

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

Monday 31-3-25 at 10:00am

Midlands 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 – in person
Darina Kneafsey – in person
Kevin McLoughlin – in person
Tony Mahon – in person
Amelia Lown- in person
Pamela O'Brien - in person
George O'Callaghan – in person
Geoff Shannon- in person
Gearoid Folan – in person
Noel Gavin – in person
Catherine Collins – in person
Colette Ryan – Teams
James Ring – in person

In Attendance: Bill Delaney, Governing Body Secretary
Martina Moran, Recording Secretary, (Teams)
Dr. Maura Clancy, Dr. Don Faller – Item 18
4. Apologies: A. Cusack.

PRIVATE SESSION:

A private session of non-TUS connected members took place. The President was invited to meet with external members for part of the session for a broad ranging discussion which included the processes and documentation used to support the arrangements for the management of the performance of the President in accordance with the TU Act.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that the President will prepare amended documentation and make any proposals he considers necessary for changes. A proposal from the Chairperson to review the overall process in light of experience was also agreed. Members decided to meet again, subject to availability to consider both matters.

Action: President to prepare amended documentation
Chairperson to review the processes
Further meeting of non TU connected members

Target June GB

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SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

1. Chairpersons Opening

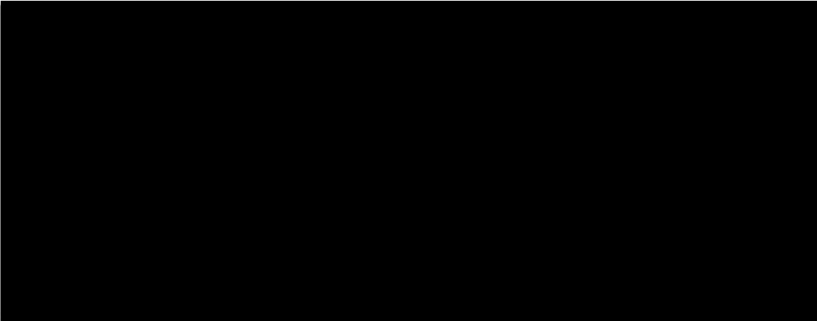
The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

MS forms questionnaire on GB Self-Assessment & Effectiveness 2024/25 will be circulated to members with a request for a completed return by 11/4/25.

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.

The President briefed members on correspondence, as this is an internal academic appeals process, TUS will review and report back to Governing Body on the outcome.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 17th February 2025.

The minutes of 17th February 2025 were approved.

Proposed by C. Collins and seconded by M. Doyle

Extract of the minute (Item 19) was sent to the HEA for information.

8. Matters Arising

TUS TrustEd Application was presented to Academic Council on 28/3/25. The TUS application was completed and submitted.

9. Action Log

The following updates were given:

Item 81, 139, 149, 160 – update provided

Item #142: Letter was issued – this item will be closed off

Item #150, 151, 153, 157: update provided

Item #152: Next FPDC & subsequent GB

Item #172: update provided

Item #177: update provided

Item #180: Replace with new action

Concern was expressed re regional campuses and consideration to review other regional campuses when the initial reviews are concluded

Item #14: Next FPDC & subsequent GB

Item #184: 'green'

Item #181: Dashboard & PMDS Agreed Scheme required
'Green' items will now be removed.

Risk Management

This will be discussed under ARC item 13.2.

11. President's Strategic Update and Report

The President's report was noted.

Two new partners have joined RUN-EU, the President attended the European Universities meeting in Brussels in February in his capacity as Rector, the focus of which was budgets and Erasmus.

TUS Research continues to grow, it was noted that there have been 3,300 attendees approx. at 69 events at TUS.

Meetings have taken place with the relevant Co. Councils to discuss the TUS Masterplan and it was subsequently decided to present and discuss the Masterplan at the next Governing Body meeting.

The launch of the BEd (Hons) in Home Economics with DCU took place at TUS, Midlands. As TU's are unable to award BEd's, DCU are the awarding body, however, TUS are working closely with DCU with the intention to jointly award in the future.

The President addressed the Irish Guidance Counsellors annual conference in Mullingar.

A meeting of the new THEA entity has been scheduled, with 7 TU Presidents involved.

Students with the skills to be top chefs and beauty therapists were honoured at a special awards night at the Moylish campus. A ceremony also took place to honor TUS Researcher of the year - Irish Cancer Society Research Awards, and the ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Award 2024.

On behalf of the Governing Body a congratulatory letter will be issued to all students.

Dr. Declan Devine and Dr. Brian Lee were named among the prestigious Stanford University 'World's Top 2% of Scientists' for 2024.

Action	By whom	By when
Issue congratulatory letter on behalf of GB	GB Secretariat	April '25

Congratulations was also extended to the Men and Women Soccer teams on their recent success.

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

12. GNC Report 6th & 25th February 2025

Deloitte Gap Analysis Report of State Code and TUS Interim Code

Noted. No major red flags were identified. GNC will review and debate before further action is taken.

