

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

Monday 25-5-26 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
Gearoid Folan
Dara Lenihan
Kevin McLoughlin
Maureen Falvey
Darina Kneafsey
Catherine Collins (Teams)
Marguerite Doyle
Colette Ryan (Teams)
A. Cusack (Teams)

In Attendance: Jimmy Browne, Chief Operations Officer
Emma Hogan, Incoming Students Union President
Marie Cowan, Incoming Students Union
Bill Delaney, Secretary
Martina Moran, Minute Secretary

4. Apologies Noel Gavin, Raphaela Kane

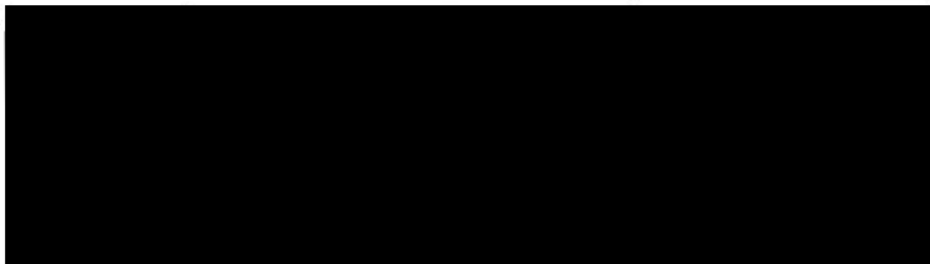
Items will be recorded in the order they were discussed.

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

1. Chairpersons Opening
The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda
The Agenda was approved,

3.



5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest or Loyalty

There was no declaration of Conflict of Interest or Loyalty.

6. Correspondence

Copy of the Chair's correspondence to DFHERIS re the HR legal matter has been uploaded to Decision Time for information.

As an action from the last meeting two further items of correspondence have been uploaded to Decision Time for information.

7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 27th April 2026

The minutes of 27th April 2026 were approved.

Proposed by M. Doyle and Seconded by G. O'Callaghan.

8. Matters Arising

Thurles Update: The CAO met with the staff from Thurles campus. A staff workshop has been scheduled for the week commencing 15th June '26 with a preparation meeting scheduled for the 1st week in June. The Collins report will be triangulated with Faculty and Department updates with a final report presented to a future Governing Body meeting.

Staff in Thurles welcomed the recent exchange with the CAO.

Regulation 28 (3A) of the Money Laundering Regulations 2017 – is a work in progress and will be presented to a future Governing Body meeting.

Action	By whom	By when
Final Thurles Report -present to GB	CAO	Once finalised
Regulation 28 (3A) of the Money Laundering Regulations 2017	VP F&CG	Future GB

9. Action Log

The Action Log was reviewed and updates were provided, the Log will be further updated in detail for the June meeting.

10. Risk Management

There were no additional Risk items noted. The construction of the New Science building on the Moylish campus is progressing well.

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

11. FPDC Report 24-4-26

G. O'Callaghan briefed Governing Body on the FPDC Report of 24-4-26.

12.1 Capital Development Unit Report

Noted. Work is progressing re the lease and appropriate forms of funding regarding the Northgate Street building.

12.2 Disability At 2025 Progress Report

The Report was noted, which includes that a partial compliance was listed in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) with an explanation.

HEA budget meeting took place on 22nd April in Athlone, which was also attended by TUS Senior Leadership Team. HEA confirmed that a composite report following completion of all HE budget meetings will be provided to the HEA Board and submitted to DFHERIS and subsequently circulated to all HE institutions. Once received TUS will provide the report to FPDC and onwards to Governing Body.

The CAO is the TUS representative on the Implementation Advisory Group for the Athlone Economic Strategy for the Regional Centre of Athlone.

The Chair continues to have discussions as member of the Steering Group for the Athlone 2040 project. Governing Body members will be briefed of all developments as they arise.

Copies of the TUS Masterplan will be circulated to Governing Body.

Action	By whom	By when
CC copies of TUS Masterplan to Governing Body	GB Secretariat	Immediate effect

13. Joint meeting of Report of ARC & FPDC 14-5-26

G. O'Callaghan and A. Cusack briefed Governing Body on the Joint Report of ARC & FPDC of 14-5-26.

13.1 Draft TUS Consolidated Financial Statements 2024/25

On the recommendation of Joint ARC & FPDC, Governing Body approved the Draft TUS Consolidated Financial Statements 2024/25 and the Draft TUS Letter of Representation 2024/25.

Proposed by G. Shannon and seconded by M. Doyle

13.2 Draft TUS Letter of Representation 2024/25

Approved.

13.3 OCAG Audit Completion Memorandum 2024/25 & TUS Management Responses

Noted.

The Joint Committees also noted that it was a positive sign that there were no high level findings (6 low level findings).

13.4 Draft OCAG Management Letter 2024/25 & TUS management Responses

The 5 medium rating findings and management responses were discussed in detail and noted.

It was noted the OC&G Management Letter is still in draft, and there will be further engagement by the C&AG with management to finalise findings, recommendations and ratings.

The final letter and management responses will be provided to ARC / FPDC and GB at respective meetings in September & October.

In relation to Banner (integration/operation) this item will be included on the Governing Body Work Plan 2026/27 for a broader discussion of all aspects and in relation to Fixed Assets it was noted that a TUS Fixed Asset Policy will be developed and will be presented to Governing Body for approval once completed.

Action	By whom	By when
include Banner on GB Work Plan 26/27	GB Secretariat	Immediate effect
TUS Fixed Asset Policy will be developed and presented to FPDC & GB	VP F&CG	Once completed

In the private session with OCAG and external members of Joint ARC and FPDC various issues were discussed with a positive outcome, the OCAG noted the need for vigilance in cyber security in the wake of recent cyber attacks in other HEIs.

