

**Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Munster Technological University held on Friday, 12 February 2021 at 2.30pm 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 Ciara Looney, MTU Kerry Campus  
Ms Geraldine Faherty, Minute Taker

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

Before commencing with the agenda, the Chair conveyed his thanks to everyone for their support and commitment to Governing Body and for all the work being done.

**1. Draft Minutes**

**a. Governing Body Meeting held on Friday 5 February 2021**

The minutes of the meeting of the MTU Governing Body held on Friday 5 February 2021 were approved for signature.

**2. Minutes/Digest for Publication**

The Governing Body approved the publication of the signed minutes of their previous meetings as digests without redaction. The following will be published on the MTU website:

- 1 January
- 6 January
- 15 January
- 22 January
- 29 January

**3. Correspondence**

**a. Parliamentary Question (PQ) received by the HEA regarding the Chairperson of Higher Education Institutions and the MTU response to the PQ**

The Governing Body noted the PQ and the MTU response to this.

**b. Chair response to the Students' Union President (Cork) correspondence**

The Governing Body noted the Chair's response letter dated 10 February 2021.

**4. Academic Council**

The President referred to the documentation circulated for approval and discussed the proposal to move to a medium model Academic Council, that there be an Executive Committee and that the medium size Council is mainly drawn from the members of the legacy Committees, thus giving the opportunity to bring in more staff and students.

The Governing Body approved the regulations and further approved the delegation within those regulations.

## **5. President's Report:**

The Chair invited the President to discuss her report.

The President referred to the following in her report:

- (i) Covid-19 vaccine roll-out centres at both Kerry and Cork Campuses
- (ii) Meeting scheduled with the Assistant Secretary General and Secretary General of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) on 26 February
- (iii) Meeting with the HEA earlier in the week re: TUTF funding
- (iv) Minister Simon Coveney's address to the Cork Development Forum
- (v) The launch of the HCI funding project "iEd Hub" in collaboration with UCC and worth approximately €8.7m of which €3m to MTU
- (vi) Vignettes to students and staff and the interview to Newsweek Magazine for their special edition on Ireland entitled 'New Dawn: New Opportunities'.

The Governing Body thanked the President for her report. They welcomed and approved the use of MTU facilities for the provision of Covid-19 vaccination centres and associated licences. They further agreed to facilitate the President's meeting the DFHERIS on 26 February.

## **6. Membership of Governing Body:**

### **a. Staff Nomination & Election Process Update**

The Vice Presidents (VPs) Corporate discussed the gender sensitivity analysis and its resulting scenarios, and outlined the proposed timelines for the process.

The Governing Body agreed to include cognisance to gender in the regulations in relation to the seeking of nominations. All appointments to the Governing Body to be made simultaneously in order to maintain balance.

Transparency in all their actions is important to the Governing Body.

### **b. Election Process Regulations**

Mr Gallagher discussed the development of the draft regulations and outlined the key decisions for Governing Body.

In relation to the five panels, the Governing Body were mindful of all disciplines and to ensuring a balanced representation from as many campuses as possible. They agreed to incorporate their rationale into the regulations.

The Nominations Committee to consider holding their first meeting and may avail of 26 February as a possible meeting date. A robust transparent process will be required.

The Governing Body were appreciative of the work undertaken and conveyed their thanks to the VPs Corporate and Mr Coughlan.

## **7. CIT Foundation Company – Directorship**

Mr Coughlan referred to the practice regarding directorships and the process involved and outlined the proposal that the President will take up the directorship in the CIT Foundation which was vacated by the President of CIT on his retirement on 31 December 2020.

A discussion took place in relation to the longer-term plan to undertake a review of the process concerning nominating directors and to develop a strategy for all MTU related companies.

An overview of MTU's related companies to be circulated to Governing Body for their meeting next week.

**ACTION:** *A presentation/overview to be given of MTU's related companies at the next Governing Body Meeting.*

## **8. Staff Appointments**

The Governing Body noted that there were no appointments presented for approval at today's meeting.

## **9. Schedule of Meetings – Proposal for March to June**

The Governing Body approved the proposed schedule of meetings for the period March to June 2021 and agreed to meet at short-notice should the need arise.

*The Governing Body agreed to discuss agenda item 10 without the presence of the VPs Corporate or Mr Coughlan's attendance at the meeting. The VPs Corporate and Mr Coughlan left the meeting.*

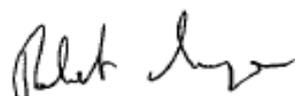
## **10. Organisational Structure**

The President referred to her proposals as outlined at last week's meeting and gave an update on the progress.

The Governing Body discussed their views on the growth and development of the strategy and how this will achieve the ambition of the university. They were fully supportive of the President and agreed to continue to reflect and provide feedback.

The President conveyed her thanks to Governors for their views and their support.

The Chair thanked Governors for their participation at the meeting this afternoon. The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

Signed:   
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Chair of MTU Governing Body

Date: 19 February 2021  
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