

**Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Technological University of the Shannon:
Midlands Midwest
Monday 28-4-25 at 10:00am. Midwest Campus/MS Teams**

Members

1. Josephine Feehily – Chair, in person
2. Vincent Cunnane – in person
3. Marguerite Doyle – in person
4. Maureen Falvey – in person
5. Jos Gijbels – teams
6. John Griffin – teams
7. Kevin McLoughlin – teams
8. Tony Mahon – in person
9. Amelia Lown- in person
10. Pamela O'Brien – teams
11. George O'Callaghan – In person
12. Geoff Shannon- teams
13. Gearoid Folan – in person
14. Noel Gavin – teams
15. Catherine Collins – in person
16. James Ring – teams
17. Anne Cusack - teams

In Attendance:

Bill Delaney, Secretary
Orla Breathnach, Minute Secretary
Dr Brendan Murphy, Dr Terry Twomey, Dr Geraldine McDermott, Dr Susan Halvey, Frances O Connell, Catherine Carty (Item 13)
Shane Malone (Item 14), Jimmy Browne, Cormac Cloonan (Item 15)
Dr Liam Brown (Item 17)

4. Apologies:

C. Ryan, D. Kneafsey

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

1. Chairpersons Opening

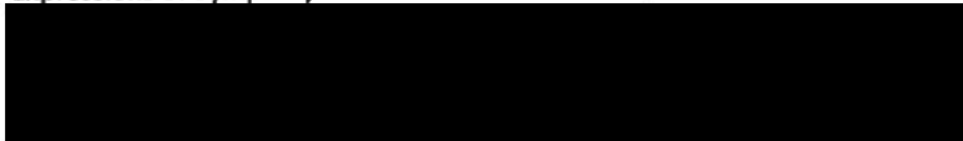
The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

The chair advised members to complete MS forms questionnaire on GB Self-Assessment & Effectiveness 2024/25.

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

This will be discussed under item 17.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 31st March 2025

Subject to minor amendments, the minutes of 31st March 2025 were approved.

Proposed: G O Callaghan

Seconded: C Collins

8. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

9. Action Log

The GB reviewed the Action Log in detail at the previous meeting 31.03.2025.

The following updates were given:

- Item #172: For discussion at next GB.
- Item #183: To be coded "Orange" as matter is ongoing.
- Item #184: Item remains open – revise wording to reflect same.

10. Risk Management

This will be discussed under ARC item 12.5.

11. President's Strategic Update and Report

The President's report was noted.

- A new advocacy sectoral body has been formed for the Technological Sector - Technological University Association (TUA). Funding has been allocated under the TSAF funding stream until June 2026. The process for appointment of a project manager is ongoing. Further positions and governance structure including Memorandum of Agreement, and funding to be finalised. This is a positive step forward to give the TU sector one mechanism. The President will update the GB on the progress of setting up TUA.
- TUS Business Start Up awards were held in TUS Moylish with the areas of AI, MedTech and FinTech being well represented.
- HEA Budget & Accountability meeting was held on 02.04.2025 in TUS Moylish.
- SciFest events in Athlone, Limerick and Thurles were held and well received.
- The President will be visiting partner universities in China and will update the GB on his return.
- AONTAS Star Award for the Certificate in Transition to HE; overall winner in Access & Engagement category
- Best Student Support Service Initiative at the Keystone Group Awards 2025 for the TUS Learning Gates initiative against a wide range of international submissions.

Action	By whom	By when
Confirm count of Student numbers in China	President	Next meeting

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

12. ARC Report 15th April 2025

12.1 Internal Audit

12.1.1 Internal Audit Update April 2025

Noted.

12.1.2 Cyber Security Maturity Assessment Follow on Review

Following on from the review, Cyber Security training has been rolled out across TUS by the CSD Department. A process for withdrawal of dormant email accounts is under way. Completion of staff training remains a priority.

On the recommendation of ARC, the Governing Body approved the Cyber Security Maturity Assessment Follow on Review.

Proposed by ARC and Seconded by G Folan.

