

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

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 at 10:00am**

**Midlands Campus**

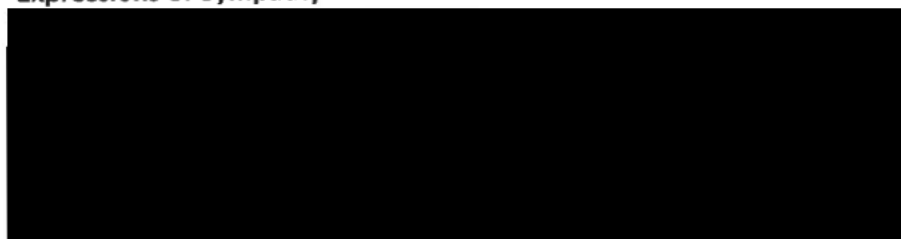
**Members:** Vincent Cunnane (in person)  
Josephine Feehily (in person)  
George O'Callaghan (in person)  
Tony Mahon (in person)  
Anne Cusack (Teams)  
Kevin McLoughin (in person)  
Anne Meagher (Teams)  
Noel Gavin (in person)  
Brigid Delamere (in person)  
Amelia Lown (in person)  
Jose Fernandes (in person)  
Catherine Collins (in person)  
John Griffin (Teams)  
Colette Ryan (in person)  
Marguerite Doyle (in person)  
Niamh Kennedy (in person)  
John Doyle (In person)  
James Ring (In person)

**In Attendance:** Bill Delaney, Governing Body Secretary (in person)  
Martina Moran, Recording Secretary (in person)  
VP Strategy, Transition and Projects - Item 11  
VP Academic Affairs & Registrar – Item 13  
Head of Quality – Item 13

**4. Apologies:** Martin Quinn

**SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS**

- 1. Chairpersons Opening**  
The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of 2024.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**  
As this is the first year of the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, extra time will be afforded to item 11 for discussion; the agenda was subsequently approved.
- 3. Expressions of Sympathy**





5. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest & Loyalty**

There were no Conflicts of Interest & Loyalty declared.

6. **Correspondence**

There has been no update on IPA Workshop on the Code of Governance.

7. **Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

The minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved.

Proposed by

8. **Matters Arising**

A response was issued to the HEA re Protocol underpinning the exercise of provisions available to the HEA. A number of responses have also issued from other TUs. Governing Body will be appraised of developments in this regard.

The Governing Body Secretary on behalf of the CMR committee gave an update on the process of election, nomination and appointment of Governing Body members 2024. CMR will schedule a further meeting in the very near future.

**Internal Process:** The President issued notice of elections for Academic and Professional Management and Support Staff on 19<sup>th</sup> January '24. The electoral register will be available on the Mi-Voice platform from 22<sup>nd</sup> January '24 until 2<sup>nd</sup> February '24. The nomination process will also take place online using the Mi-voice system.

Nominations for electoral panel A will run from 22<sup>nd</sup> January '24 to 7<sup>th</sup> February '24 and nominations for electoral panels B, C, D will run from 9<sup>th</sup> February to 22<sup>nd</sup> February '24. Elections for electoral panel A will take place from 9am 13<sup>th</sup> February '24 to 1pm on 14<sup>th</sup> February '24 and elections from electoral panels B, C and D will take place from 9am 6<sup>th</sup> March to 1pm to 7<sup>th</sup> March '24.

**External Process:** External Governing Body Members' Candidate Information Booklet has been published and uploaded to the TUS website and the State Boards. A press release will also issue today. The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest for six external members is 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Existing external members may apply through the process should they wish to re-apply. The Chair advised that in the interests of succession planning, varying terms of office will be applied to successful candidates as previously proposed by the Governing Body. Any gaps in the range of skills and competencies will be addressed using the committee structures.

9. **Action Log**

Item 65	Will be presented to February GB
Item 66 & 68	Further update/guidance will be referred to the external Public Group.
Item 70 & 101	Coded Green
Item 83	Completed – Coded Green
Item 87	Agenda item at today's meeting – Coded Green
Item 93	Secretary will follow-up on query with the Internal Auditors
Item 95	Coded Green

- Item 97 President gave an update on TUS initiative re plastic bottles and disposable cups. The President will have a definitive response for the next Governing Body regarding 'Home to Return' TUS exemption and the machinery for recycling cans/bottles.
- Item 104 This item will be an agenda item at the GNC meeting scheduled for 6/2/24.
- Item 113 Coded Green

Both existing and additional items coded green will be removed from the Action Log,

**10. Risk Management**

This item will be covered under item 12.1.

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

The President briefed Governing Body on the President's Report. Ministers Harris, O'Brien and Donohoe outlined details of a new long-term policy to develop student accommodation, which will help increase the supply of student housing in campuses across the country, this policy will inform a new Student Accommodation Strategy and will be published later this year. Phase 1 of a BDO review into TUs and Purpose Built Accommodation is complete and we await the formal report. Phase 2 was announced this week and we await further details from the department.

The President will update Governing Body once further information is available. The inaugural RUN EU2 meeting took place in Limerick 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January '24. The President gave a brief update of RUN-EU, which is an alliance of higher education institutions drawn from Portugal, Finland, Hungary, The Netherlands, Austria, Spain, Belgium and Ireland, and was established in 2020 under the European Universities initiative. In 2023 TUS was appointed as lead of the European University and coordinator for RUN-EU and subsequently Professor Cunnane is the first ever Irish president of a European University. RUN-EU2 is governed by RUN-EU General Assembly which includes Presidents/Rectors, student representatives, Associated partners, International experts, Co-Ordinator and Executive Management and Advisory boards. The President will give a more detailed presentation on RUN-EU to Governing Body at the February meeting and will invite Mr Ruaidhri Neavyn RUN-EU CEO to a future Governing Body meeting.

