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

Monday 20-1-25 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 – Teams
Amelia Lown- in person
Pamela O'Brien- in person
George O'Callaghan – Teams
Geoff Shannon- in person
Gearoid Folan – in person
Anne Cusack - Teams
Noel Gavin – in person
Catherine Collins – in person

In Attendance:
Bill Delaney, Governing Body Secretary
Martina Moran, Recording Secretary
Item 12 Director of Institutional Research and Data Analytics
VP Strategy, Transition & Projects
Projects Officer
Item 13 VP People, Culture & EDI
Item 14 VP Campus Services & Capital Development
Director of Health & Safety

4. Apologies: Colette Ryan, James Ring.

Items are recorded in the order of discussion.

SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS

1. **Chairpersons Opening**
The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2025 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**
The agenda was approved.

3. **Expressions of Sympathy**
[redacted]

[redacted]

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 14th October 2024.**
The minutes of 16th December were approved
Proposed by K. McLoughlin, seconded by G. Shannon.

8. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.

9. **Action Log**
The following updates were given:

Item #14:	Update provided
Item #69:	Update will be provided today, turn 'green'
Item #143:	'Green' and will be removed
Item #144:	'Green' and will be removed
Item #81:	Update will be provided after the next Academic Council meeting
Item #155:	Update provided, turn 'green'
Item #176:	Update provided, turn 'green'
Item #178:	Update provided, Chair will discuss with VP People, Culture & EDI
Item #177:	Update provided, turn 'green'
Item #172:	Updated timeline
Item #142:	Update provided

All 'green' items will now be removed.

10. **Risk Management & 15. Review of Executive Risk Registers**
The Risk Register was reviewed and discussed by Governing Body and the following points were noted:

- No general Risk Management issues were identified
- The President and Chair gave an update on the HR matter, this item will be added to the Risk Register and included in the top risks
- Risk No. 10 (Academic Governance, Regulations & Infrastructure) will be updated by management and reviewed by at ARC, Risk No. 7 (Financial Reserves) and Risk No. 2 (Integrated, coherent and effective management & administrative structures will also be updated by management and reviewed by FPDC and ARC.
- Risk No. 15 (AI) the narrative on mitigation will be updated by management
- Springboard – TUS are in a process to submit up to 60 programmes before the deadline of the end of February '25 (these programmes will be TUS wide)

On conclusion of the Risk Register discussion, Governing Body were satisfied to retain the current risks on the register with the addition of the HR matter and capital Infrastructure.

11. President's Strategic Update and Report

The President's report was noted.

A strategic relationship is being developed between TUS and Nova Nordisk, a series of meetings have taken place recently which included attendees from the Danish senior management team of Nova Nordisk and Galway Roscommon ETB.

A further year of funding has been received for the Human Capital Initiative Project, DASBE (DASBE – Digital Advanced Skills for the Built Environment).

The President presented opening remarks at the OPW Energy Renovation of Historic Buildings in Ireland – Policy Practice & Impact at Dublin Castle, in which the keynote was delivered by former President, Mary Robinson.

TUS graduates will have the opportunity to vote in the Seanad Elections for the first time, a process will be put in place to advise graduates at conferring ceremonies.

Draft Programme for Government 2025 – Securing Irelands Future has specific provision for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science, (pages 71 – 74). The Report will be uploaded to the Resource Section on Decision Time for information.

SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL

12. Presentation – Student Numbers - President

Victor Pigott, Director of Institutional Research and Data Analytics, J. McKenna, VP Strategy, Transition & Projects and J. Owens, Projects Officer attended the meeting for this item. The President presented a power point on Student Numbers which was followed by Q&A. The President advised that no decision with regard to reviewing the current target was required by Governing Body today, as this will be further discussed at a future Governing Body meeting. The following items were discussed in detail:

