

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Munster Technological University held on Thursday, 10 June 2021 at 5.00pm via video conference.

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

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

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting of Munster Technological University Governing Body. There were no apologies, however, it was noted that Mr Moloney would join the meeting at 5.15pm. Conflict of Interest and the importance of declaring any conflict or perceived conflict was addressed, no conflicts were declared in terms of the meeting. However, conflicts as recorded in the report under agenda item 2 were flagged.

1. Draft Minutes

a. Governing Body Meeting held on Friday 21 May and Friday 4 June 2021

The minutes of the meeting of the MTU Governing Body held on Friday 21 May and Friday 4 June 2021 were approved for signature.

The Governing Body agreed to discuss any relevant matters arising as they appeared on the agenda.

2. Governing Body Committees – Nominations Committee:

a. Nominations Committee Report

b. Appendices

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair discussed the circulated report and outlined the steps taken by the Committee in relation to its task to nominate 3-8 external members of Governing Body in accordance to section 12(1)(h) of the Technological Universities Act 2018.

The other Governors confirmed their satisfaction with it and the nominations were approved.

The Governing Body agreed to move the proposed date of the Governing Body meeting when the new members will take up their appointments from 18 June to later in the month, to provide new Governors with adequate notice of the meeting and to possibly facilitate an induction session in the meantime. They agreed to share the Nominations Committee Report and the gender balance breakdown with the Department of Higher and Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science and noted that the final Ministerial appointment to Governing Body may be made in the coming weeks.

The Governing Body approved the proposed correspondence to all applicants, these will be issued by email on Monday.

Due to continuing restrictions the first meeting of the expanded Governing Body will take place via video conference, however, when restrictions allow, meetings will revert to in person.

The President conveyed her sincere thanks to the Nominations Committee and to the Vice Presidents (VPs) Corporate and Mr Coughlan for their support and guidance during the process.

3. Membership of Governing Body:

a. Report on the election of members of Staff to Governing Body

The VPs Corporate discussed the circulated report on the election of members of staff to Governing Body. They confirmed that on formal appointment, members will join the first meeting of the expanded Governing Body due to take place before the end of the month.

The Governing Body noted the detail of the report and appendices and conveyed their thanks to the VPs for their work. They were appreciative of how difficult it was to organise elections during a pandemic whilst also being mindful of the recent national cyber security breach.

4. Students' Union

a. Students' Union Executive Committee – Draft Terms of Reference

b. Revised Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Mr Coughlan discussed the draft terms of reference and the revisions to the MOU as circulated. He confirmed that the interim overarching Joint Executive Committee was established in May and that this will facilitate recognition for the purposes of the Act and Governing Body.

The Governing Body approved the draft terms of reference as presented. They agreed to recognise the Joint Executive Committee and accept the student nominees to Governing Body as set out in the terms of reference, subject to the signing of the MOU.

The Governing Body commended the Students' Union on the progress made and conveyed their thanks to all involved in assisting them.

5. Proposed Licence with ON TOWER Ireland Limited

[Minute redacted as negotiations of contract on-going.]

6. Revision to MTU Standing Orders

The Governing Body approved the minor changes to the Standing Orders as outlined in the circulated documentation.

7. Higher Education Authority Bill 2021

a. General Notes

b. Draft Submissions

Mr Coughlan referred to the request from the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for a submission from HEIs on the General Scheme of the Higher Education Authority Bill 2021. He discussed the key points in the proposed MTU submissions document and confirmed that the deadline to submit this document was 14 June.

The Governing Body approved the submissions on the General Scheme of the Higher Education Bill 2021 as outlined, and for the President to send them on behalf of MTU.

8. AOB

a. Induction

The VPs Corporate confirmed that an induction session given by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) is being planned to take place before the first meeting of the expanded Governing Body. A draft schedule outlining further sessions throughout the year to be prepared for the first meeting.

Proposed dates in relation to the induction and a meeting date to be circulated to Governors.

The Chair thanked Governors for their participation at the meeting this afternoon and reiterated the great progress made to date. The meeting closed at 5.50pm.



Signed: _____
Chair of MTU Governing Body

28 June 2021
Date: _____