

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

Tuesday 23-9-25 at 9:00am. Hodson Bay, Athlone

Members

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

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

Maria Kyne – Items 12 and 13
Cormac Cloonan – Item 15

4. Apologies: James Ring, Maureen Falvey, Colette Ryan

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

1. Chairpersons Opening

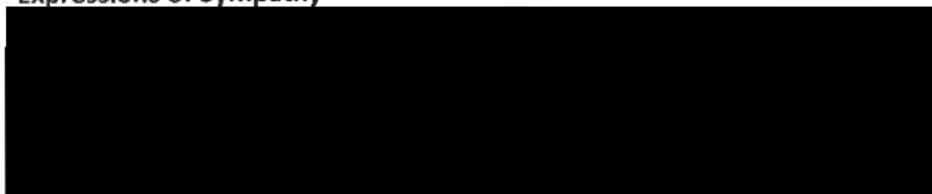
The Chair thanked everyone for their level of participation at the Strategy meeting (22/9/25), issues raised will be considered for the next Strategic Plan.

Athlone "Green City" video will be shown at the end of the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Expressions of Sympathy



5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest or Loyalty

There was no declaration of Conflict of Interest or Loyalty.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence issued to DFHERIS on 18/9/25 re HR matter was noted.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 23rd June 2025

The minutes of 23rd June 2025 were approved, subject to an amendment under Item 3.
Proposed by N. Gavin and Seconded by G. Folan.

8. Matters Arising

The non-utilised space in Coonagh, which will require a significant fit-out is currently being reviewed and an update will be provided to Governing Body, via the Finance and Physical Development Committee (FPDC) in due course.

Risk Management was discussed in the overall context of the TUS Strategic Plan on 22/9/25.

9. Action Log

The Action Log was reviewed and updates were provided:

- Item # 150/157/15/153 - completed
- Item 142/185 - completed
- Item # 210 – Senior Management are reviewing establishment of AI Committee
- Item #116 – will remain on Log

‘Green’ items will be removed from the Action Log.

10. Risk Management

Noted: Risks relating to Student Numbers and emerging risks related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), both in education and in administration were discussed in detail.

Cyber Security Update: Appropriate members of senior management will attend Cyber Security Training 30th September 2025 and new staff receive training during induction.

TUS Governance trends and key risks across the sector report as prepared by Deloitte will be reviewed by ARC, outcome of which will be brought to Governing Body.

11. President’s Strategic Update and Report

The President’s report was noted.

CAO acceptances have grown by 12%, (breakdown is available in the Review of Student Numbers presentation).

44 students have registered on the TUS & DCU Bachelor of Education in Home Economics and Technology teaching degree, this four year degree programme will qualify students to teach Home Economics and Technology subjects at post-primary level. The first two years take place at TUS, Athlone campus and the final two years take place at DCU, St. Patrick’s campus. This is, for now a DCU qualification.

TEF Sectoral bid was submitted, the results of which will be known by the end of 2025. The President acknowledged the team responsible for the proposal.

TUA, who represent five TU's and two IOT's and act as a single voice for the TU sector continue to meet regularly. TUA executive are working closely with the newly appointed Project Manager and a process has commenced to appoint a new CEO of TUA.

The TU Presidents recently met with the Secretary General on a range of issues.

The Academic Year Opening and Staff Briefing took place on 1/9/25, the meeting took place in Moylish campus and was live streamed to the various campuses, this was followed by an inspirational talk by Jack Kavanagh.

The President is a member of IBEC Regional Executive, which meet both in the Midlands and Midwest. Relevant issues which have been raised at various Governing Body meetings i.e. Professorships, Student Accommodation, Regional Development, etc.

CINTE Report/Action Plan has been signed off and identified targets will be implemented. Updates will be brought to Governing Body.

Northern Distributor Road (NDR): It was noted that significant progress is being made on the delivery of the first phase of the NDR. The first phase of the NDR includes the connection between Coonagh Cross on the N18 and the Knockalisheen road. While the element that connects the TUS Coonagh campus to the Cratloe Road is almost complete it is unlikely that this element will be opened ahead of the entire phase 1 development as there will be considerable construction traffic on the route. It is planned that the phase 1 to be completed in Q1 of 2026. This will greatly enhance the connectivity between the TUS Moylish campus and the TUS Coonagh Campus.

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

12. TUS Admissions, Transfer and Progression Policy for Taught Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes 2025 – 2028

The Chair congratulated Dr. Kyne on her recent appointment as VP Academic Affairs and Registrar and wished her every success in the role.

