

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

Monday 20-10-25 at 10:00am. Midwest

Members

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

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

4. Apologies: Noel Gavin, James Ring, Marguerite Doyle

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

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

- 1. Chairpersons Opening**
The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.
As the Chair has to leave the meeting before conclusion, the Deputy Chair agreed to chair the remainder of the meeting in her absence.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
The agenda was approved.
- 3. Expressions of Sympathy**
None.
- 5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest or Loyalty**
There was no declaration of Conflict of Interest or Loyalty.

6. Correspondence

Legal correspondence was noted.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 22nd and 23rd September 2025

The minutes of 22nd September and the minutes of 23rd September 2025 were approved.

Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and Seconded by C. Collins.

The accompanying Aide Memoire of 22nd September was noted.

8. Matters Arising

The 1st phase of the Northern Distributor Road (NDR), connecting Coonagh and the Old Cratloe Road is now open.

At Academic Council meeting on Friday 17/10/25, the Governing Body Regulation for Composition of Academic Council was discussed and Academic Council recommended the CAO as Vice Chair of Academic Council and VP Academic affairs and Registrar as Secretary. This was noted.

9. Action Log

The Action Log was reviewed and updates were provided:

- Item #81, 139, 149, 160 'Green' and replaced by #214
- Item #180 'green', update provided for #180A
- Item #31 turn 'green' and replace with new Item 31A
- Item #172A, update provided

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

TUS Student Union advised that there will be a thirty minute walk out from timetabled lectures/labs/tutorials on 22nd October at 12 noon, the purpose of which is to highlight to Government parity of the Technological Universities across the TU sector.

10. Risk Management

This will be discussed further under the ARC report. Early indications would be that the Budget '25 did not address outstanding issues i.e. student fees, student accommodation, professorships. TUS await the outcome of the Finance Bill.

Nova Nordisk have announced a worldwide reduction in staff numbers which would also impact the Athlone facility. Nova Nordisk will continue to work closely with TUS re training of their staff.

11. President's Strategic Update and Report

The President's report was noted.

At the recent TU Presidents meeting with the Joint Oireachtas Committee for Higher Education, the issue of Student Accommodation was discussed and the Student's Union Report on "No Room for Learning Accommodation and Cost of Living TUS Report" was provided to the committee.

Compendium of Embedding Education for Sustainable Development in Teaching, Learning and Assessment and the Compendium of Approaches to Internationalisation of the Home Curriculum was launched on the Athlone Campus on 24th September 2025. (Booklets are

available on request).

The Aurora Women in Leadership Report was launched on the 26th September in LSAD, the Report will be made available to Governing Body.

The Midland Chamber Corporate lunch took place in Athlone on 3rd October 2025. Keynote speakers at the event were Minister Peter Burke TD, Feargal O'Rourke, Chairman of IDA Ireland, and Jenny Melia, CEO of Enterprise Ireland.

The launch of new L6 programme in Applied Training & Skills Development took place on the Moylish campus on 13th October 2025. This is an accredited programme for students with intellectual disabilities.

Careers Fair took place on the Moylish campus 13th and 14th October, with more than 55 companies each day, the Careers Fair also took place on the Athlone Campus with approx. 90 companies on site engaging with students in relation to placement and graduate employment.

Open Days took place in Moylish and Clare Street campuses on 16th and 17th of October, with 5,000 to 6,000 people in attendance at various times during the two days. Open Days took place on the Athlone Campus Friday 17th and Saturday 18th October (numbers of attendees will be advised). Open Day will be arranged on the other campuses in due course.

Polymer Study Tour: First Polymer Training Skillnet hosted a 2-day polymer upskilling event for Technology and Engineering 2nd level teachers on the 17th & 18th October, which coincided with the TUS Midlands Open Days. The event included a visit to the APT facility at TUS, and the 2 days were closed out with a wrap up session facilitated by Rónán Dunbar in the TUS Technology lab. This residential event is fully funded by the Irish Polymer Group (IPG) and aims to increase confidence in polymer education at 2nd level and to promote interest in careers in the sector.

Graduation ceremonies will take place in the International Arena, Athlone 28th and 29th of October and in the Marquee on the Limerick Campus on 30th and 31st October 2025. Governing Body were invited to attend the ceremonies.

Copy of TUS 2026 Undergraduate Prospectus was circulated at the meeting.