14. People, Culture & EDI Report 6-5-26

J. Browne presented the Report.

14.1 TUS Equality Statement 2022 – 2025 Extension

To facilitate further consultation on TUS Equality Statement 2026/29 in line with the TU Act, Governing Body approved an extension until September 2026.

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

15. Sample Design TUS Annual Report 2024 – 2025

Shane Malone, Director of the Office of the President presented a sample design of the TUS Annual Report 2024-25. The final draft report will be cc to Governing Body members by e-mail this week. Members were requested to review and return comments, etc. to S. Malone. The final TUS Annual Report 2024-25 will be presented to Governing Body at its meeting on 21/6/26 for approval.

As there is no requirement for TUS to include the full financial statements in the TUS Annual Report, this will be reviewed going forward.

Action	By whom	By when
Annual Report – review the process (at sectoral level) whether or not to include the full financial statements or to include a link	VP F&CG	For the 2025-26 TUS Annual Report

16. CSS/Midwest Food Service Tender

The COO briefed Governing Body on this item.

On the recommendation of the Board of College Support & Services (CSS) CLG, Governing Body approved the following contracts for Foodservice Provision:

- Gather & Gather – Clare Street, Thurles & Clonmel
- Baxer Storey – Moylish

Proposed by G. Folan and seconded by D. Kneafsey.

The new servery layout, redevelopment and extension of seating area/capacity and branded food and beverage offerings project for Moylish will be scoped out for commencement for the new Academic year.

The President acknowledged the TUS Commercial Manager for his input of the two systems utilised in the Midlands and Midwest operations.

Action	By whom	By when
Board membership of the 3 Subsidiary companies will be uploaded to the Resource Section of Decision Time for information	GB Secretariat	Immediate effect

17. Review of the Governance, Oversight and Rationale of Subsidiaries, Foundations and Trusts in designated Higher Education Institutions

VP F&CG briefed Governing Body on this item, which require Governing Body approval of Responses to the HEA.

The TUS responses (19 in total) were reviewed in detail, the following amendments/suggestions were noted:

Item #1: Assessment of Continued Requirement – include on GB Work Plan

Item #2: **Consistent Application of Policies/Procedures**
Insert text advising that CSS has charitable status

Items # 4, 5 14: Small amendment

Item #10: **Corporate Governance Oversight**
Corporate Governance Oversight – Management have raised a query with the HEA in relation to the comment ‘... review found no evidence that the GB has the power to appoint Directors to the board ..’
TUS response is that GB have the power to appoint all directors to subsidiaries and may receive recommendations from the respective boards in this regard.
GB have delegated the review process to the GNC with recommendations for appointment made to GB.

Item #13: Risk Registers
ARC to review

Subject to the above amendments Governing Body approved the TUS responses to the HEA.
Proposed by K. McLoughlin and seconded by G. Folan

Action	By whom	By when
Review of the Governance, Oversight and Rationale of Subsidiaries, Foundations and Trusts Conduct a formal documented assessment of the continued requirement for all subsidiaries to include a reviewing of the entities’ current requirement and relevance – (Include on Governing Body Work Plan)	GB Secretariat	Executive to determine the next review date
Risk Registers Look at Risk Register and ways in which to deepen the	GB Secretariat	December ’26 and annually thereafter

engagement with TUS and Subsidiary Companies Risk Subsidiary Risk Register will be provided to Governing as part of the Subsidiary Annual Report		
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SECTION C: ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/NOTING

18. Staff Appointments

Appointments for TUS: Midlands Midwest 25/5/26 were noted.

11. Presidents Strategic Update and Report

The President's Report was noted.

The President was invited to meet with the HEA Board at their recent meeting which was hosted in Athlone. He gave a presentation to the Board which included TSAF; TEF; Core funding; Research; and non-representation of the TU sector on the HEA Board.

Ms. C. McGee, CEO of TUA has commenced her position. Professor Cunnane is stepping down as Chair of TUA at the end of June, and Professor Veronica Campbell, President of South East Technological University will take up the role.

The launch of 3 Microdentals recently took place, including a 10 credit Microdential in Conversational Irish.

TUS have met a TSAF target of 80 Learning Gates with the inclusion of Longford County Libraries.

CORU has approved the MA in Social Work (Midlands).

LSAD Graduate Show will take place on 30/5/26 and Governing Body members were invited to attend.

CAO Change of Mind has been launched and TUS are on target to match last year's offers. The Marketing Department are currently in the process of engagement with a variety of media campaigns.

The President informed Governing Body of his decision to retire as President of TUS, with effect from 31 January 2027. The Chair acknowledged the personal and professional contribution of the President to Higher Education in Ireland, the establishment and development of TUS and to the development of the Regions.

The Governing Body will now commence the process of recruiting Professor Cunnane's successor. Governing Body agreed to delegate the modalities to the Chair and Vice-Chair who will report back to the Governing Body on matters which will either be done via e-mail or a meeting. The Chair will issue communication to members setting out the steps required, to have a new President in situ in advance of 31/1/27.

The Governing Body decided that it would not be appropriate to finalise a new Strategic Plan pending the appointment of a new President. In the circumstances, it was decided to extend the current plan to 2027, which is within the maximum period for a Strategic Plan as provided in the TU Act, the COO will write to DFHERIS to advise of same.

Action	By whom	By when
Advise DFHERIS that an extension of the current TUS Strategic Plan to 2027 is now required	COO	Immediate effect

SECTION D: AOB

19. AOB

There was no other business.

There being no further business this section of the meeting concluded at 12.45pm.

20. GB Session – Non-TU connected members

The next meeting will take place on 22nd June 2026, in the Midlands Campus.

Signed: 
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 22/6/26