12.1.3 Student Progression & Retention

The TUS Second Shot initiative is currently being implemented in the Midwest campus. The integration of the Banner system across all campuses remains on the TUS Strategic Risk Register with timelines outlined. The process for recruiting a project manager is underway. On the recommendation of ARC, the Governing Body approved the Student Progression & Retention review.

Proposed by ARC and Seconded by M Doyle.

12.2 Interim Information Data & Compliance Report (IDCO) 2024/25

Noted. The full report will be presented at the September GB meeting.

12.3 Review of TUS Policy Framework

It was noted all TUS policies should be created in line with the TUS Policy Framework and maintain a consistent approach. On the recommendation of ARC, the Governing Body approved the TUS Policy Framework.

Proposed by ARC and Seconded by A Lown.

Action	By whom	By when
Circulate Appendix D – list of Policies to GB	Minute Secretary	Next meeting
Evaluate the TUS Policy Framework after 6 months	VP F&CG	December 2025

12.4 Progress Procurement Report 2024/25

Noted. The full report will be presented at the September GB meeting.

12.5 Risk Management – Strategic Risk Register & Executive Summary

The Risk Register will be discussed in further detail at the September ARC meeting.

An update was provided to the ARC on Risk 7 – Finance/ Funding following on from the TUS Operating Budget 2025 meeting with the HEA on 02.04.2025.

Action	By whom	By when
Include narrative on Risk 6 – Infrastructure/ Capital Projects (Nursing)	GB Secretary	September GB meeting
Detailed discussion on TUS Strategic Risk Register & Executive Summary	ARC	September ARC meeting

12.6 2025 Follow Up – Internal Audit Open Recommendations

Noted.

13. Joint meeting of GB & Academic Council – Academic Quality Review (AQR) / Annual Quality Report

The Registrar, Head of Quality Assurance & Enhancement, and representatives of TUS Academic Council were welcomed to Governing Body to present the Draft Annual Quality Report.

A power point was presented by T. Twomey and B. Murphy which was followed by Q&A.

The following was noted;

- Governing Body will be required to approve a new Academic Council once the current term expires in December 2025.
- The Academic Council has 9 sub committees and working groups which report in to the Academic Council.
- A profile of growth in TUS student numbers and student population were outlined.
- The AQR focuses on recognising achievement and effective methods while identifying opportunities for quality enhancements and assuring the integrity of awards.
- Annual modifications allow Academic Council update programmes in a timely manner without waiting for the Programmatic Review cycle, keeping the quality high throughout the cycle of a programme. The process for Programmatic Review has not changed.
- The 5 star QS rating is not cited in the report. This will be considered going forward.
- Micro credential awards carry 20-40 European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and is noted as a volume of learning. A TUS Digital Badge is a validated means for the university to accredit non-accredited learning. A digital badge is awarded by the university once a learner demonstrates competence against pre-agreed criteria.
- The TUS CINNTE Action Plan is published on the TUS website. In the QQI TUS CINNTE Report, 15 recommendations and 53 actions were outlined. A midpoint review of progress of actions is scheduled for May 2025. Academic Council, and CINNTE Steering Group continue to work through the actions.
- Academic Council were assured the Governing Body are available on urgent items, outside of scheduled meetings if required.

The Chair thanked The Registrar, Head of Quality Assurance & Enhancement, and representatives of TUS Academic Council on their presentation. The Governing Body extended their appreciation in particular to Dr Twomey for his commitment and stature brought to TUS.

14. Draft TUS Annual Report

S. Malone joined the meeting to present the Draft TUS Annual Report.

The TU Act 2018, section 23 sets out requirements to prepare and submit to the Minister and An tÚdaras a report on its activities in the immediately preceding year and to be published on the TUS website.

The report presented is in draft format and will remain in draft until the TUS Financial Statements 23/24 are completed and certified by OCAG.

The following was noted;

- It was advised to integrate the TUS Strategic Plan 2023-2026 with the Annual Report.
- A further review will be carried out to include sporting achievements in 23/24.

