

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


**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 10:00am**

**via MS Teams & in person – Midlands Campus**

- Members:** Ms. Josephine Feehily – Chair (in person)  
Prof. Vincent Cunnane (in person)  
Mr. John Doyle (in person)  
Ms. Anne Meagher (in person)  
Ms. Colette Ryan (Teams)  
Mr. Tony Mahon (in person)  
Mr. John Griffin (Teams)  
Ms. Marguerite Doyle (in person)  
Ms. Anne Cusack (Teams)  
Ms. Catherine Collins (in person)  
Mr George O’Callaghan (in person)  
Mr Niall Naughton (in person)  
Mr Kevin McLoughin (in person)  
Mr. James Ring (in person)  
Mr. Martin Quinn (Teams)  
Ms. Brigid Delamere (in person)
- In Attendance:** Mr. Bill Delaney, Governing Body Secretary (in person)  
Ms. Martina Moran, Recording Secretary (in person)  
Dr. Terry Twomey, VP Academic Affairs & Registrar  
Ms. Marian Duggan, VP People, Culture and EDI – item 17 (in person)  
Carol Wrenn, EDI Manager, - item 17 (in person)
- 4. Apologies:** S. Babaev, J. Hadnett, N. Gavin.

*Items are recorded in the order they were discussed.*

**SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS**

1. **Chairpersons Opening**  
The Annual Report (which is a legislative requirement) is now due for submission, however, as a combined TUS structure to facilitate this report has not been put in place, the Annual Report will not be ready for submission by the deadline. The President has advised the Assistant Secretary, Policy Division, DFHERIS, and the CEO of HEA of this. The Annual Report will be submitted at a later date.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**  
The agenda will be amended under item 16.
3. **Expressions of Sympathy**  


**5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

**6. Correspondence**

The President and the Chair received correspondence from the HEA regarding TUS approach to 'Funding the Future 2023 allocation', and sought Governing Body assurance that this funding will be utilised for the purposes indicated by the HEA.

The correspondence was noted and will be referred to the Finance Committee. The President will acknowledge receipt of the correspondence

**7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

The minutes were approved.

**Proposed by C. Ryan and seconded by M. Doyle.**

**8. Matters Arising**

The meeting with Minister Harris, Chairs and Presidents is scheduled to take place on 22/6/23.

Governing Body were reminded to complete the survey to enable the completion of the Evaluation of the Board and its committees. [REDACTED] PA, is currently conducting interviews with Governing Body members.

The Students Union 2022-2023 Annual Report is available to view on Decision Time, questions/comments to be referred to the Students Union President.

**9. Action Log**

Update on the following items:

Item 2	Code 'green'
Item 3	Code 'green'
Item 16	Status to be updated to October '23
Item 18	Code 'green'
Item 28	Code 'white'
Item 54	Code 'green'
Item 74	Code 'green'
Item 78A	Code 'red'
Item 43 & 81	Remain 'live'
Item 85	Code 'green and issue letter to Finance Team

Governing Body agreed that all items coded 'green' are now closed and can be removed from the Action Log.

**10. Risk Management**

This item will be dealt with under item 14.

**11. TUS Key Strategic Priorities Progress Report and President's Update**

• **Key Strategic Priorities:**

TUS Capital Project governance processes and structures has been completed.

The Compact needs to be discussed by the sector at a future HEA meeting.

The President will report on the Strategic Plan timelines and achievements to Governing Body in September.

- **President's Report:**

The President thanked the Chair for attending events which recently took place throughout the various campuses.

The Clonmel Sports Hub which was officially opened by An Taoiseach is a world class sports facility.

Meetings took place with the CEO of the HEA in the Midwest campus (Clonmel, LSAD and Ennis campuses) topics discussed included core funding, research, Regional Assemblies, 'Blue Economy' and Teacher Education. The CEO will also visit the Midlands campus in due course.

Student Accommodation – Governing Body agreed to delegate to the Chair, Chair of Finance and the President to write to the Minister indicating that TUS would partner with a property developer for off-campus Student Accommodation. At this stage there are no further details, however, Governing Body and the various sub-committees will be appraised of all developments as they arise.

TUTF Funding update – major discussions have taken place regarding the need for funding continuity in this space. Management will be reviewing this further in the coming days.

A review of the Cycle 1 RUN EU + recently took place.

RUN-EU European Innovation Hubs 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum sponsored by "Science Meets Regions" takes place 19-20 June at TUS, Athlone Campus. The conference is led by Ms. Michelle McKeon Bennett and will be attended by Minister for State, Department of Marine and Environment, Minister Pippa Hackett, CEO of Westmeath County Council, D. Pat Gallagher and the Ambassador to Ireland, Embassy of Finland Her Excellency Raili Lahnalampi.

## **SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL**

### **13. Student Union Appointments to Governing Body July '23 to June '24**

The appointments were agreed. These appointments will commence from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and seconded by K. McLoughlin.**

The Chair thanked the outgoing Student Union President for his contribution and support and wished him, the Deputy President and the SU Postgrad Deputy every best wish for the next stage of their careers.

