



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

Minutes of the 18th ATU Governing Body Meeting Held on Monday 4th September 2023 at 9.30am Galway Boardroom and MS Teams

Present:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Maura McNally (Chairperson) – online | MMcN |
| Dr Orla Flynn (President) – in person | OF |
| Ursula Cox – in person | UC |
| Dara Foynes – in person | DF |
| Michael Geoghegan – online | MG |
| Felim McNeela - online | FMcN |
| Dr Martin Robinson – online | MR |
| Gareth Roe – in person | GR |
| Michael Gilvarry – online | MGil |
| Séamus Hughes – in person | SH |
| Patricia King – online | PK |
| Dr Brian McCann – online | BMcC |
| Mary McGinley - online | MMcG |
| Anne McHugh – in person | AMcH |
| Prof. Rachel Ashworth – online | RA |
| Jeremiah Egberongbe – online | JE |
| Barry Breslin – online | BB |
| Sarah Mohan – in person | SM |

In attendance:

| | |
|--|----|
| Jim Fennell (Secretary) – in person | JF |
| Michael Henehan (Recording Secretary) – in person | MH |
| Frances Wilson (Admin support) - online | FW |
| Carol Geraghty (Admin support) – online | CG |
| Billy Bennett (VPAAR Donegal) - online | BB |
| Michele Glacken (VPAAR Sligo) - online | MG |
| Ed Millar (Capital Development Manager Sligo) - online | EM |

Apologies:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| David Minton – apologies | DMT |
| Oonagh Monahan – apologies | OM |
| Dr Mary Kelly- apologies | MK |

GB 018.01 Declaration of Conflicts of Interests

There were no conflicts of interest declared at this meeting.

GB 018.02 Approval of Governing Body Minutes

GB 0018.02.1 Minutes of 19th June 2023

It was noted that the Chair had absented themselves from the meeting after the President's Report and returned immediately after lunch ahead of the Cyber Security item, that Anne McHugh had assumed the Chair in her absence, and the minutes should be amended to record that.

Also at section GB16.04.4 where it states, "They will support the President in reviewing the structure options and updated Design Principles, and ultimately making final decisions." is to be amended to, "They will support the President both in reviewing the structure options and updated Design Principles, and in making the final decision."

The minutes were approved subject to these amendments.

Decision The minutes were approved subject to the above amendments on the proposal of UC and seconded by AMcH.

GB 0018.02.2 Minutes of 24th July 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the 24th July 2023 were approved.

Decision The minutes were approved on the proposal of DF and seconded by GR.

GB 0018.05.5 Appointment of Student Unions' Nominees to Governing Body

The appointment of student nominees to the Governing Body was taken earlier on the agenda so the students could fully participate in the meeting as members.

Decision The student nominees, Sarah Mohan, Jeremiah Egberongbe and Barry Breslin, were appointed to the Governing Body on the proposal of GR and seconded by DF.

GB 0018.03 Matters arising and correspondence

GB 018.03.01 Governing Body Log of Action Items

The log of actions items was reviewed and following discussion it was agreed to close items 5, 10, 25, 28 and 38.

Item 1 was agreed to change the wording to "set up a DAC for the Foundation".

It was also agreed the Secretary would prioritise the list with colour coding.

GB 018.04 **Items for Approval**

GB 0018.04.1 **Land Acquisition Negotiations Ardaghowen, Sligo**

Ed Millar (EM - Capital Development Manager, Sligo) joined the meeting to present on the proposed acquisition of land at Ardaghowen, Sligo. EM took the members through a presentation on the lands involved and the process engaged in to date.

The last masterplan review in Sligo included a review of available land in the area (of the Sligo Campus) to identify the potential for expansion of the campus as there will be no land left on campus when the current masterplan is completed. The current masterplan has identified 46,000 m² of capacity on the current land available on campus.

[REDACTED]

While the land presents some topographical challenges the architects Taylor McCarney had performed a high-level study of the site to establish its development potential and their view is that the site could accommodate 850 student bed spaces which would be a 50% increase on the bedspaces in Sligo.

A prioritised list of projects was requested by some of the members to support decision making on projects.