Code of Conduct for members of Governing Body and Governing Body committees

On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body approved the Code of Conduct. A revised version will be cc to Governing Body which will be subsequently signed by each member.

Action	By whom	By when
CC revised version to GB members for signing	GB Secretariat	Before 28/4/25

13. ARC Report 11th March 2025

J. Griffin briefed Governing Body on the ARC meeting of 11/3/25.

13.1 Internal Audit Update – March '25 (Deloitte)

Internal Audit Follow-Up

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the Internal Audit Follow-Up.

Support in relation to Supplier Payments Fraud Risk

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body agreed support in relation to Supplier Payments Fraud Risk.

Fraud Training Workshop for all Finance & Corporate Governance Staff will be delivered by Deloitte on 17/4/25.

13.2 Risk Management - Strategic Risk Register & Executive Summary

Governing Body noted the updated Strategic Risk Register & Executive Summary.

A discussion took place re awarding of manual degrees, members were appraised of the TUS systems and procedures in place. The risk of negative behaviour of social media was discussed and the steps TUS initiate to create a positive culture at TUS.

The next ARC meeting will focus on Cyber, the report will be presented to the subsequent Governing Body meeting. Cyber will also be an agenda item at the President's and Chair's meeting.

13.3 2024-25 Work Plan

Noted.

14. FPDC 21st March 2025 Report

D. Kneafsey briefed Governing Body on the FPDC meeting of 21/3/25.

14.1 TUS Operational Budget 2025

The budget was presented and discussed in detail.

Members were briefed on the key assumptions narrative which are essential in the preparation of this year's budget and will be further discussed at the HEA Budget meeting scheduled to take place later in the week.

On the recommendation of FPDC the TUS Operational Budget 2025 was approved.
B. Delaney and the team were acknowledged for their input and diligence in the preparation of the budget and the clarity of the assumptions was commended.

14.2 TUS Report C/ HEA Report (Finance & Governance update)

– 4 months to Dec 2024

Noted.

14.3 Annual Student Fee Schedule 2025-26

On the recommendation of FPDC, the Annual Student Fee Schedules 25-26 was approved.

Proposed by D. Kneafsey and seconded by J. Griffin.

The fees as presented will be adopted, however, a lack of clarity from Government re fees was noted. (TUS is legally prohibited from any criticism of Government)

14.4 Major Contracts – Cleaning Services

Noted.

The Procurement Officer will provide detail and rationale which will be discussed further at the next FPDC meeting.

14.5 Disability Act 2005 – Progress Report

Noted.

This is ongoing and FPDC will be updated on actions.

14.6 2024-25 Work Plan

Noted.

15. EDI 24th March 2025 Report

The Chair of EDI briefed Governing Body on the EDI meeting of 24-3-25.

An edit will be made to the narrative on the minutes.

Race Equality Action Plan

On the recommendation of EDI, Governing Body agreed the Race Equality Action Plan.

Proposed: N. Gavin and Seconded by A. Lown.

Draft Strategic Plan for People and Organisation

Noted.

Members were encouraged to provide feedback to N. Gavin which will be brought back to the EDI committee. The following comments were noted at the meeting:

- No connection with the Strategic Plan - 6 values of the Strategic Plan should be incorporated
- No mention of leadership and resources
- Would like to see progress on integration and actions

Further feedback to be sent to N. Gavin for discussion at EDI.

EDI Annual Report

Noted.

The EDI Annual Report was commended as a good record of a body of work.

ESVH HEA Annual Report

Noted.

Policies:

TUS Disciplinary Procedures & TUS Grievance Procedures

Deferred and will revert to EDI Committee.

In the meantime, it was noted that there are extant policies which continue to apply.

TUS Recruitment, Appointment & Selection for Research Staff

Some issues with this Policy were highlighted:

- Document Control Record is incorrect & therefore should be sent to Policy Unit for standardisation
- Confirmation that consultation with the Union has taken place

Decision: Subject to above and on the recommendation of EDI, Governing Body approved the TUS Recruitment, Appointment & Selection for Research Staff

SECTION C: Items for Information / noting

16. Tertiary Sector Report

Noted.

17.0 Staff Appointments

Noted.

18.0 Presentation – Faculty of Science & Health

Dr. Maura Clancy and Dr. Don Faller gave a powerpoint presentation on the united faculty structure of the Faculty of Science and Health, which was followed by Q&A.

The amalgamation of the two Faculties is part of the overall Mazars Report which will have 4 Faculties: Science & Health, Engineering & Technology, Business & Humanities and the integration of Lifelong and Online Learning.

It was noted that the Faculty of Science & Health has a positive working relationship with the various Regulating Bodies

The Chair thanked the Deans for the presentation and the links to the Strategic Plan were commended.

SECTION D:

19. AOB.

Review of Governance, Oversight and Rationale for the Establishment of Subsidiaries of designated Higher Education Institutions.

Noted.

Tour of Mary Ward Centre for Science (STEM Building) took place.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 1:45pm.

The next meeting will take place on at 10:00am on 28th April 2025, in the Midwest Campus.

Signed: Josephine Feely
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 28/4/25

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