

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

Monday 19-1-26 at 10:00am Midwest Campus

Members

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

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

4. Apologies: Marguerite Doyle, Colette Ryan, James Ring.

Note: items are recorded in the order they were discussed.

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

1. Chairpersons Opening

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of 2026.

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 Chair advised that correspondence from DFHERIS was received regarding the on-going HR legal matter which she hadn't had the opportunity to properly consider due to other commitments

She advised that she intends to review the correspondence in detail with the President and Chairs of ARC and FPDC and seek any further legal advice as required.
The matter will be scheduled for review at the GB meeting in February.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 15th December 2025

The minutes of 15th December were approved.

Proposed by G. O'Callaghan and Seconded by D. Kneafsey.

8. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

9. Action Log

The Action Log was reviewed and updates were provided.

Completed items, coded 'Green' will be removed from the Action Log.

Press releases re professorships are included in the meeting pack. The President gave the background to the introduction of a full Professorship grade in the Technological sector for the first time. A total of 50 professorships have been approved for the sector with an initial rollout of 25 positions. TUS have been allocated 5 professorships in the initial phase. The employment contract is to be finalised at a national level, and it is expected that the first appointments will be made from September '26.

The Chair noted that the provision of the PMDS Union Agreement is still required.

10. Risk Management

Artificial Intelligence (AI) – an AI Steering Group is currently being convened, an update will be provided to Governing Body at the next meeting.

Action	By whom	By when
Provide update on AI	CAO – RK	Feb '26 Board meeting

11. President's Strategic Update and Report

The President's Report was noted.

TUA Plenary meetings which Chair and Presidents attend continues to develop. The appointment of a CEO to TUA is nearing completion.

The President has completed his term as Chair of RUN-EU Strategy Steering Group and Marc Otto from NHL/Stenden is now Chair. The President will become Vice-Chair and TUS will continue to co-ordinate the current phase of RUN-EU for the next two years.

The launch of National Conversation of the Convention on Education recently took place, the Convention is chaired by Prof. Ann Looney, and Dr. Niall Seery has been seconded to the Secretariat of this Convention for three days a week.

TUS recently signed a Services Contract Agreement with Greyhound Racing Ireland to launch two courses designed to advance education, professional standards and animal welfare across Ireland's greyhound industry. The new accredited programmes are - Special Purpose Award in Greyhound Welfare and Husbandry and the Special Purpose Award in Greyhound Health.

TUS National Tertiary initiative, is a joint initiative between HEA, SOLAS, ETBs & HEIs. TUS currently have 5 student classes across 4 programmes, 3 with Limerick Clare ETB and 2 with Tipperary ETB. There are currently 46 first year tertiary students across the tertiary programmes, all programmes follow the 1+3 model, and students are fully registered in both the ETB and TUS. The programme is expanding with BSc (Nursing) to include 2 other ETBs.

Prof. R. Kane took part in an official State visit to China (3rd Jan '26 to 10th Jan '26) which was led by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin. TUS strengthened its long-standing engagement with China through a new venture with Foshan University with an expression of intent to co-operate in the establishment of a joint institute, which strengthens collaboration in higher education, innovation and applied research.

The Chinese Ambassador, on a recent visit to Shannon raised the idea of a Confucious centre in TUS Athlone Campus. The President and Senior Management Team (SMT) will review the proposal. Proposed next steps will be presented to Governing Body for information and decision.

Action	By whom	By when
Review Confucious Centre for TUS	President	Update will be provided to a future GB meeting

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

16. Technological University Transformation Fund (TUTF) September '20 – August '24)

The President gave an update on TUS's TUTF, and correspondence from the HEA which noted the key achievements of TUS through the assistance of the fund, which is now concluded. Noted.

12. (a) TUS Targeted Enhancement Fund (TEF) Project Overview

The funding cycle runs from 1st Jan '26 to 31st Dec '28. The project plan consists of five work packages. The CAO and COO are responsible for the delivery of the TEF project. Noted: TEF will be the last of transformation funding and will conclude in Dec '28 – the associated funding risk was also noted.

12. (b) TUA Targeted Enhancement Fund (TEF) – Data Project Overview

Noted.

13. TUA Technological Sector Advancement Fund (TSAF) Project Update

Five work packages provide for the establishment and development of TUA. TSAF will conclude in June '26. 5 TU's and 2 IOT's are part of this project and TUS is the lead co-ordinator of the project.

TUS is a member of the newly established TUA, the primary role of TUA will be to advocate for the sector with a unity of purpose and a single voice. Once the CEO of TUA is in situ, the President will issue an invite to the CEO to meet with TUS Governing Body.

Action	By whom	By when
Issue invite to CEO of TUA to meet with TUS GB	President	When CEO is in situ

14. People, Culture & EDI Sub-committee – Research Career Development Policy

The Research Career Development Policy was approved subject to the following:

Policy title to be re-visited

Page 16 – Relevant policy needs to be properly referenced and linked.

Page 1 – Government's Economic Recovery Plan 2021 – update reference to most recent version of Recovery Plan.

Proposed by N. Gavin and seconded by C. Collins.

15. Appointment to the Central Applications Office (CAO) CLG

The Appointment of Dr. Maria Kyne Academic Registrar to the Central Applications Office was approved.

Proposed by V. Cunnane and seconded by G. O'Callaghan.

SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NOTING

17. Staff Appointments

Appointments for TUS: Midlands Midwest 19/1/26 were noted.

Governing Body agreed the following appointment:

VP Campus Services and Capital Development

Dr. Mary Cregg

Special Purpose Contract - July 2030

Interview panel was chaired by G. O'Callaghan

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

SECTION D: AOB

15. AOB

The Chair advised the Board in her capacity as a member of the "Athlone 2040" Steering Group, that engagement across the Midland Regions is ongoing, numerous meetings have taken place with various stakeholders at which the Chair attends regularly.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 12:35pm.

The next meeting will take place on 23rd February 2026, in the Midlands Campus.

Signed: 
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 23-2-26