Following some discussion, it was agreed to move ahead to negotiation with the sellers to establish terms for sale.

Decision It was approved to go ahead to negotiate terms of sale on the proposal of DF and seconded by SH.

Action UPT to produce a prioritised list of capital projects being proposed across the University following agreement of the Strategic Plan.

GB 0018.04.2 **Technological Sector Strategic Projects Fund (TSSPF) Bid Galway Campus: Allocation of University Reserves**

OF presented to the members on the request to approve the allocation of University reserves to the bid for a TSSPF funded project for the Galway Campus. This bid required the approval of members to commit €5M of University reserves as matching funds against TSSPF funding of €25M.

The allocation of reserves was approved.

Decision The allocation of €5M of University reserves as matched funding for the Galway campus TSSPF bid was approved on the proposal of UC and seconded by DF.

GB 0018.04.3 Amendment of Standing Orders: Quorum for Governing Body Meetings

JF presented on the changes proposed to the Standing Orders. JF explained that the Standing Orders quorum requirement had not been updated since the standing orders were first approved, and the quorum requirement was set at 3 which is low in the context of a 21-member governing body. There were 2 options presented to the members for their review – either one third of the members plus one (8) or half of the members plus one (11).

The first option was approved, i.e. one third plus one (8 members).

Decision The Standing Orders quorum requirement was amended to 8 members on the proposal of BMcC and seconded by AMcH.

GB 0018.04.4 Revised Fee Schedule 2023/24

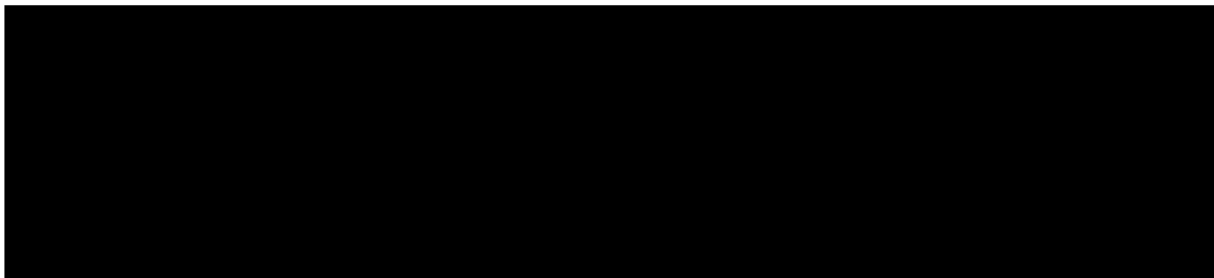
BB presented on the revised fee schedule and the changes therein.

The revised fee schedule was approved.

Decision The revised fee schedule for 2023/24 was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by FMcN.

GB 0018.04.5 Staff Appointments

The following staff appointment was presented to the Governing Body for approval:



Decision The above post was approved on the proposal of OF and seconded by GR.

GB 0018.04.6 Gaelic Players Association (GPA) Sponsorship Proposal

MG presented a sponsorship agreement with the GPA (MOU) to the members for their approval. The agreement has a potential annual cost of €40,000 across the University. Students must meet the University's enrolment criteria before they can enrol on a course and become eligible. While the actual awards are dependent on the applicant pool in any year, the University will work towards a 50/50 gender breakdown on awards where possible. All applications will be reviewed, and awards determined by the Sports Scholarship Committee.

The MOU was approved.

Decision The MOU with the GPA for sports scholarships was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by AMcH.

GB 0018.04.7 Bank Mandate (ATU Sligo)

A revised Bank Mandate for ATU Sligo was presented to the members for approval. JF explained that the mandate had been revised to include St Angela's management on the current ATU Sligo accounts and to further add ATU management to the St Angela's accounts which would become part of the University's portfolio on the 1st November.

The changes were approved with an effective date of the 1st of November.

Decision The revised bank mandate for ATU Sligo was approved with an effective date of 1st November 2023 on the proposal of GR and seconded by UC.

GB 0018.04.8 Appointment of Student Member of Governing Body to EDI Sub-committee

The student members were in agreement that Sarah Mohan be nominated to sit on the EDI sub-committee.

