



Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic  
Technological  
University

## Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> ATU Governing Body Meeting Held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 9.15am Yeats Room St Angela's Campus and MS Teams

### Present:

Maura McNally (Chairperson) – in person	MMcN
Dr Orla Flynn (President) – in person	OF
Ursula Cox – in person	UC
Dara Foynes – online	DF
Michael Geoghegan – in person	MG
Felim McNeela – in person	FMcN
Dr Martin Robinson – in person	MR
Gareth Roe – online	GR
Michael Gilvarry – online	MGil
Séamus Hughes – in person	SH
Dr Brian McCann – in person	BMcC
Mary McGinley - online	MMcG
Oonagh Monahan – in person	OM
Jeremiah Egberongbe – online	JE
Barry Breslin – online	BB
Sarah Mohan – online	SM

### In attendance:

Jim Fennell (Secretary) – in person	JF
Carol Geraghty (Recording Secretary) – in person	CG
Henry McGarvey – online – Agenda Items 5.1 & 5.2	HMcG
David Lee – online – Agenda item 5.1	DL
Ed Millar – online – Agenda item 5.2	EM
Chris O'Malley – online – Agenda item 5.4	CO'M

### Apologies:

Dr Mary Kelly  
Anne McHugh  
Prof. Rachel Ashworth

## **GB 20.01 Declaration of Conflicts of Interests**

There were no conflicts of interest declared at the meeting.

## **GB 20.02 Approval of Governing Body Minutes**

### **GB 0019.02.1 Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

At section GB 0019.02.1 update proposer to replace SH with BMcC.

**Decision** The minutes were approved subject to the above amendment on the proposal of OM and seconded by FMcN.

## **GB 0020.03 Matters arising and correspondence.**

### **GB 0020.03.01 Governing Body Log of Action Items**

The log of actions items was reviewed. MMcN thanked OM for chairing the Strategic Planning Subcommittee. High priority actions were reviewed with the following updates agreed –

- Combine all actions related to the DAC into Action 1 & close other DAC related actions. JF advised that documentation has been submitted to the HEA and DFHERIS.
- BMcC suggested that actions 27 & 36 could be combined as they both relate to the ATU Organisational chart. OF advised the meeting that this is currently being compiled and will be an agenda item at the February meeting.
- GR queried why bad debt was not an agenda item for the November meeting. JF advised that bad debt was reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee in October, will be reviewed by the DAC in November and will be an agenda item for the December GB meeting.

### **GB 0020.04 HEA Act**

#### **GB 0020.04.1 Report from External Nominations Committee**

#### **GB 0020.04.2 Appointment of external members to GB as recommended by External Nominations Committee**

OF shared a report from the External Nominations Committee. External members recommended are current members - Seamus Hughes, David Minton, Dara Foynes, Michael Gilvarry & Prof Rachel Ashworth - and new members Joe Cunningham and Joanne Grehan. A short biography for recommended new members was included in the report. JF advised that AMcH will retire from the GB and ARC on 11<sup>th</sup> December. MMcG will retire from GB on 11<sup>th</sup> December & will continue to serve on the ARC as an external non GB member. MK and PK will retire from the GB with immediate effect. Retiring GB members were thanked for their contributions to the ATU GB.

**Decision** External members recommended by the External Nominations Committee appointed to the ATU Governing Body from 6<sup>th</sup> November 203 until 31<sup>st</sup> October 207 on the proposal of OM and seconded by FMcN.

#### **GB 0020.04.3 Appointment of staff members to GB as a result of election**

JF gave details of staff elected as staff representatives to the GB at the election on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October. UC, MG and BMcC will continue to serve on the GB until the end of their term on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. GR will retire on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023. MMcN expressed her gratitude and that of the GB members to GR for his contribution to the ATU GB.

**Decision** Elected staff representatives appointed to the ATU Governing Body from 6<sup>th</sup> November 203 until 31<sup>st</sup> October 207 on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by SH.

## **GB 020.05**                    **Items for Approval**

### **GB 0020.05.1**                    **Modular building on Galway City campus**

DL joined the meeting at 9.36.

HMcG joined the meeting at 9.46.

DL gave members a summary of work completed to date to source a supplier for modular buildings on the Galway City campus. The company recommended through the procurement process manufactures modular buildings in their factory in Limerick. They will be responsible for all aspects of design and installation including securing planning permission and any certification required for the building. It is estimated that this will take 8-10 months to complete. In response to a question from BMcC about the quality and lifespan of the building, DL responded that, with routine maintenance, the building has an expected lifespan of 15 years. GR highlighted the importance of having this building available in time for Semester 1 2024/2025; if 1<sup>st</sup> year intake is restricted as a result of the building is not being available it will impact on student related funding for 4 years, the duration of an undergraduate programme.

DL left the meeting at 9.45.

**Decision**                    The installation of a modular building on the Galway city campus was approved on the proposal of MG and seconded by SM.

### **GB 0020.05.2**                    **Acquisition of land in Sligo –Report from Negotiator**

EM joined the meeting at 9.48.

HMcG & OF gave a summary of the process to date. Next steps are to appoint a legal representative to proceed with the purchase of the lands at the valuation from the Valuation Office & write to the relevant authorities for approval to complete the purchase. In June 2023, Minister Harris announced the commencement of work to plan student accommodation across the TU sector. HMcG is on a working group of TU, HEA and DFHERIS representatives. To date a feasibility study has been completed.