Dr. Kyne introduced the TUS Admissions, Transfer and Progression Policy for Taught Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes 2025 – 2028 with a power point presentation which was followed by Q&A.

The Policy was approved by Academic Council 19 May 2025, it was noted that this is the first integrated policy. The amendments to the new policy from the legacy policy were identified.

The policy was approved.

Proposed by T. Mahon and seconded by G. O'Callaghan.

In conclusion of the discussion, the following actions were requested:

Action	By whom	By when
<p>TUS Admissions, Transfer and Progression Policy for Taught Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes 2025 – 2028: To review if it would be appropriate to include a link on the Code of Conduct for Employees</p> <p>Section 5 Withdrawal – Provide information on common themes on student withdrawal</p>	Registrar (Academic Council)	ASAP

13. Governing Body Regulation for Composition of Academic Council

The President gave an overview and background to the composition and election of a new Academic Council of TUS which has been formulated to meet the legislative requirements set out in Section 16 of the TU Act 2018.

Governing Body approved the Regulations for composition of Academic Council.

Proposed by N. Gavin and seconded by P. O'Brien.

Governing Body approved the proposal for Returning Officer as per Section 3.1 of the Regulations - Dr. Brendan Murphy, Head of Quality.

Proposed by M. Doyle and seconded by D. Kneafsey.

14. Governing Body Delegation (Revised) and TUS Organisation Structure

R. Kane, J. Browne and B. Delaney withdrew from this section of the meeting.

The President briefed Governing Body on the background to the revised GB delegation resolution which comprises the Senior Management Structure – Interim Phase 2 – Schedule B.

Governing Body approved the Delegation Resolution which will be revisited in six months time for refining if deemed necessary.

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

As discussed an amendment to the Schedule B will be made.

The revised GB Resolution for Delegation and GB Reserved Functions will be signed by the Chair and President.

Governing Body agreed to invite standing attendees i.e. CAO and COO to all Governing Body meetings going forward which will include access to the One Advanced Portal. This may be re-visited in six months. It was noted that attendees do not have voting rights.

15. TUS Masterplan

Jimmy Browne, VP Campus Services & Capital Development and Cormac Cloonan, Head of Capital Development presented the Campus Development Masterplan 2025-2040, a copy of the penultimate draft was also cc at the meeting.

Governing Body approved the Campus Development Masterplan 2025-2040.

With regard to the finalisation of the name of the Plan, various options were suggested for consideration. It is anticipated that the Plan will be finalised in the next three weeks. A large scale model of the Plan will also be produced.
Launch of the Plan will be arranged in due course.

SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NOTING

16. Student Union Report – No Room for Learning Accommodation and Cost of Living Report

G. Folan presented an Accommodation and Cost of Living Report which was based on a survey of over 1,200 students on the Moylish Campus and was followed by Q&A. The Report was also presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Higher Education. Students Union intend to carry out an annual survey and hope to have a further report by the end of the semester which will be broken down by regions. J. Brown and Students Union will discuss data connected to mode of transport off line.

Governing Body congratulated the Students Union on the visibility and credibility of this excellent report.
Report was noted.

The Students Union are actively engaged in various modes of lobbying regarding these issues and have also met with Minister Lawless who expressed concern that postgrad students are not in receipt of €25k per annum.

17. Staff Appointments

T. Mahon withdrew for this item.
HR Matters as presented were noted.

Governing Body agreed the following appointment:
Dean of Engineering & Technology (Midwest)
1 year Contract of Appointment
Tony Mahon
Interview Board was chaired by GB member A. Cusack

Governing Body also agreed the following appointments by e-mail during the summer:

Vice President Academic Affairs & Registrar
1 year Contract of Appointment
Dr. Maria Kyne
Interview Board was chaired by GB member D. Kneafsey

Dean, Limerick School of Art & Design (LSAD)
Permanent Contract of Appointment
Prof. Anthony Caleshu
Interview Board was chaired by GB member N. Gavin

External member of the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)
Mr. Yann Harrison
On the recommendation of ARC Chair and GB Chair.

SECTION D: AOB

15. **AOB.**

TUS were successful at the 2025 World Skills Ireland which recently took place in Dublin:

Kalem Redmond
Jack O'Keeffe


Automobile Technology Winner
Industrial Mechanics Winner

TUS were also successful in winning the Ireland eGovernment Award in Universal Design & Inclusion. Congratulations were extended to Careers and Employability and EDI.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 1pm.

The next meeting will take place on 20th October 2025, Limerick.

Signed:


Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date:

20/10/25