Decision The appointment of Sarah Mohan to the EDI committee was approved on the proposal of BMcC and seconded by GR.

GB 018.05 HEA Act 2022

GB 0018.05.1 Regulations for the Selection, Election, Nomination & Appointment of Members to the Governing Body

JF explained to the members that the Dept of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science had requested a minor change to the regulations previously approved by the members. The request was to change the reference from "...commencement of these regulations" to "...commencement of the 2022 Act" in reference to the commencement of the HEA Act 2022.

The revised regulations were approved.

Decision The revised Regulations for the Selection, Election, Nomination & Appointment of Members to the Governing Body were approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by UC.

GB 0018.05.2 Appointment of Ministerial Nominees to Governing Body

JF informed the members that the ministerial nominees (MMcN, OM and FMcN) had received an appointment letter from the Dept of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science which gave incorrect dates for the end of their term of appointment. The Dept have agreed to re-issue the letter with the correct date.

JF also confirmed for the members that the correct date for their term of appointment is up to the 31st March 2024.

Decision The ministerial nominees (Maura McNally, Oonagh Monahan and Felim McNeela) were confirmed as appointed to the governing body on the proposal of OF and seconded by AMcH.

GB 0018.05.3 External Nominations Committee Terms of Reference

The Nominations Committee terms of reference were approved.

Decision The terms of reference of the Nominations Committee were approved on the proposal of DF and seconded by GR

GB 0018.05.4 Appointment of Members of External Nominations Committee

MMcN proposed that the nominations committee would comprise the 3 ministerial nominees with the President acting as Secretary to the committee.

This was approved by the members.

Decision The 3 ministerial nominees (MMcN, OM and FMcN) on the governing body were appointed to the Nominations Committee with the President to act as Secretary to the committee on the proposal of DF and seconded by UC.

GB 0018.05.6 Regulations for the conduct of election of internal members to Governing Body

JF presented on the regulations for the conduct of elections to the Governing Body. He explained that for the upcoming elections the register of electors would be based on the payroll list at 31st August 2023 amended for employees who had ongoing contracts but were not paid in August.

The regulations were approved by the members.

Decision The regulations for the election of Internal Members 2023 were approved on the proposal of GR and seconded by SH.
The regulations for the conduct of elections for one Academic or PMSS and Research staff were approved on the proposal of UC and seconded by GR.
The regulations for the election of one PMSS or Research staff were approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by DF.
The regulations for the election of Academic staff were approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by GR.

GB 018.06 President's Report

GB 018.06.01 President's Update to Governing Body

OF updated the members on the University's activities since the meeting on the 19th June.

There have been 3 funding calls over the summer including one for Technological University Research and Innovation Supporting Enterprise (TU RISE) funded through the European Regional Development Fund.

OF explained that the launch of the Strategic plan should ideally be after St Angela's integration. The development of the Strategic Plan is advanced with sections included on Purpose, Vision, Mission, Cultural Levers and 3 key themes which are: Excellent Education, Excellent Connected Research Capability, and a Highly Engaged Ecosystem Regionally, Nationally and Internationally. The organisation will need to transform itself to deliver on the 3 themes. This will involve re-organising to put in place the finance and funding and the planning and structures necessary to achieve the plan.

The Strategic Plan is being framed in the context of the TU Act which specifically calls on the University to have a strong regional focus.

OF then moved on to update the members on the CAO process which was currently unfolding for the current academic year intake. The numbers show a projected intake of 3,419 at level 8 from round 1 (vs round 1 acceptances in 2022 of 3,092) and level 6/7 projected intake of 1,411 from round 1 (vs round 1 acceptances of 1,272 in 2022). It was noted that some areas are at full capacity and in those areas the number of offers cannot be increased.

OF congratulated the Registrar's function on the progress to date and pointed at the comprehensive information for decision making which had been made available covering the whole university.

OF also referenced the completion of two new buildings in Sligo: Block L which took place on the 25th September and the anticipated handover of the EO1 extension which is planned before Christmas, which are welcome steps forward in the development of the University.