- Rationale and myriad factors affecting the student numbers from across range of entry routes.
- Level 8 degree numbers increasing, but partially offset by decrease of Level 6 and 7 numbers (which is also a national trend).
- Significantly increased apprentice student numbers in TUS craft apprentice programs and consortium led apprenticeship programs.
- Non-EU Students are a key growth area– significant increase in students from India, Malaysia and China.
- TUS Identity and Branding – this will be re-visited when a Director of Communication and Branding commences the post in Quarter 1 '25
- Student number breakdown by regional campus – this data will be provided to Governing Body.
- Lifelong and Flexible Learners numbers trending down from peak in 2022. Trend will be further analysed and presented for discussion.
- 3 points to note: Ensuring consistency of data; the complexity and diversity of activities and the increased competition from traditional universities

The Chair thanked the President and the Team for the update and presentation on Student Numbers.

Action	By whom	By when
Provide Student number breakdown by regional campus to GB	Director of Institutional Research and Data Analytics	**Before the next GB meeting**
TUS Identity Management and Branding	Will be re-visited when a Director of Communication and Branding commences	**Q1 '25**

13. Presentation – Vision & Strategy – VP People, Culture & EDI

VP People, Culture & EDI gave a presentation entitled People & Organisation Strategic Planning 2025 – 2028 which was followed by Q&A. The following key points were noted;

- Lack of CAO and COO posts at senior level is detrimental to the overall organisational structure for TUS.
- Leadership Charter – this will be reviewed by HR.
- Objective 1: refers to training and mobility – the word 'mobility' needs to be amended to accurately define the meaning
- The importance of a clear connection between HR strategy and the Strategic Plan was underlined by Governing Body. The strategic priorities and objectives as set out in the presentation have been inserted into a Dashboard with a set of associated actions and timelines – this Dashboard will be shared with Governing Body
- The operation of Performance Management Development System (PMDS) was discussed. It was decided that on the first instance the existing agreed scheme will be shared with Governing Body

- HR & EDI sub-committee will oversee the development of a HR strategy and timelines in line with the Strategic Plan and will include the work currently being undertaken by Mazars. Governing Body will be advised of progress and timelines by the sub-committee as soon as possible

Action	By whom	By when
Share People & Organisation Dashboard & PMDS agreed scheme with Governing Body	**VP People, Culture & EDI**	**February GB**
Performance Management Development System (PMDS) – existing agreed scheme will be shared with Governing Body	**VP People, Culture & EDI**	**February '25**

16. Preparatory discussion on the meeting with the CEO of the HEA

A meeting with the CEO, Deputy CEO and Head of Finance of HEA and TUS Governing Body has been confirmed for 17th of February '25 at 12pm. The HEA will provide an overview of relevant regulatory matters to the Governing Body. GB members

were encouraged by the Chair to raise relevant matters with the CEO and she will invite Committee Chairs and members to speak.

17. Staff Appointments

HR matters for TUS Midlands Midwest were noted.

Governing Body approved the appointment of Dr. James Griffin to the post of SL111 Dean of Business & Humanities.

14. TUS Parent Safety Statement and Annual Safety Report 2023/24

VP Campus Services & Capital Development, J. Browne and TUS Director of Health & Safety, F. Sweeney made a presentation on the Parent Safety Statement to Governing Body, which provided context the development and review process and key changes. Governing Body approved the Parent Safety Statement.
Proposed by N. Gavin and seconded by J. Gijbels.

The Annual Report of Health & Safety Activities was noted by Governing Body.
Feedback or the requirement for additional items will be provided by Governing Body to the VP Campus Services & Capital Development in six months' time.

Action	By whom	By when
Annual Report of Health & Safety Activities Feedback or requirement for additional items will be provided to VP Campus Services & Capital Development	**GB members**	**6 months (June '25)**

SECTION C: Items for Information / noting

18. Technological University Transformation Fund (TUTF)

TUTF Report (precursor of TSAF) was noted.

SECTION D:

19. AOB.

There was no other business.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 2.05pm.

The next meeting will take place on at 10:00am on 17th February 2025, in the Midwest Campus.

Signed: Josephine Feeley
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date: 17-2-25