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

Monday 23-6-25 at 10:00am. Midwest Campus/MS Teams

Members

Josephine Feehily – Chair, in person
Vincent Cunnane – in person
Marguerite Doyle – in person
Maureen Falvey – in person
Jos Gijbels – in person
John Griffin – Teams
Tony Mahon – Teams
Amelia Lown- in person
Pamela O'Brien – in person
George O'Callaghan – in person
Geoff Shannon- Teams
Gearoid Folan – in person
James Ring – in person
Anne Cusack - in person
Colette Ryan – Teams
Noel Gavin – in person

In Attendance: Bill Delaney, Secretary
Martina Moran, Minute Secretary
Dara Lenihan, Incoming TUS Students Union President

4. Apologies: D. Kneafsey, C. Collins, K. McLoughlin

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

1. Chairpersons Opening
The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Governing Body were appraised of a major re-imagined visionary project for Athlone which will have TUS and education at it's heart.

2. Approval of the Agenda
The agenda was approved subject to Item 19 being brought forward.

3. Expressions of Sympathy
[redacted]

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest or Loyalty
There was no declaration of Conflict of Interest or Loyalty.

6. Correspondence
Correspondence dated 18/6/25 to DFHERIS re a HR matter was noted.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 26th May 2025

The minutes of 26th May 2025 were approved.

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

8. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

19. Staff Appointments

HR matters were noted.

Background and context for the proposed appointments of Chief Academic Officer and Chief Operating Officer was provided and Governing Body approved the appointments as presented:

Chief Academic Officer: Professor Raphaela Kane
Chief Operating Officer: Mr. Jimmy Browne

Prof. Kane and Mr. Browne will be invited to the Governing Body Strategy Day scheduled to take place on 22nd September '25.

The President will advise staff of these appointments after the Governing Body meeting The Governing Body wished Mr. Browne and Professor Kane every success in their new roles.

9. Action Log

The Action Log was reviewed and the following updates were given:

- Item #172: Replace with New Action #172A
- Item #203 & #204: Green

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

10. Risk Management

This item will be discussed further during the Strategy Day scheduled for September.
It was requested that the Executive would consider a role of a Risk Officer who would be available to attend ARC meetings.

11. President's Strategic Update and Report

The President's report was noted.

Upcoming interviews for the appointments for VP Academic Affairs & Registrar (1 Year) and Dean of LSAD (permanent post) will take place shortly. It was agreed that the Governing Body make the appointments by e-mail procedure once the process is completed.

Launch of RDI Strategy – Resilience, Sustainability and Inclusive Growth (RDI) was circulated at the meeting. The President acknowledged all who were involved in the process.

Academic Leadership Forum – the Chair will liaise with the new CAO on this and will request regular progress reports.

Non utilized space in Coonagh will be reviewed.

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

12. FPDC Report 10th June 2025

G. O' Callaghan briefed the Governing Body on the FPDC meeting 10.06.2025.

12.1 Capital Projects Report/Update (to include Appendix A & B)

G. O' Callaghan briefed the Governing Body on the Capital Projects Report in detail in which there are numerous projects in progress, at concept or pre-design stages across TUS campuses.

The CDU Report was noted.

It is the intention to bring the Masterplan to Governing Body in September '25 for approval.

Action	By whom	By when
TUS Masterplan for approval by Governing Body	**VP Finance & Corp. Governance**	**September '25 GB meet**

12.2 Strategic Development Fund (SDF)

TUS Strategic Research Fund was discussed in detail.

Regarding Point 3 – a request was made for a central fund for postgrads to attend conferences and to publish papers. It was noted that the SDF fund allows for the publication of Open Access Journals. Clarity was requested on items No. 3 (Research Publication Fund) & 4 (Conference Travel Bursary/EU Project/Consortium Development)

Action	By whom	By when
Strategic Research Fund Award Category:		
No. 3 Research Publications Fund: Clarity requested on the extent of publications covered.	**President**	**September '25 GB meet**
No. 4 Conference Travel Bursary/EU Project/Consortium Development: Clarity required	**VP Finance & Corp. Governance**	**September '25 GB meet**

On the recommendation of FPDC, and subject to clarification on items 3 & 4 above, Governing Body agreed the allocation of €3m from TUS Revenue Reserves to TUS Research Reserves.

Proposed; G. O'Callaghan and seconded: J. Ring.

Other FPDC matters: A settlement agreement was completed on the supplier payment fraud. The matter was finalised with the C&AG and is fully disclosed in the Financial Statements 23/24. Tempus Project Audit Issue: TUS have remitted repayment of €147k on a multi-partner EU project. The project was an LIT legacy project not centrally operated or managed by the TUS RDI Function. A number of actions are underway to ensure good practice in RDI project and financial management including development of a comprehensive policy and procedure, which will be presented to the ARC in September '25 for approval.
Pay Funding Shortfall: A joint letter from TUA and IUA Presidents to Ministers Further & Higher Education, Finance and PER was noted.

