

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

Monday 23-2-26 at 10:00am. Midlands Campus

Members

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

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

4. Apologies Noel Gavin

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

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

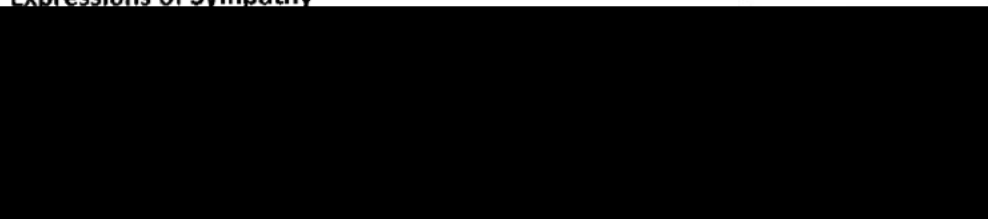
1. Chairpersons Opening

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. She informed the meeting that James Ring had advised her of his intention, reluctantly, to resign from the GB for unavoidable business reasons and that in accordance with the TU Act, such resignations have immediate effect. The matter was further discussed under the GNC Report at item 16.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved subject to Item 12 being tabled after Item 9.

3. Expressions of Sympathy



5. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest or Loyalty**
There was no declaration of Conflict of Interest or Loyalty.
6. **Correspondence.**
There was no correspondence.
7. **Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 18th January 2026**
The minutes of 18th January 2026 were approved.
Proposed by K. McLoughlin and Seconded by J. Griffin.
8. **Matters Arising**
Details on TUS Tertiary Project uploaded to Decision Time for information was noted.
9. **Action Log**
The Action Log was reviewed and updates were provided.
Completed items, coded 'Green' will be removed from the Action Log.
Update on Item #181/184 was provided and is now closed and will be replaced with a new item to reflect the work that TUS are committed to in the coming months.
Item 226 will be removed and will be replaced with a new item.
12. **HR Matter**
The Chair gave an update and summary on the HR legal matter. Confidential documentation was shared at the meeting, members were given an opportunity to consider and it was discussed in detail. In conclusion, Governing Body unanimously agreed that the Chair would sign on behalf of Governing Body the Reaffirmation Agreement as presented to them. Governing Body members expressed satisfaction that the settlement is in the best interest of the University. It represented the best outcome to fully conclude the matter given various legal advices received and potential cost involved.
Proposed by K. McLoughlin and seconded by C. Cusack

The confidential nature of the papers and the discussion was underlined. It was noted that appropriate details will appear in the TUS financial statements in due course and in that context, the TUS Communication Department will be briefed at the appropriate time on the decision made by Governing Body at today's meeting.
10. **Risk Management**
No further risks were identified.
11. **President's Strategic Update and Report**
The President's Report was noted.
Ms. Clare McGee, will commence as the newly appointed CEO of TUA on 27th April 2026. This information is to be treated as confidential.
TU Chairs and TU President's met in December 2025 and a further meeting is scheduled for April/May '26 at which a follow up with Governing Body engagement and TUA CEO will be discussed.

Prof. R. Kane is a member of the Advisory Group for the Economic Strategy for the Regional Centre of Athlone and attended a meeting on 20/1/26, items discussed at this meeting included Athlone Outdoor Pool and Boardwalk and a presentation from Ballymore Group on

Athlone 2040 vision. That presentation was also made to the IBEC Regional Executive Committee.

Launch of Green Week will take place 23rd February 2026.

The inaugural TEDx Talk took place in Athlone on 12th February 2026, at the Dean Crowe Theatre, Athlone, the event was organized by O. Thornton and the Athlone Marketing team and was well received.

The President congratulated the freshers Senior Football team who won Division 1 league, congratulations were also extended to the Women's rugby team (Midwest) who are also division winners.

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

13 FPDC Report 23-1-26

All documentation taken as read.

13.1 Fixed Asset Cyclical Count Report

Noted.

13.2 Treasury Management Report 24/25

Noted.

13.3 Multi Annual Contract Report on level 1 Recurring Contracts in 25

Noted. Update was provided on the assessment process. The Catering Services (Moylish Campus) provision is managed externally as a concession model, while the Catering Services (Midlands Campus) provision is managed internally via TUS subsidiary company – College Support & Services.

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

Noted.

13.5 Climate Action Road Map 23 – 26 Update

Chair of FPDC provided an update and on the recommendation of FPDC, Governing Body approved the Climate Action Roadmap 2025.