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

12. ARC Report 29th September 2025

A. Cusack briefed the Governing Body on the ARC Report of 29.09.25.

Noted: TUS have no links with Israel or occupied territories.

12.1 Internal Audit

12.1.1 Internal Audit Update September 2025

Noted.

12.1.2 TUS 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan and Strategy

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the TUS 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan and Strategy.

Proposed by A. Cusack and seconded by D. Kneafsey

Noted: The internal Audit Plan and Strategy covers all relevant items.

12.1.3 Compliance with HEA Principles of Good Practice in Research

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the Compliance with HEA principles of good Practice in Research Internal Audit Report.

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

**12.2 Technological Universities Association (TUA) ICF Framework
(Update on sectoral project)**

Noted.

12.3 Annual Information and Data Compliance Report (IDCO) 24/25

Noted.

Governing Body requested that the executive would renew efforts re mandatory training, a specific report across all training headings will be presented to Governing Body in Quarter 1 2026.

Action	By whom	By when
IDCO Report Renewed effort required on Mandatory Training – a specific report across all training headings to be presented to Governing Body	VP F&CG	Q1

12.4 Risk Management Framework

Noted.

The proposed Risk Management Framework Project will be completed by end of 2025 with revised Risk Management Policy and will be presented to ARC in Feb/March 2026.

12.5 TUS C&AG Management Letter 23/24

Noted.

Both ARC and FPDC discussed the Management letter in detail.

12.6 ARC Terms of Reference

Changes and updates were made to the ARC Terms of Reference, and on the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the ARC Terms of Reference.

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

A prior discussion took place between the Chair of Governing Body and the Chair of ARC regarding the re-balance of the ARC workload, the Annual Information and Data Compliance Report (IDCO) will now be moved to GNC Terms of Reference and other areas as deemed appropriate.

12.7 Annual Procurement Report 24/25 (include non-competitive analysis)

On the recommendation of ARC, the Annual procurement Report 24/25 was approved.

Proposed by A. Cusack and seconded by G. Folan.

Appendix 2 – queries were raised re the following: expenditure for Sundry Credit Card and

Sundry Credit Card International and Mary Immaculate College, VP FCG will get full details of transactions and report back to the next Governing Body.

Action	By whom	By when
Annual Procurement Report – Appendix 2 – details for the following transactions required: Sundry Credit Card Sundry Credit Card International Mary Immaculate College	VP F&CG	Governing Body 24-11-25 (under matters arising)

12.7.1 Circular 09 2024 Reporting on the use of Centralised Procurement Arrangements.
Noted.

12.8 RDI Policies

ARC approved the RDI Policies by email, on the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the following policies:

Export Controls for Researchers Internal Compliance Policy

Export Controls for Researchers Policy Guidelines

Collaborative Research with External Partners Policy

State Aid Policy

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

13. GNC Report 2nd October 2025

J. Feehily briefed Governing Body on the GNC report of 2nd October 2025 and also gave a verbal update of GNC meeting of 16th October 2025.

GNC have commenced a conversation on the recruitment process for Governing Body members. Five external members term expires at the end of the academic year.

GNC also reviewed the State Code of Governance and the TUS Code of Governance and have identified gaps which will need to be addressed. GNC will review and update the TUS Code to address identified gaps. In due course a revised TUS Code of Governance will be presented to Governing Body for approval.

13.1 GNC Terms of Reference

On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body approved the GNC Terms of Reference.
Proposed by J. Feehily and seconded by C. Collins.

13.2 Charity Trustees

Background to the legal position in relation to all members of Governing Body as a Charity Trustee was provided. All members are requested to sign the "Charity Trustee Declaration to Accompany an Application for Registration under Section 39 of the Charities Act 2009" and return to the secretariat for upload to the Charity Register. On-line training as a Charity Trustee will be procured, and all Governing Body members will be required to complete this training, only members who have already completed this training will be exempt.

Action	By whom	By when
All Governing Body members to sign and return the "Charity Trustee Declaration to Accompany an Application for Registration under Section 39 of the Charities Act 2009"	All Governing Body members	Immediate effect
Once Chairty Trustee training is procured, members will be requested to complete on-line training	VP F&CG	Once training is procured

SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NOTING

15. TUS CINNTE Institutional Review follow-up Report

The CINNTE follow-up report was presented to Academic Council on 17th October 2025.

The President presented the Report to Governing Body. In summary there are 53 Planned Actions of which 36 are complete and 17 have made substantial progress.