TU Presidents will continue to work with DFHERIS on the issue of professorships. This will continue to be an ongoing issue and will be raised at a number of fora.

It was noted that TUI has decided to ballot its members for industrial action over non-adherence by management to a collective agreement concerning the establishment of Technological Universities.

Global Citizens 2030 – Ireland's International Talent and Innovation Strategy was launched by Minister Harris on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. TUS as a member of a European University have received funding to facilitate this initiative.

Action	By whom	By when
Student Accommodation – Agenda item	President	19-2-24
RUN-EU Presentation to GB	President	19-2-24
Invite Mr Ruaidhri Neavn to present to GB on RUN-EU	President	Future GB meeting

Mr. J. McKenna, VP Strategy, Transition and Projects joined the meeting by Teams for this agenda item. The President presented the Strategic Plan Metrics – a single document which outlines the activity in its entirety. The President briefed Governing Body in detail on each of the 4 Strategic Priorities: SP1 Education; SP2 Research; SP3 People & Organisation and SP4 Connecting Communities. The following are actions from this discussion:

Action	By whom	By when
Provide CAO Student Number update to Governing Body	President	GB 25-3-24
Metrics 2.4 Research Engagement activity Research targets/deadlines/achievements – agenda item at GB	President/VP Research Development & Innovation	GB 25-3-24
Open Tab for Strategic Plan on Resource Section of Decision Time	Minute Secretary	Immediate effect

A discussion took place re the lack of student accommodation and the impact it is having on student growth. A significant growth in the apprenticeship programmes is forecast for 2024, particularly with the opening of Coonagh for first year students from April '24, however, the International provision is being affected by the student accommodation issue as accommodation and study is marketed as a combined package. This is a national issue and not just an issue for TUS. Until the borrowing framework is addressed the TU sector will be unable to progress the student accommodation agenda.

Governing Body acknowledged Professor Neil Rowan and Aaron Maloney both from TUS; Prof. Rowan was ranked in the 2023 Standford University list of World Top 2% of Scientists in recognition of his major research activities and contributions and Aaron Maloney received the Jane Grimson Medal of Excellence award from the Irish Research Council.

The Chair acknowledged and congratulated the President and the team on the Strategic Plan Metrics Report.

## **Section B: Items for Discussion / Approval**

### **12. Audit & Risk committee Report 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The Chair of ARC briefed Governing Body on the ARC meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January '24.

#### **12.1 Risk Management – Strategic Risk register & Executive Summary**

Copies of the Strategic Risk Executive summary were circulated at the meeting and was discussed in detail.

#### **12.2 Follow Up – Open recommendations/Priority Listing**

Noted.

### 12.3 TUS Policy Framework Update

Both the Acceptable Usage and the Information Security Policies will be re-drafted and presented to Governing Body on 19<sup>th</sup> February '24.

TUS Policy Framework Update purpose and process was discussed in detail at ARC and was recommended by ARC for Governing Body approval.

With regard to point 3 - Scope of the Policy (ref 3.3), it was queried as to why Academic and Research policies approved at Academic Council are outside the scope of this framework. The President advised that a different process is applied by Academic Council for these policies, however, if there are ways to improve or contextualise those policies this will be considered.

With regard to 1.3 Policy Unit, it was queried if the Policy Unit should have a role in challenging policies – the Secretary will take this back to the Unit to formally embed into the Policy.

Action	By whom	By when
Policy Unit to be authorised to clarify and challenge policies.	Secretary	Immediate effect
A similar framework to be considered for Academic Policies	President	President to consider and revert to GB

On the recommendation of ARC the TUS Policy Framework Update was approved.

### 12.4 Update on Sectoral Internal Audit contract

Noted. Broader discussion to take place at a future date.

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

### 13. TUS Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (CINNTE)

Dr. Terry Twomey and Dr. Brendan Murphy attended the meeting to present the CINNTE Report. The CINNTE review visit will take place on the Midwest campus week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> of April and Governing Body will be invited to meet with the CINNTE Panel on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Dr. Murphy gave a power point presentation which will be uploaded to Resource section Decision Time, the presentation was followed by Q&A. The following points were noted for attention after the discussion:

- The photo on page 82 to be changed
- The word 'consider' to be reviewed throughout the document
- Reflection required on how to represent TUS institutional governance, noting that 'tricameral' may not be accurate.
- Point 3.5 recommendation 1 – the word 'review' to be replaced
- EDI committee title to be updated
- Effectiveness of Governing Body IPA Review to be reflected in the final document.
- VP for Governance to review the chapter on Governance

The final (ISER) report will be submitted to CINNTE. Both Dr. Twomey and Dr. Murphy were thanked for the comprehensive update and presentation.

Action	By whom	By when
Completion of the points above to be confirmed by GB	Secretary	Next meeting

- 14. **EDI**  
**Final TUS EDI Terms of Reference**  
The amended EDI TOR were approved.
- 15. **Staff Appointments**  
Noted.

**Section D:**  
**15. AOB**

Coonagh update – it is anticipated that there the apprentices will be in-situ in Coonagh after Easter and that it will be fully operational by September '24. The President will arrange a future Governing Body meeting in the Coonagh facility.

The meeting concluded at 1.40pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 10:00am on the Midwest Campus.

Signed: Joseph Feely  
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 19/2/24