacy issue in which the Governing Body of LIT gave

funding approval to the LIT Students Union, and whether or not this item should have been referred to TUS GB for subsequent approval. It was agreed that this and other legacy issues (if any) will be reviewed and discussed at the next ARC meeting.

13. EDI Committee Update

Gender Pay Gap Report

The President gave an overview of the Gender Pay Gap (summary) Report 2021-2022. It was requested that Euro signs would be included for the hourly rates. The Governing Body emphasised the importance of a clear narrative to be included or to accompany the published report

The full report will be published on the website by 31st December 2022 and will be circulated to Governing Body.

The Chair of Governing Body will discuss the Report further with the Chair of EDI.

The Gender Pay Gap Report (summary) as presented was noted.

Section C: Items for information/noting

14. Governance and Nominations Committee Approved Minutes of 21-11-22

The approved GNC minutes were noted.

The Chair of TUD and the Chair of TUS have agreed to oversee a body of work on the Code of Governance for TUs. It is hoped to have some further information for Governing Body at the January meeting on the 'transitional arrangements' provided for in the HEA Act. The transition arrangements and the arrangements for the management of the performance of the President are also provided for in the Act will be discussed at the closed session part of this meeting.

15. Staff Appointments

The staff appointments were noted.

Section D:

16. AOB

There was no other business.

Section B: Items for discussion / approval

14. TUS Strategic Plan

The President gave a presentation on the Outline Strategy & Emerging Performance Indicators.

After a detailed discussion the following key points were noted:

- 'Agile' to be replaced by a different word – possibly 'responsive'
- Vision to 2030 – to include 'through education'
- Priority 3 re-title to "People and Organisation" and use the word 'inclusive' under objective 4
- Strategic Indicators – further work to be done on the Implementation Framework
- Strategic Indicators – Priority 1 – Education Expected Outcome include 'work ready' and remove 'more'

- Traffic & Monitoring Slide – this should be included in final Plan
- Further edit required on RUN EU
- Strategic Plan to be designed for web – (Digital first design)
- The four priorities and associated 16 objectives were formally endorsed and it was agreed that there will be 16 Strategic Performance Indicators

The final Strategic Plan including indicator targets will be presented to Governing Body on 23rd January 2023.

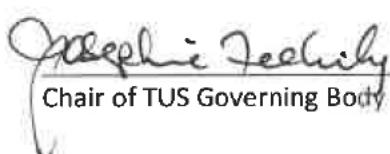
Section D:

18. GB Session – Non TU connected members

TU connected members, Governing Body secretary and recording secretary withdrew from this section of the meeting. In private session an approach to managing the performance of the President as required by the HEA Act, was discussed. It was agreed that it must be linked to the Strategy and the Chair was authorised to discuss the arrangements with the President.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 23rd January at 10:00am on the Midlands Campus. The President wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

There being no further business this section of the meeting concluded at 13.30pm

Signed: 
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 23-1-23