The following points were noted:

Recommendation 1 – the Report will continuously be monitored. Strategic reviews are currently being looked at.

Recommendation 8 (page 32) - the President will provide a breakdown of 105 Societies.

Recommendation 14 (page 53) - the President advised he would revert regarding mentoring for supervisor training.

TUS CINNTE Institutional Review Follow-up Report will be issued to QQI for publication on their website.

Action	By whom	By when
CINNTE Institutional Review follow-up Report Recommendation 14 – mentoring for supervisor training Recommendation 8 – breakdown of 105 Societies	President to revert to GB	GB 24-11-25

16. Staff Appointments

Governing Body HR matters for TUS: Midlands Midwest 20-10-25 were noted.

14. FPDC Report 3rd October 2025

G. O'Callaghan briefed Governing Body on the FPDC Report of 3rd October 2025.

Governing Body at its meeting of 17th February 2025 approved the opening of BOI Account, however, the overall Treasury Management Report (via Appendix III, IV and V) to this Governing Body meeting, also included a request for the opening of a PTSB Account.

On behalf of FPDC, Governing Body confirmed approval for opening of the PTSB accounts as requested in Treasury Management Report to GB 17/2/25.

Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and seconded by G. Folan.

The Governing Body minutes of 17th February 2025 will be modified to reflect the approval of the opening of PTSB account.

14.1 Capital Projects Report/Update

Noted. A request was made to amend the title text (page 10) within the CDU Report in relation to Clare Street Campus.

14.2 FPDC Terms of Reference

On the recommendation of FPDC, Governing Body approved the FPDC Terms of Reference.
Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and seconded by T. Mahon.

14.3 TUS Report C/HEA Report (Finance, Governance, Capital & Strategic Update)

Noted.

14.4 Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets Policy will be redrafted, and an updated Policy will be brought to a future FPDC meeting and onwards to Governing Body.

14.4.1 Fixed Asset Register Update

14.4.1a Fixed Asset Disposal/Retirement of Asset

On the recommendation of FPDC, Governing Body approved aligning the Fixed Asset Registrar (FAR) with the TUS Fixed Asset Capitalisation Policy and subsequent write off of €6,324 low value assets from the €16,922 assets on the FAR.

On the recommendation of FPDC, Governing Body approved the disposal/retirement of prefabs on Moylish campus.

Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and seconded by C. Collins

14.4.2 Capital Development Reserve Allocation

On the recommendation of FPDC, Governing Body approved the proposed funding allocations from the CDR to specified projects.

Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and seconded by P. O'Brien.

14.5 TUS Audit 2023/24 – Management Letter

Noted.

SECTION D: AOB

15. AOB.

TUS Students Union presented a Transport and Travel report – “The Cost of Getting There”. It is hoped to launch the report next month. It was suggested to include numbers as well as the percentages in the data presented. Individual reports for both Limerick and Athlone will be drafted.

SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NOTING

17. RUN- EU update post General Assembly Presentation by Dr. Liam Brown, VP Research Development and Innovation

Dr. Liam Brown, gave a presentation on RUN-EU which was followed by Q&A.

Further documentation as per slide 2, item 1 is available on request.

The following points were noted:

- Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) progress – current funding from multiple sources of EU programmes were discussed.
- Joint RUN-EU Degree Programmes are being developed which will include an establishment of Quality Assurance System.
- European Zone of Interregional Development (EZ-ID) – the four pillars of EZ-ID (RUN-ERA, RUN-EPA, RUN-EMIC, RUN-ESEC) will develop individual and overall operation and management structures to support the operation and activities of the EZ-ID.
- RUN-EU Presidency handover and management changes – Vincent Cunnane will step down as President from December 2025 and Mark Otto, NHL Stenden will take over as President of RUN-EU from 1/1/26 for two years and will chair RUN – EU Strategy Steering Group (SSG) and Governing Council meetings. HAMK will take over the Presidency in 2028.
- Ruaidhri Neavyn will become Strategic Advisor to the Alliance after stepping down as CEO.
- Siobhan Moane – COO will retain operational responsibility for deliverables and will be supported by TUS VP RDI and TUS Head of Research.
- Regular RUN-EU updates are provided to Governing Body.
- Deloitte procured to review the structures for the organization.

Dr. Brown was thanked for the comprehensive presentation of RUN-EU.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 1.15pm.

The next meeting will take place on 24th November 2025, Athlone Campus.

Signed: 
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 24/11/25