



Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic  
Technological  
University

**Minutes of the ninth ATU Governing Body Meeting  
Held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 10.30 am  
ATU Mountbellew and MS Teams**

**Present:**

Maura McNally (Chairperson) – in person	MMcN
Dr Orla Flynn (President) - in person	OF
Ursula Cox – in person	UC
Dr Brian McCann – online	BMcC
Mary McGinley – online	MMcG
Anne McHugh – online	AMcH
Felim McNeela – in person	FMcN
Oonagh Monahan – online	OM
David Minton – online	DM
Dr Martin Robinson – online	MR
Gareth Roe – in person	GR
Dr Mary Kelly – online	MK
Dara Foynes – online	DF
Colin Kearney – SU Galway-Mayo – in person	CK
Prof. Rachel Ashworth – online	RA
Patricia King – online	PK
Séamus Hughes – in person	SH
Dáire Martin	DM

**In attendance:**

Jim Fennell (Secretary) – in person	JF
Fiona Faherty (Recording Secretary) – in person	FF
Henry McGarvey – in person – Agenda item 8	HcMG
Sean Duffy – in person – Agenda item 9	SD

**Apologies:**

Michael Geoghegan	MG
Michael Gilvarry	MGil
Edward Grant	EG

#### **GB 009.01 Declaration of Conflicts of Interests**

There were no conflicts of interest declared at this meeting.

#### **GB 009.02 Minutes of the meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were reviewed by the members.

**Decision:** The minutes were approved on the proposal of UC and seconded by CK.

#### **GB 009.03 Matters arising and Correspondence**

**Decision:** It was agreed to amend the Garda Vetting Policy as follows:

Page 7, Section 3.3 Disclosure of Criminal Convictions

(Sixth Bullet Point)

- A staff member who works in the university and who has been convicted of any offence relating to children and/or is subject to disciplinary action or sanction relating to children must withdraw from working in any position or on any project which involves contact with children / vulnerable adults / person under disability until the review panel can consider the matter and decide on an appropriate course of action.

The Chair advised the meeting that she was in receipt of correspondence from the HEA regarding the Annual Governance Statement and this was being addressed by the ARC at its next meeting. The correspondence together with the draft reply will be circulated to the Governing Body for their approval at the December meeting.

#### **GB 009.04 President's Report**

##### **GB 009.04.1 President's Update to Governing Body**

The President congratulated all involved in the graduation ceremonies which had taken place in ATU Donegal and Sligo Campuses. She thanked the Governing Body members for their attendance and support at the ceremonies.

Dr Flynn provided an update on internal and external activities over recent months. She updated the meeting on her recent successful trip to the USA which included visits with Choose New Jersey economic development group and New Jersey City University, ATU Alumni event in Boston in the Irish Pastoral Centre, Boston and meetings with John Flaherty and Mark Morea at Cambridge University Centre.

A discussion took on an appropriate legal vehicle to accept philanthropy donations, this will require further discussion with the Finance Subcommittee and ATU Finance Team.

#### **GB 009.05 Terms of Reference for Governing Body Subcommittees**

##### **GB 009.05.1 Strategic Development Subcommittee**

The terms of reference for the Strategic Development Subcommittee were circulated for approval. Dr Flynn advised that the recent appointment of Dr Des Foley to the post of Strategic Planning Facilitator would assist in providing a monthly update to the Governing Body. The Chair noted that the TOR can be further amended, if necessary, once the Strategic Planning Council and the Strategic Development Subcommittee are fully operational.

It was agreed to amend the TOR as follows:

## **2. Functions:**

(Second bullet point)

- Set the strategic direction for the University especially in relation to key focus areas such as research, education and access, student engagement, regional contribution.

**Decision:** The TOR for the Strategic Development Subcommittee was approved subject to the amendment outlined above, on the proposal of SH and seconded by CK.

### **GB 009.05.2 Appointment of External Members to Finance Subcommittee**

**Decision:** The following nominees were approved as external members of the Finance Subcommittee on the proposal of FMcN and seconded by MMcN.

- Ms. Larissa Feeney: CEO of Accountants Online. Shortlisted for the Image Businesswoman of the Year Award in 2017 and 2018.
- Mr. Joe Gannon: Partner at Gilroy Gannon Chartered Accountants Sligo. Past President, Chartered Accountants Ireland.
- Mr. Paul Shelly: Retired Partner Ernst & Young Galway. Past President, Galway Chamber.

### **GB 009.05.3 Appointment of External Members to ARC**

**Decision:** The following nominee was approved as an external member of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) on the proposal of AMcH and seconded by GR.