There was a discussion about ATU capital plans and how they are being prioritised and a suggestion that, once a priority list is agreed and available, future GB agenda items requesting approval for capital spend could show the priority of the capital project being reviewed. JF advised that the Finance Subcommittee is working on a policy re appropriate capital reserves, this will be submitted to the Strategic Development Subcommittee and then GB.

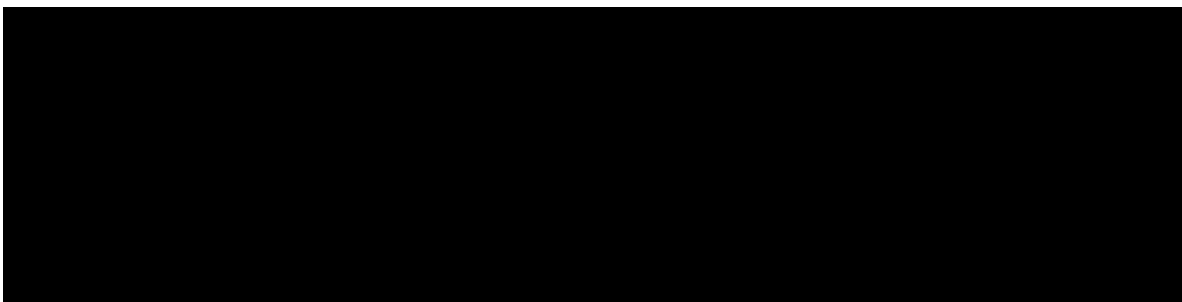
EM & HMcG left the meeting at 9.52am.

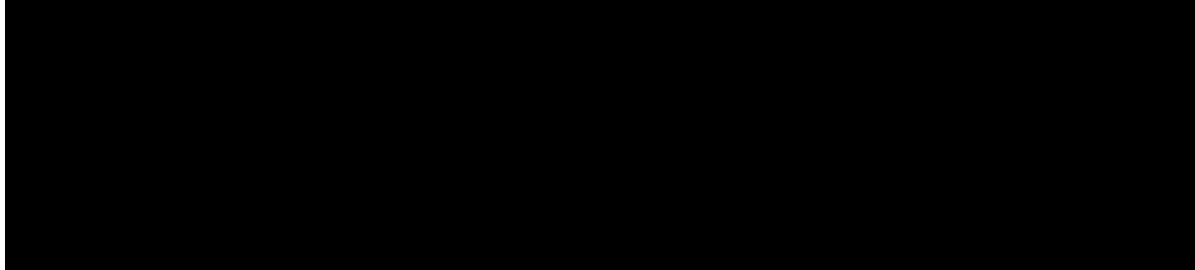
**Decision**                    Appointment of a legal representative to proceed with the purchase approved on the proposal of DF and seconded by UC.

**Decision**                    GB chair to contact the relevant authorities for approval to complete the purchase approved on the proposal of DF and seconded by BMcC.

### **GB 0020.05.3**                    **Staff Appointments**

The following staff appointments were presented to the Governing Body for approval:





**Decision** The above posts were approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by SH.

**GB 0020.05.4 Annual review of IP commercialisation and Conflicts of Interest**

COM joined the meeting at 9.59am.  
OF and COM summarised the report provided to members & gave information about plans to have, subject to funding from KTI (Knowledge Transfer Ireland), a small team dedicated to increasing awareness about the commercial potential of research and supporting staff in this area. There was a discussion about the numbers reported, links to the Strategic Plan, the timeline for increasing the level of IP filings and the impact that the iHub / Enterprise Centres have.  
COM left the meeting at 10.15.

**Decision** The report provided to members was approved on the proposal of DF and seconded by FMcN.

**Action** Report on activity around iHub / Enterprise Centres to GB.

**GB 0020.05.5 Amendment of Standing Orders**

JF presented section 11.6.1 of the current GB Standing Orders and advised that induction will be scheduled for new external and staff members before their 1<sup>st</sup> GB meeting. Members discussed the subject of confidentiality and when information raised at GB meetings can be shared with non-GB members. It was agreed that information can be shared with non-GB members after the meeting minutes are published or by prior agreement of the GB; GB members are asked to raise these requests under AOB. JF explained the process for publishing meeting minutes. In response to a request that meeting minutes be published more promptly, JF suggested that we would aim to have approved meeting minutes (previous month) published by the end of the week of the GB meeting.

**Action** Define the term "matter of confidential nature" in section 11.61. of GB Standing Orders

**GB 0020.06 Committee & Subcommittee Updates**

**GB 0020.06.1 Report from Finance Subcommittee**

**GB 0020.06.1.1 Finance Outturn**

FMcN summarised the report provided to members, this included the Finance Outturn.

**Decision** The report provided to members was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by SH.

**Action** Identify potential external members for Finance Subcommittee.

**GB 0020.07 President's Report**

**GB 0020.07.3 Strategic Plan Update**

OF stated that an external review of the draft Strategic Plan is scheduled for week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> Nov & Des Foley will tie-in with the Strategic Development Subcommittee.

**GB 0020.09**

**AOB**

**ATU Graduations**

OF issued an invite to GB members to attend any graduation sessions of their choice. Members are asked to contact the Presidents office in advance so arrangements can be made to have a gown available.

**Talk in Sligo**

MMcN advised that two high-court judges will be giving a talk to ATU students and staff at the Sligo campus.

**Update on Building Projects**

**Action** Update on building projects to GB as soon as possible.

Documents for agenda sections 7, 8 and 9 were circulated in advance of the meeting to members with other supporting documents.

Meeting ended at 10.46am. GB members attended the Event to mark the Incorporation of St Angela's into ATU.



**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

**Date:** 15/01/2024