- A placeholder is in place to include a section on the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021. The section will be presented to the next GNC meeting 29.05.2025

Action	By whom	By when
Include progress on KPI's in TUS Strategic Plan	S Malone	
Section on the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 to be finalised	GNC	GNC 29.05.2025
Review TUS sporting achievements and include in report	S Malone	
Circulate revised TUS Annual Report before submission	S Malone	Before official submission

Subject to the minor amendments, Governing Body approved the TUS Annual Report.

Proposed by J Feehily and Seconded by G O Callaghan

Note: The TUS Annual Report will be circulated to Governing Body when amendments are made, prior to submission & publishing.

15. TUS Capital Masterplan

J Browne and C Cloonan joined the meeting to update the Governing on the TUS Campus Masterplan. The report supplied to the Governing Body outlines the scope, the connection with the TUS Strategic Plan and the progress made to date.

A Q&A session took place, and the following were noted;

- Some projects can be decades in the pipeline when needs, concepts and development are discussed. There may be no funding available at present, the significance of the project is still valid.
- TUS have adopted the ALTITUDE Charter, the national charter for universal design in tertiary education.
- The issue of Student Accommodation remains a priority.
- It is difficult to prioritize projects in terms of necessity as funding applications and allocations can vary.
- The next steps were outlined. Feedback from members will be collated and included in the next draft which will go to Governing Body meeting September 2025.
- A discussion took place on the IDA site in Garrycastle, Athlone. Land was purchased from the IDA in 2010. A clause was entered in the contract to state that if there was no activity on the land within 6 years, the IDA had the right to repurchase the land. The IDA are now exercising this right and have engaged with TUS management. TUS maintains a strong relationship with the IDA. It was noted that the proposed MTC building included in the masterplan is still valid and will be "rehoused" in the masterplan when the official handover of land is complete.
- A discussion took place on the proposal of an on campus student bar. This requires a wider conversation, with feedback taken on board.
- TUS have engaged with the local authorities on their view of the masterplan from a community perspective and public transport.

Action	By whom	By when
Feedback will be captured via MS teams	C Cloonan	As soon as possible
Include a key in the masterplan for existing buildings	C Cloonan	
Link with the TUS Students Union GB representatives on revised wording of "Student Life"	J Browne	

Governing Body thanked J Browne and C Cloonan for the update and their continued efforts on the TUS Campus Masterplan.

SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ NOTING

16. Staff Appointments

Noted.

17. Presentation – VP Research, Development & Innovation – RUN EU Network and TUS RISE

L Brown joined the meeting to discuss the RUN EU Network and TUS RISE.

Technology University Research & Innovation Supporting Enterprise (RISE)

Structured as a four-year programme, TUS RISE is designed to support the development of innovative, high-value products and services, aligned with regional specialisms, strengths and expertise. TUS RISE is now at capacity as 20 research students have commenced the funded programme. The Risk Register for RISE was presented.

Regional University Network – European University (RUN EU)

RUN EU brings together eight European higher education institutions from seven different countries and is led by TUS. Objectives are achieved through eight work packages with updates on each work package outlined. The Risk Register for RUN EU was presented with one “red” risk as the government approval for TUS’s participation in the RUN EU Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) is ongoing. The Governing Body will continue to be updated on the matter.

RUN EU has had a positive impact since its formation by fostering collaboration, and potential for future study. The reach of students is up to 100,000 across all partner universities.

Correspondence – Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher Dispute


Governing Body was appraised on a dispute in 2019 on the Limerick campus which had escalated to the Ombudsman Office. The issue was subsequently withdrawn at the complainant’s request. TUS management understood the issue was closed. TUS have engaged with HEA who advised the TUS Governing Body should maintain oversight. TUS have engaged with legal advisors. The Governing Body will be kept informed of this matter.

SECTION D: AOB

18. AOB.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting concluded at 2.30pm.

The next meeting will take place on at 10:00am on 26th May 2025, in the Midlands Campus.

Signed: 
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 26/5/25