GB 018.06.02 UPT Minutes

OF referenced the minutes for the UPT which had been made available to the members in the papers and summarised the contents - 4 meetings have been held, the next meeting 18.09.2023. Main issues covered by the UPT in their recent meetings were the budget, CAO and online admissions, strategic planning, and the integration of St Angelas.

GB 018.06.03 St Angela's College Integration

OF explained that following the signing of the legal agreement between ATU, STACs and the Ursuline Order on 31st May, the Minister for Further and Higher Education Research, Innovation and Science signed the Statutory Order on 5th July. (SI 356 of 2023). OF advised that BMcC had signalled an anomaly in a clause within the legal agreement at a previous Governing Body meeting. It was noted that an amended clause will be brought to the Governing Body for review and approval at the October 2023 meeting.

Action: Legal Agreement between ATU, STACs and the Ursuline Order with amended clause to be brought to the Governing Body for approval at the October meeting.

GB 018.06.04 Change Management and Organisation Design

OF referenced the update on Organisation design provided by Dr Sean Duffy which had been distributed with the papers. OF explained they had met with the Organisation Design consultants in August and work is ongoing on the report at present. The consultants are currently collating and analysing their fieldwork. The current design challenge is to have a central management team without having the team centrally based.

GB 018.07 Report from Academic Council

GB 018.07.01 Academic Council Minutes 28 April 2023

BB rejoined the meeting to update the members on activity at the Academic Council. He reported that the committees of the Academic council have been restructured to include student representation on every committee. The Research and Innovation committee was increased to 16 members. The exam results were approved, and 13 new programmes were approved.

In discussions following his report BB was asked by the members how the University had achieved the positive CAO numbers this year. BB replied that in his view this was a result of a coherent performance from the Marketing and Schools Liaison team. He further explained that 81% of the round 1 offers were to 1st preferences and this is a big vote of confidence from students and guidance counsellors in the region. This year there was one set of CAO codes for the University covering all of the University's courses managed centrally and one team with staff from the 3 colleges working on the CAO process. The outcome was a really positive result from the CAO process.

The members congratulated the team on the overall positive result and asked for a breakdown by course to more fully understand the detail of what is happening with courses.

Action The Registrar's function to provide a detailed breakdown of the CAO acceptances by course when final results are available.

GB 018.08 AOB

GB 018.08.01 Sponsorship Schedule August 2023 (Report from Sponsorship Committee)

OF explained that a schedule of sponsorships given by the University had been included in the papers to give visibility to approvals. The schedule covers the period April 2023 to August 2023 and includes items approved at Governing Body.

This schedule had been prepared by the sponsorship committee which is chaired by VPFCS Galway Mayo (JF). Other members include the VPAAR Donegal (BB), the VPAAR Sligo (MG), VPFCS Sligo (Elizabeth McCabe), VP International Engagement Galway Mayo (Cait Noone) and a member of the Marketing team.

GB 018.08.02 Code of Governance Training IPA (25th September 2023 and 9th October 2023)

MH presented on training for the Governing body. This has been arranged for delivery by the IPA with two sessions from 10.00 to 12.00 on the 25th September and the 9th of October. Members will be invited to both sessions and can choose which one they will attend. The members of Audit and Risk and the Finance Sub-committee will also be invited.

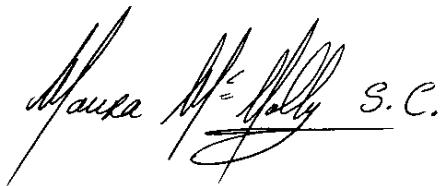
Under AOB a member raised the issue of communication of the University's public announcements to the Governing Body members so that they are aware of issues arising in the media. OF responded that the University subscribes to a media monitoring service (Zenark) and this could be made available to the members.

The Secretary (JF) announced to the members that he would like to change the start time of future meetings to 9.30am if the members were in agreement. The change to the start time of future meetings was agreed.

The members also extended their sympathies to the family of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Decision The start time of GB meetings is changed to 9.30am as agreed by the members.

Action The Communications Office to review making the Zenark service and responses/announcements to the media available to the members.



Maurice McHale S.C.

Signed: _____

Date: 08/11/2023