## 12. Organisational Structure

██████████ Mazars, gave a presentation on the Design & Development of TUS structures which was followed by Q&A. The Presentation will be circulated to Governing Body.

The following points were noted from the lengthy discussion which took place:

Two proposed extra posts - CAO and COO will be funded from TUS budget and these roles will be of a strategic nature/timeline for implementation.

Proposed operational role of 3 Executive Deans.

Deans structure = 10 Deans will report into the Executive Deans.

Flexible Learning will be reabsorbed into the Faculties.

Further detail on roles to be defined.

██████████ was thanked for the presentation.

After further discussion on the Organisational Structure it was agreed that the President will undertake further consultations and endeavour to put structure and costings in place.

## 16. GNC Report 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

The minute of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 was noted.

As this is the first time for TUS to register with the Charities Regulator, the GNC reviewed the Charities Governance Code Compliance Record form, (which will remain on file in TUS) and the Annual Report (which is based on the content within the Record form and will be forwarded to the Charity Regulator) in detail. Mr. B. Delaney and Ms. A. Clarke were acknowledged for their contribution in compiling both the form and the Report.

### 16.1 *Charity Regulator Annual Report 21/22*

The Chair gave background as to the reason GNC at their meeting proposed that 'partially compliant' be declared in the TUS Annual Report.

In relation to *Principle 2: Behaving with Integrity and 2.2 Conflicts of interest and loyalties* which are both recorded as 'No', the Chair gave a presentation which proposed an amendment to the Interim Code of Governance section 1.4.4 Loyalty.

The amendment to the Interim Code of Governance as per the slide was agreed.

**Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and seconded by J. Ring.**

On the basis of the agreed proposal both Principle 2 and 2.2 will now be amended and recorded as 'yes'.

The amended Charity Regulator Annual Report 21/22 was agreed and will be submitted to the Charities Regulator as 'partially compliant'.

**Proposed by M. Doyle and seconded by C. Ryan.**

### 16.2 *Compliance Record Form 21/22*

Noted.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved and will be amended to include 'loyalty' as a standing item under Declaration of Conflicts of Interest for all future meetings.

#### 14. Risk Register Executive Summary

The Executive Summary was noted and discussion was deferred for a future Governing Body meeting.

Action	By whom	By when
Risk Register Executive Summary	Deferred	Future Governing Body meeting

#### 17. EDI

M. Duggan and C. Wrenn attended the meeting for this item.

##### 17.1 *TUS Dignity and Respect Policy Procedure*

Subject to some drafting changes and clarity on references given throughout the document, the Policy was agreed.

##### 17.2 *TUS Gender Pay Gap Report*

This report uses a snapshot date of 30<sup>th</sup> June '22, with a reporting period of 12 month period immediately preceding and including the snapshot date.

The Report was noted. However, a more in-depth look into the Report is warranted.

##### 17.3 *HEA Anti-Racism Principles*

Background to this report was given.

The document was noted, unease was also expressed by the language used within the document regarding racial inequalities within the higher education institutions.

##### 17.4 *Recruitment Selection & Appointments Policy*

This Policy was agreed.

#### 15. VP Academic Affairs & Registrar:

##### 15.1 *Research Regulations for Masters and PhD*

Dr. Terry Twomey, joined the meeting for this item and gave a background to the draft TUS Postgraduate Research Regulations 2023-2026. It was noted that these regulations are a mixture of regulations and procedures and are in line with Best Practise and have been signed off by the Academic Council. Two amendments were noted:

Page 9 1.2.4 - TUS have established a Graduate School.

*GB role 'under Section 17' of the TU Act (2018) – change to 'including under Section 17'*

Subject to the two amendments being addressed before September 2023, the Research Regulations were agreed.

**Proposed by T. Mahon and seconded by K. McLoughlin.**

**SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NOTING**

**18. Staff Appointments**  
Noted.

**19. VP Student Education & Experience – Update on Academic Integrity**  
Deferred

**Section D:**

**20. AOB**  
RDI Newsletter Academic Year 2022/2023 was circulated at the meeting.

**21. Private session with TUS external members**  
The GB noted that the arrangements for managing the performance of the President in accordance with the HEA Act is a work in progress.


The current Strategic Priorities Progress Report was discussed and members noted that it was put in place at a point in time in order to provide a basic reporting structure. The Governing Body at its private session will recommend to Governing Body that in light of the finalisation of the Strategy, which is now in course of implementation, it is no longer fit for purpose and should be replaced by a report based on the Strategic Plan with effect from the September Governing Body.

Action	By whom	By when
Strategic Priorities Progress Report to be replaced by a report based on the Strategic Plan	President	18-9-23 meeting

The presentation on the proposed structure was discussed and the members requested an additional note or slide(s) which map the Strategic Plan onto the proposed structure for the September Governing Body.

Action	By whom	By when
Organisational Structure Presentation – additional slide to be included to map the Strategic Plan onto the proposed structure	President	18-9-23 meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10:00am on the Midwest Campus.

Signed:   
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 18/9/23