13. GNC 29th May 2025 Report
The Chair briefed Governing Body on the GNC meeting of 29/5/25.

13.1 Charities Regulator
- ***TUS Compliance Record Form (CRF) 2023-24***
- ***TUS Annual (Charities) Return 2023-24***

The Compliance Record Form is required to be completed and returned under the Charites Governance Code, therefore on the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body approved the TUS Annual (Charities) Return as 'partially compliant' (due to non-compliance with the Official Languages Act).
Proposed: J. Feehily and seconded: G. Folan.

13.2 Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021
- ***Monitoring and Reporting Report 2024 – Section 10A Advertising by Public Bodies***
- ***TUS Annual Report 2023/24 – Section on the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021***

Noted.

A discussion took place re TUS non-compliance with the Official Languages Act. Disappointment by Governing Body was noted and the President and Executive were requested to take serious steps to make progress in this regard going forward.

Clarity was provided on LSAD and where it is positioned in the overall structure of the organisation.

14. GNC 16th June 2025 Report
The Chair briefed Governing Body on the GNC meeting of 16/6/25.

14.1 Procedure for managing the Performance of President 24/25, S89 HEA Act 2022
On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body agreed that the process no longer requires GNC involvement, and will comprise direct engagement with the President and external members of Governing Body.
Proposed: J. Feehily and seconded: N. Gavin

14.2 Nomination to FPD Committee

On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body agreed the appointment of Eamon Collins as a member of Finance & Physical Development Committee (FPD).

Proposed: J. Feehily and seconded: N. Gavin.

On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body agreed the appointment of Des Mahon as Director of College Support & Services (CSS).

Proposed: J. Feehily and seconded: G. Folan.

GNC are currently reviewing the Internal Audit Reports on the State Code Gap Analysis with the TUS interim code and the 'Evidence of Compliance' Report. GB committees were requested to reflect on options to meet in person at least once a year.

Once reports are fully reviewed with discernible actions a report will be provided to Governing Body.

15. People, Culture & EDI 5th June 2025 Report

N. Gavin briefed Governing Body on the Report of 5/6/25.

On the recommendation of People, Culture & EDI Committee, Governing Body agreed to extend the existing TUS Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Statement to 3-12-25 to facilitate consultation and conclusion of legal review.

The Strategic Plan for People and Organisation was discussed and noted.

16. Student Union Annual Report 2024-25

A.Lown, J. Gijbels and G. Folan presented the SU Annual Report 24-25 in detail.

A. Lown thanked the President, VP Student Education and Experience, Governing Body and members of TUS staff for their support.

The Chair, President and members of Governing Body thanked the Students Union and acknowledged their contribution, commitment and their role as a vital element in the structure of the organisation. The Chair also commended their input to the CINNTE Review. Both the President and Chair wished Amelia the best of luck in her future chosen career.

17. Student Union Appointments to Governing Body July '25 to June '26

Governing Body approved the following Students Union nominees to Governing Body from 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026:

Dara Lenihan	President
Gearoid Folan	Deputy President, Midwest
Jos Gijbels	Deputy President for Postgrad Affairs

Approved: G. O'Callaghan and seconded: M. Doyle.

18. Schedule of Governing Body meetings for 2026

The schedule as presented was noted, with a caveat that there may be an additional meeting should it be deemed necessary and that some meetings may commence at the earlier time of 9.30am.

The next meeting will comprise of the following:
Monday 22nd September: 1pm – 5pm - Strategy issues (which will include an overnight)
Tuesday 23rd September: 9am – 1pm – Governing Body meeting

Members are encouraged to forward agenda items for the Strategy Day.
Consideration will be given to hosting Governing Body meetings in the regional campuses.

It was noted the FPDC meeting in March '26 is scheduled for Friday 20th and the GB meeting is scheduled for Monday 23rd. A request was made to either move the GB meeting of 23rd to 30th March '26 or continue with the 23rd and note the FPDC meeting report, including the draft Budget 2026 would not be available to GB until the 23rd. GB advised to continue with the scheduled date of Monday 23rd for GB.

SECTION D: AOB

19. **AOB.**

As there was no further business to discuss, this section of the meeting concluded at 1.05pm and all TU connected members withdrew from the meeting.

20. **GB Session – non TU connected members**

The non TU connected members met in private and then with the President for a broad ranging discussion, including the President's performance. The strong performance of TUS in 24/25 was noted with student numbers, research income and research output are all going in a positive direction. The President was congratulated on the continued successful implementation of the TUS strategic plan, with deliverables are on target. The appointment of the COO and CAO was noted as an important milestone to putting in place the structure approved by the Governing Body.

The meeting continued with the President and Mr. Jimmy Browne, and certain matters were identified which will need to be reflected in the priorities for 25/26.

The next meeting will take place on at 22nd September 2025 at 1pm.

Signed: Josephine Feehily

Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 23/9/25