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

13.6 Update on Verification Process for PAYEE Bank Details

Noted.

Governing Body were advised that management continue to engage with finance staff re training and supports and that there is a high level of awareness and vigilance amongst finance staff.

14 ARC Report 10-2-26

14.1 Internal Audit (Deloitte)

a) Internal Audit Work Plan 25/26 Updates

Noted

b) Review of Research Grant Management Processes to assess controls in place across the grant lifecycle

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the Research Grant Management processes to assess controls in place across the grant lifecycle.

Proposed by J. Gijbels and seconded by G. O'Callaghan.

c) *Risk Management Framework Project – Update to ARC on progress*
Noted.

14.2 *2026 Follow Up – Internal Audit Open Recommendations*

3 findings as per the Summary documents were highlighted and the Summary document in its entirety was noted.

14.3 *Annual Report(s) on Protected Disclosures 2025*

a) *Report for the Minister & TUS Report*

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the Annual Report on Protected Disclosures 2025 and the Report for the Minister.

Proposed by D. Kneafsey and seconded by K. McLoughlin

14.4 *Progress Procurement Report 2025/26*

For the period September to December 2025, no procurement non-compliances were identified. The Report was noted.

14.5 *External Audit (OC&AG)*

a) *Audit Planning Memorandum 2024/35*

Noted.

14.6 *Critical Incident Management Framework*

Item deferred until the next ARC meeting.

Action	By whom	By when
Protected Disclosures 2025 Ensure Communications Office are prepared with a narrative to address potential queries.	IDCO	As required

15. EDI Report 11-2-26 – This item was deferred.

15.1 EDI Annual Report 2024-25

15.2 Policies for Approval:

TUS Equality Statement 2026-2029

TUS Equal Opportunities Policy 2026-2029

16. GNC Report 12-2-26

Noted.

J. Ring has resigned from Governing Body for business reasons which was noted with regret and appreciation of his contribution. On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body agreed to the nomination of James Ring to continue as an external member of GNC until the end of this academic year. An amendment is required to the GNC Terms of Reference to reflect this, whereby the number of external GB members on the Committee will change from 3 to 2. On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body approved the proposed amendment (Section 3.1.3) to the GNC Terms of Reference.

Proposed by J. Feehily and seconded by G. O'Callaghan.

16.1 Governing Body External Membership TU Act S12, Regulations & TUS Letter to Minister

The Regulations and letter to the Minister were noted.

In relation to section 3.5 (1) of the regulations “Student Members of Governing Body”: Students Union will provide their 3 nominees in accordance with their own procedures.

16.2 TUS Sponsorship Policy

GNC considered that the Sponsorship Policy seemed appropriate but recommended that the it be brought to Governing Body for discussion and, in particular, for consideration of thresholds as GNC did not have enough knowledge of this type of Policy at their meeting of 12/2/26.

Governing Body approved the Sponsorship Policy and requested an early review following implementation and operation in practice.

Proposed by J. Feehily and seconded by J. Griffin

16.3 Annual Governance Statement 2024-25

VP F&CG appraised Governing Body on each of the explanations in the relevant areas.

On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body approved the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25.

Proposed by A. Cusack and seconded by J. Griffin

16.4 Oversight Agreement 2026

On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body approved the Oversight Agreement 2026 to include the addition of “principles of the State Code” in Responsibilities of the Institution section.

Proposed by D. Lenihan and seconded by G. Shannon

Action	By whom	By when
TUS Sponsorship Policy Early review of Section 9	VP F&CG	

SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NOTING

17. Staff Appointments

Appointments for TUS: Midlands Midwest 23/2/26 were noted.

SECTION D: AOB

18. AOB

Students Union are in the process of elections. When nominees from the Students Union are provided to the Governing Body, as part of their induction process, permission was granted for the nominees to attend Governing Body meetings until their tenure as Student Union representatives commence officially on July 1st.

The President and CAO attended Limerick Civic Trust Fundraising reception at which the Tánaiste was present on 20th February 2026. Both the President and CAO spoke with the Tánaiste on issues such as Student Accommodation and Funding the Future.

As there was no further business, this section of the meeting concluded at 12.40pm.

The next meeting will take place on 23rd March 2026, in the Midwest Campus.

19. Private GB Session – Non-TU connected members

The outcome of the HR matter was again noted as satisfactory.

The arrangements for managing the President's performance for 25/26 were discussed and agreed.

Signed: _____

Heelily

Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: _____

23-3-26