

Present:

Maura McNally (Chairperson) – video conference	MMcN
Dr Orla Flynn – in person	OF
Anne McHugh – in person	AMcH
Felim McNeela – in person	FMN
Oonagh Monahan – in person	OM

In attendance:

Jim Fennell (ATU Secretary) – in person
Michael Henehan (Recording Secretary) – in person

Observers (joined after agenda item 3):

Mairead McCann (TUI) – in person
Hugh McBride (TUI) – video conference
Ursula Cox (Forsa) – in person
Daire Martin – SU Sligo (video conference)
Colin Kearney – SU Galway-Mayo (video conference)
Dr Michele Glacken (VPAAR Sligo) – in person agenda item 5
Dr Billy Bennett (VPAAR Donegal) – in person agenda item 5
Dr Michael Hannon (VPAAR Galway-Mayo) – in person agenda item 5
Dr Jacqueline McCormack (VP EDI and OD Sligo) – in person agenda item 8

The Chairperson welcomed members to the second meeting of the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Governing Body.

GB 002.01 Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared at this meeting.

GB 002.02 Minutes of the meeting of 1st April 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the 1st April were reviewed by the members. Following some discussion, it was agreed to add the word "interim" to the fourth sentence of the section re appointment of the Secretary (page 3) and to add the words "on an interim basis, as this had been agreed in the MOU with the TUI" to the second sentence at the top of page 4.

Decision: The minutes were approved, subject to the above changes. Proposed AMcH, seconded OM

GB 002.03 Matters arising

Under matters arising the President advised the members that items 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 were being withdrawn from the agenda as further changes had been recommended to these policies following additional input received since the policies had been circulated to the members.

GB 002.04 President's Update and Presentation

Dr Orla Flynn commenced a presentation including: the activities of the University for its first 12 days of operation; launch activities; all-staff meeting on Friday 8th April; overview of interim senior roles across the organisation; brief view of the consolidated financials of the Institutes for the year to 31.08.2021. The President explained that one of the early key tasks for the University is to put in place a Strategic Plan for the University and an organisational structure to support the delivery of the plan. The University will consult with staff and unions on all those activities.

GB 002.05 Functional Presentation – Registrars/ VPs for Academic Affairs

The members were joined by the three VPAARs – Dr Michele Glacken, Sligo, Dr Billy Bennett, Donegal and Dr Michael Hannon, Galway-Mayo. The VPAARs gave a presentation detailing the activities across the University covered by their function and how they were collaborating in delivering their services. The presentation also covered their proposal to structure their function and activities in the interim.

The VPAARs also stated that the 3 legacy Academic Councils had been reconstituted as Academic Quality Committees in order to deal with necessary approvals as provided in the Act. This structure could see each committee operating effectively as a sub-committee of an interim Academic Council, and the interim Academic Council itself could comprise all the members of each Academic Quality Committee.

GB 002.06 Adoption of ATU Policies

GB 002.06.1 Governance Policies

GB 002.06.1.1 Conflicts of Interest Policy

The proposed Conflicts of Interest Policy was put to the members who voted unanimously for its adoption.

Decision: The policy was approved.

GB 002.06.1.2 Anti-fraud Policy

The proposed Anti-fraud Policy was put to the members who voted unanimously for its adoption.

Decision: The policy was approved.

GB 002.06.1.3 Anti-corruption Policy

The proposed Anti-corruption Policy was put to the members who voted unanimously for

its adoption.

Decision: The policy was approved.

GB 002.06.1.4 Risk Management Policy

The proposed Risk Management Policy was put to the members who voted unanimously for its adoption.

Decision: The policy was approved.

GB 002.06.1.5 Protected Disclosure Policy

The Protected Disclosures Policy was presented to the members for their approval. Following some discussion, the policy was recommended for approval by the members. After approval the policy would be recommended for review by ARC, subject to pressure of work, to consider if the policy should contain a proviso that the policy is only available where there is no other avenue for disclosure available to the discloser. It was also requested that ARC review the sufficiency of avenues available to students re disclosures.

The members voted unanimously for the adoption of this policy.

Decision: The policy was approved.

Action item: The Secretary will make the ARC aware of the decision of the Governing Body on this policy and is to appraise them of the request to review the policy - to consider if the policy should contain a proviso that the policy is only available where there is no other avenue for disclosure available to the discloser. It was also requested that ARC review the sufficiency of avenues available to students re disclosures.

GB 002.06.2 Finance Policies

GB 002.06.2.1 Procurement Policy

The proposed Procurement Policy was put to the members who voted unanimously for its adoption.

Decision: The policy was approved.

GB 002.06.3 Data Protection Policy

GB 002.06.3.1 Data Protection Policy

The proposed Data Protection Policy was put to the members who voted unanimously for its adoption.

Decision: The policy was approved.

GB 002.07 Staff Recruitment and Selection Procedures

The President presented the staff recruitment and selection procedures for approval by the members. Dr Flynn explained to the members that the requirement placed on Institutes of Technology to have a governing body member sit on all interview panels did not apply to the University and the procedures presented to the members reflected that, while also remaining loyal to the principles built up by the Institutes over the years in the area of recruitment.

In the discussion that followed it was explained that appeals would be covered by a separate procedure which was currently being drafted by a THEA sectoral working group.

The proposed staff recruitment and selection procedures were put to the members who voted unanimously for their adoption.

Decision: The procedures were approved.

GB 002.08 EDI Sub-committee - TOR

The VP for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and Online Development (VP EDI and OD) Sligo, Dr Jacqueline McCormack joined the meeting to present the EDI sub-committee Terms of Reference for approval by the members.

Following some discussion surrounding the operation and make-up of the sub-committee it was agreed that Dr McCormack would present a plan for the EDI sub-committee to cover the make-up of the sub-committee and how it would operate and evolve at the next meeting.

The proposed terms of reference for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee were put to the members who voted unanimously for their adoption.

Decision: The TOR of the EDI sub-committee were approved.

Action item: The VP EDI and OD to present a plan for the EDI sub-committee to cover the make-up of the sub-committee and how it would operate and evolve at the next meeting.

GB 002.09 Regulations for the conduct of the election of staff members to the Governing Body

The proposed regulations for the conduct of elections of staff members to the Governing Body were presented to the members. Following some discussion amongst the members it was clarified that the Governing Body cannot change the staff membership allowed for by the Technological University Act 2018 as the University is bound by the provisions of the Act.

The proposed regulations were put to the members who voted unanimously for their adoption.

Decision: The proposed regulations for the conduct of the election of staff members to the Governing Body were approved.

GB 002.10 Charities Regulation Declarations and Trustees Nomination

The President presented the proposal to apply to register the University as a Charity to the members. Dr Flynn explained this was necessary in order to secure exemption from taxation on the University's activities.

The proposal to apply to register the University as a Charity was put to the members who voted unanimously in favour.

Decision: The proposal to apply to register the University as a Charity was approved.

GB 002.11 Audit and Risk Committee

GB 002.11.1 Terms of Reference

Following some discussion amongst the members on the Terms of Reference for Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) it was agreed to approve the TOR as presented and to refer a suggested change to section 5.2.8, to expand this section to include a wider range of performance metrics and KPIs, to the ARC for their review.

The Terms of Reference for ARC were put to the members who voted unanimously in favour.

Decision: The TOR of ARC was approved.

Action item: The Secretary will make the ARC aware of the recommendation from the Governing Body to review section 5.2.8 of the TOR to ensure they are satisfied with the TOR.

GB 002.11.2 Appointment of members

The proposed membership of the Audit and Risk Committee was presented to the members who voted unanimously to approve with Anne McHugh appointed as the interim Chair.

Decision: The 6 people proposed for membership of the Audit and Risk Committee – Mary Bohan, Paraic Casey, Philip Maguire, Anne McHugh, Mary McGinley and David Leahy were appointed to ARC with Anne McHugh appointed as the interim Chair of ARC.

GB 002.12 AOB

Under AOB a member asked if there was a plan for expanding the Governing Body membership and in particular if this would include a person with international HEI experience as this experience may be valuable when the management structures for the University are being put in place.

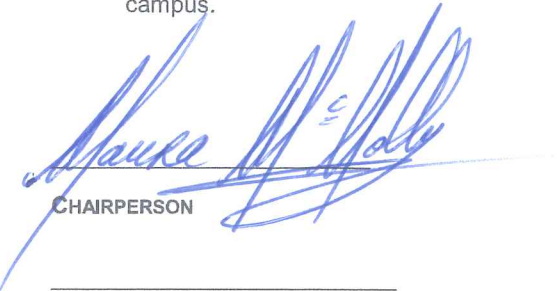
The Chair explained that work is advancing on looking at options for this and if there were any suggestions from any of the members they would be welcome.

Dr Flynn added that whatever the University did in this area should be transparent as the University is a public body. Using the Public Appointments Service could be considered in this regard.

The Secretary also added a point under AOB explaining to the members that he had written to the Student's Unions (3) asking them to nominate student members and getting those nominations before the summer would be important for the operation of the Governing Body in the next academic year.

GB 002.13 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to occur on Monday 9th May at 11am at the ATU Galway campus.


CHAIRPERSON

26/9/22
Date

SECRETARY

Date