- Mr. John Geary, Solicitor at J.V. Geary & Co. Castlebar, Co Mayo

The Chair of the ARC, AMcH, advised that one additional member with ICT skills is still required for the ARC. She welcomed suggestions from the Governing Body and informed the meeting that this would be discussed at the ARC meeting scheduled to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

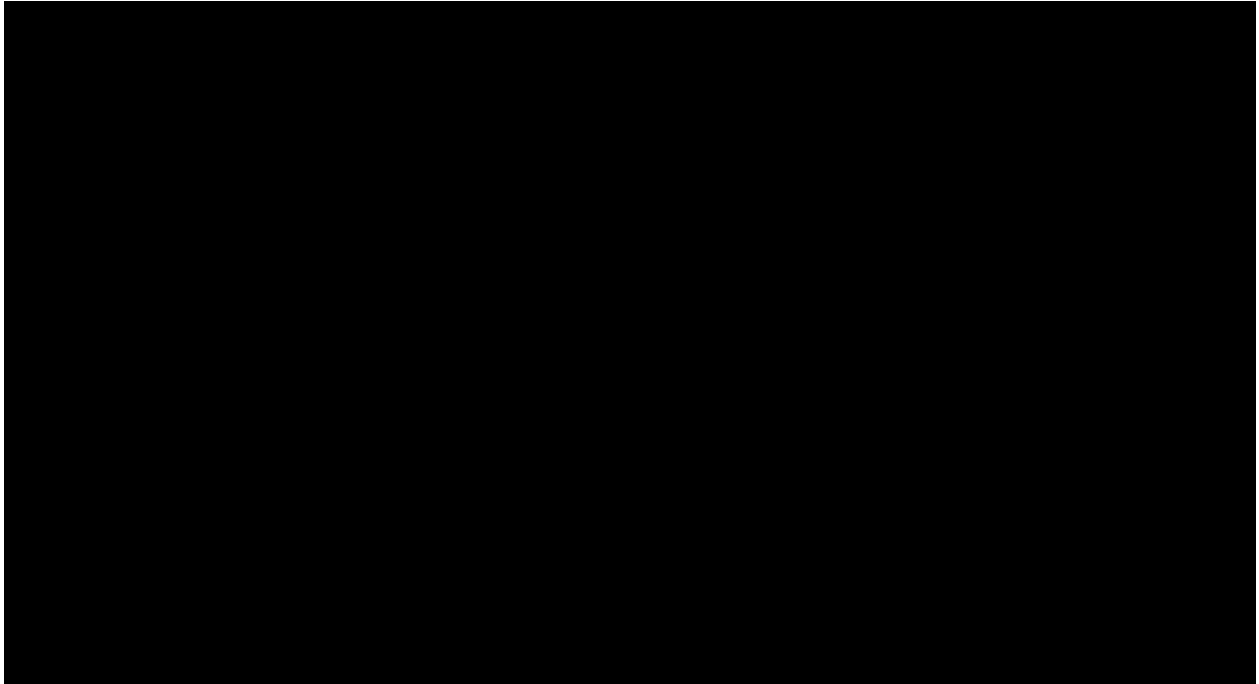
### **GB 009.06 Policies**

#### **GB 009.06.2 Recruitment and Selection Appeals Procedure**

**Decision:** The revised Recruitment and Selection Appeals Procedure was approved on the proposal of FMcN and seconded by DM.

#### **GB 009.06.3 Policy on Formulation of Policies**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.



**GB 009.08 Capital Projects**

HMcG joined the meeting and provided an update on the student building at the Galway City Campus.

Planning permission for the Student Building expires in mid-2023. Due to construction inflation the cost of completion of the student building continues to increase.

A budget of €14 was agreed by ATU Governing Body in September 2022.

Requests for an overview of all ATU Capital Projects was made by the Board. A risk register for the project was also requested together with a detailed presentation on the advantages and disadvantages of continuing/not continuing with the project.

It was agreed that the ARC could review the risks associated with both continuing and not proceeding with the student building. It was agreed that a review of all ATU Capital Projects would be carried out at the December meeting.

**GB 009.09 Integration of St Angela's College**

SD joined the meeting and together with Dr Flynn provided an update on the integration of St Angela's college. A summary of key milestones was provided to the meeting highlighting significant progress in the integration process to date. A plan for the next steps in this process was also included with Q2 of 2023 identified as the provisional date when staff of St Angela's College would transfer to ATU and STACS would be established as the ninth campus of the ATU.

**GB 009.10 Schedule of Governing Body Meetings for 2023**

A schedule of Governing Body meeting dates and locations was circulated for consideration by the Board.

It was agreed that the meeting date in February would need to be re-scheduled. It was agreed that the dates would be reviewed by the Chair and President and an updated schedule would be circulated.

**GB 009.11 AOB**

A Governing Body Student Appeals Subcommittee was established with the following membership:

Chair:	Maura McNally
Governing Body Member:	Felim McNeela
Governing Body Member:	Oonagh Monaghan
Head of College:	Joanne Gallagher
Student's Union President:	Colin Kearney



JF informed the members that an ATU laptop would be provided for each external Governing Body member to use for the duration of their term of office. Set up of and training on this device would be provided on site at ATU Galway City Campus prior to the December Governing Body meeting. Should any member wish to avail of this option they can do so by confirming with the office of the secretary to the Governing Body in advance of the 12<sup>th</sup> December meeting.

Signed:   
Chairperson

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023