

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

**Monday 22-9-25 at 2:00pm Hodson Bay, Athlone**

**Members**

Josephine Feehily – Chair  
Vincent Cunnane  
Marguerite Doyle  
Jos Gijbels  
Tony Mahon  
Pamela O'Brien  
George O'Callaghan  
Geoff Shannon  
Gearoid Folan  
Anne Cusack  
Noel Gavin be  
Catherine Collins  
Darina Kneafsey  
Dara Lenihan  
Kevin McLoughlin

**In Attendance:** Bill Delaney, Secretary  
Martina Moran, Minute Secretary  
Jimmy Browne  
Raphaela Kane  
Victor Pigott  
Seamus Hoyne  
Janet Owens

**4. Apologies:** James Ring, Colette Ryan, Maureen Falvey, John Griffin

**SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS**

**Chairpersons Opening**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. D. Kneafsey was congratulated on her new role as Chair of Digital Hub Development Agency. V. Piggot was congratulated on a recent paper which he co-authored entitled 'Budget 2024: A Distributional Impact Analysis of Government and Opposition Tax and Welfare Packages on Irish Households'.

R. Kane and J. Browne were congratulated on their senior appointments as CAO and COO respectively and were welcomed to the meeting.

**1. TUS Strategic Plan 2023-2026**

**1.1 *Strategic Plan Implementation Dashboard***

S. Hoyne presented a live demonstration of the mechanics of the Dashboard which is a Quantitative Tracking Tool and is in fact the detail behind the Strategic Plan metric attainment.

**1.2 *Implementation Report***

The President presented the Strategic Plan 2023-26 Implementation Report and the

Strategic Plan Metrics & Target Progress Update (dashboard). The four Strategic Priorities: Education; Research; People & Organisation and Connecting Communities and their associated 19 objectives and expected outcomes were discussed. The following actions were noted:

Action	By whom	By when
Strategic Plan Metrics & Target Progress Update dashboard – colour coding required Action Titles to be changed for clarity purposes	J. Owens	Next report to GB

The Governing Body notes and welcomed the well-developed processes for track progress against the Strategic Plan Targets.

The Chair on behalf of the Governing Body acknowledged the significant achievement regarding the actions which are on target and the staff involved for achieving this.

### 1.3 **Review of Student Numbers**

V. Pigott presented Strategic Plan Indicators: Education – Student Numbers. The work involved providing well developed data was appreciated.

After an extensive discussion on Student Numbers it was agreed that while the 12% Target increase of student numbers across a range of routes of entry is now unlikely to be achieved there would be little practical value in changing it at this stage

### 1.4 **Update on Student Accommodation**

VP Campus Services & Capital Development gave a presentation on Strategic Plan Metrics and an Update on Student Accommodation which was followed by Q&A. The presentation was noted and will be discussed further in the context of the Masterplan scheduled for tomorrow's Governing Body meeting.

## 2. **TUS Strategic Plan 2027**

The following were noted for consideration for future Strategic Plans

- Absolute figures to be used for reporting of student numbers
- Format of how data is presented will be examined
- Strong narrative with graphs to be utilised
- TUS success to be included in the Annual Report
- Work Placement – Level 6/7 implications
- Progression data

## 3. **An informal Aide Memoire of some questions and comments which arose in the discussion is attached**

### **2.1 Process, Approach and Philosophy for Strategic Plan 2027 - ?**

The Governing Body were satisfied with the outline of the proposed approach and timeline as provided, noting there will be significant engagement with the GB scheduled through the development process. Engagement with the Students Union will be included in the development process.. The proposal was approved.

### **2.2 Environmental Scan and Emerging Issues**

Report on Governance trends and key risks across the HE sector was noted. ARC will review

and consider the significant risks facing HEIs and evolving role for the ARC. The GNC will review evolving governance matters, including sustainability governance and Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance. The outcome of which will be brought to a future Governing Body meeting.

. AI will be a significant environmental factor for the next TUS Strategic Plan.

HEA Report on 2025 Budget & Accountability Meetings HEIs was noted.

### **2.3 Athlone "Green City"**

The Chair gave an update on this proposal, the DVD will be shown at tomorrow's Governing Body meeting.

#### **4. Dr (Prof) Neil Rowan, TUS – Appointments to the newly established: United Nations Scientific Panel on the Effects of Nuclear War**


Prof. Rowan was appointed to a global panel of experts for the United Nations on Nuclear War Effects. Prof. Rowan gave a presentation on the UN Scientific Panel on the Effects of Nuclear War which was followed by Q&A.

The Chair and President, on behalf of Governing Body thanked Prof. Rowan and wished him every success with this very prestigious and important UN panel appointment.

#### **5. AOB**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6:00pm.

Signed:

  
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date:

