

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Munster Technological University held on Friday, 4 June 2021 at 8.00am via video conference.

Members: Mr Bob Savage, Chair
Prof. Maggie Cusack
Mr Denis Leamy
Mr Jerry Moloney

In Attendance: Mr Barry Coughlan, MTU Cork Campus
Mr Paul Gallagher, MTU Cork Campus
Ms Geraldine Faherty, Minute Taker

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting of Munster Technological University Governing Body. Apologies were noted from Prof Karlsson and Ms C Looney. Conflict of Interest and the importance of declaring any conflict or perceived conflict was addressed, no conflicts were declared.

The Chair introduced Mr Peter McGrath to the Governing Body. He welcomed him to the meeting and asked him to present his report on the Review of the UNESCO Chair. The Governing Body noted that Mr McGrath was the former Secretary/Financial Controller at Dundalk Institute of Technology and has extensive experience in the sector. He had previously been involved with IT Tralee on their sustainability review in 2019.

1. Report from the external review re: UNESCO Chair

Mr McGrath discussed his circulated report, referring to what had been agreed under the Sustainability Plan in 2019 in respect of the UNESCO Chair. He discussed funding including external funding, running costs and staffing and outlined potential opportunities to assist in establishing the UNESCO Chair as self-funding.

He referred to the work of the UNESCO Chair, the status associated with this and how the scope had shifted beyond disability to include sustainable development around human rights and other areas of marginalisation and disadvantage on a more global basis in 2017.

The Governing Body thanked Mr McGrath for his comprehensive report and its presentation. They agreed that the UNESCO Chair carries a global remit and it is thought of very highly. It was an opportunity for redefinition and under MTU there was potential to extend this across the region.

The Governing Body approved the application for renewal of the UNESCO Chair on the basis that:

- KPIs would be established to set targets for the Chair with a mid-term review to be carried out and concluded by June 2023 including a decision point on continuation of the initiative;
- A multi-pronged approach should be taken to funding the activity including potential philanthropic, research and teaching & learning funding sources;
- The Chair should become self-financing and, until this is achieved, any shortfall will continue to be funded from the RFAM Research & Innovation Top-slice for two years at which point the Chair should be self-financing.

They requested that the UNESCO Chair Project Manager be invited to a Governing Body Meeting to present a sustainability plan for the Chair and that regular reports be submitted on its progression.

Mr McGrath left the meeting at 8.25am.

2. Proposed Licence with ON TOWER IRELAND LIMITED

This item was deferred to the next Governing Body meeting.

3. Adoption of the revised MTU Standing Orders.

This item was deferred to the next Governing Body meeting.

4. Correspondence

a. Letter dated 28 May to THEA and their response

The Governing Body noted the correspondence sent by the President to THEA and their response letter dated 31 May.

The President also confirmed that she would be meeting TU Dublin to discuss networks from a staff perspective.

5. AOB

a. Nominations Committee

The Chair confirmed that the Committee were nearing completion of their deliberations and expect to have a report completed by next Wednesday.

The Governing Body discussed the timelines and agreed that it may be necessary to push out their scheduled meeting of 18 June. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Governors for their participation this morning. The meeting closed at 8.35am.

Signed: 
Chair of MTU Governing Body

Date: 10 June 2021
