

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Munster Technological University held on Friday, 19 February 2021 at 2.30pm 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. Conflict of Interest and the importance of declaring any conflict or perceived conflict was addressed, no conflicts were declared.

1. Draft Minutes

a. Governing Body Meeting held on Friday 12 February 2021

The minutes of the meeting of the MTU Governing Body held on Friday 12 February 2021 were approved for signature.

2. Correspondence

There were no items to report under correspondence.

3. Academic Council

a. Extension of the tenure of the Academic Council established on 1 January 2021

The President sought the approval of Governing Body to extend the term of the Academic Council established on 1 January by up to one month to allow time to form the transitional MTU Academic Council as approved by Governing Body at their meeting on 12 February.

The Governing Body approved the extension of the term of the Academic Council by up to one month, or such lesser period as may be necessary for the transitional MTU Academic Council to be put in place. The commencement date for the term of the transitional MTU Academic Council as set out in the regulations approved by Governing Body for it, is also revised accordingly.

4. President's Report:

The Chair invited the President to discuss her report.

The President referred to the following in her verbal report:

- Participation as a witness at the Oireachtas Joint Committee Education, Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science to discuss the expansion of the Technological Universities.
- A meeting with the CEO of Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) to discuss MTU's requirements for advocacy.
- A meeting with the Interim President of University College Cork (UCC) and confirmation of regular meetings from hereon in.

- The Chair of Governing Body and the President met with the President of the Tralee Students' Union in response to her request for a meeting. The President conveyed her thanks to the Chair for his attendance at this meeting.
- A presentation given at the MTU Women in Tech virtual event prior to the Governing Body meeting.
- Details on her video for circulation on Monday re: reporting on successes across MTU.

The Governing Body thanked the President for her report.

5. Collaboration Agreement between MTU / National Parks and Wildlife Service / Leave no Trace Ireland

Mr Coughlan referred to the proposed collaboration agreement and the background documentation. In accordance with Section 9 of the Act, this collaboration agreement requires Governing Body approval with the academic element being dealt with by Academic Council.

The Governing Body indicated broad support for the collaboration, however, they felt they would benefit from further information and therefore agreed to invite the relevant Head of Department to attend the next Governing Body meeting in order to brief Governors so that the matter can be considered further for formal approval.

ACTION: *The relevant Head of Department to be invited to attend the next Governing Body meeting to give an overview on the collaboration agreement.*

6. Governing Body Committees

a. Audit & Risk Committee Meeting – 9 February 2021

i. 2018/2019 Annual Governance Statements – comments from the HEA

The Chair invited Mr Moloney as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee to discuss the circulated documentation.

Mr Moloney gave an overview of the first meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting, referring to induction training from the IPA, a presentation from Deloitte on the role of the internal audit function and the internal audit plan for the coming year; as well as discussing the other main elements covered at the meeting.

In relation to the 2018/2019 Annual Governance Statements (for the two pre-existing Institutes), the Governing Body noted the comments from the HEA and the responses from both Institutes. Confirmation of the oversight from the Audit & Risk Committee and the Governing Body will be communicated to the HEA.

7. Membership of Governing Body:

a. Staff Nomination & Election Process Update

b. Election Process Regulations

The Vice Presidents (VPs) Corporate confirmed that they had further engagement with the staff Unions in relation to the updated election process documentation. Feedback from the TUI union included a request for an extension to the timelines to allow for further consultation and feedback.

The Governing Body agreed to revise the timelines based on this feedback and further agreed to consider the recommendation from all unions to conduct the election process for sections 12(1)(c) and (d) ahead of section 12(1)(e) thus potentially allowing for a mechanism to redress possible

imbalance in terms of gender or representation. They requested that a final draft of the documentation be completed for their next meeting on 12 March.

In relation to the external membership, permission to be sought from Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in relation to the provision of an allowance for expenses and other costs.

The Nominations Committee agreed to hold their first meeting on 26 February at 3.00pm. Documentation to be made available on Decision Time.

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

8. Use of MTU Seal – Contract with Broadcasting Authority of Ireland

Ms Looney referred to the use of the MTU Seal on a contract with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. IT Tralee Governing Body had previously approved the use of the Seal but as the contract was not prepared until January 2021, Governing Body approval was now being sought for its use.

Mr Coughlan informed Governing Body that under the TU Act, the affixing of the MTU Seal on a document must be witnessed and authenticated by two signatures, and the Act specifically authorises the Chair and the President for that purpose. It also provides for further authorised signatories as determined, respectively, by Governing Body and the President. At the Governing Body Meeting on 6 January, the Governing Body authorised Mr Denis Leamy and Mr Jerry Moloney as further members of Governing Body who may authenticate the use of the seal and the President authorised Ms Geraldine Faherty (Cork Campus) and Ms Mary Dennehy (Kerry Campus) to authenticate the use of the seal.

The Governing Body approved the use of the MTU Seal for the contract with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and the authorised the signatories of Mr Moloney and Ms Dennehy for that purpose.

9. MTU Subsidiaries - Briefing

Mr Coughlan discussed the circulated briefing which outlined the six wholly owned subsidiaries, two joint venture companies and other related companies, and the eight spinout (campus) companies as they currently exist.

Governing Body agreed that proposals for MTU directorships should come to it from the executive for approval.

The Governing Body agreed to take agenda item 11 – AOB before agenda item 10 in order to allow the VPs Corporate and Mr Coughlan to absent themselves from the meeting.

11. AOB

a. Presentation on Branding/Communications

The Governing Body would welcome a presentation on MTU's Branding/Communications/Marketing at a future meeting.

b. Meeting with the President of the Students' Union Kerry

The Chair and the President gave a verbal update to Governors on their meeting with the President of the Students' Union Kerry.

The Governing Body noted that they as per the Act, they will only recognise a single student union and must continue to proceed on that basis. They were supportive of the appointment of a Facilitator to support engagement and collaboration between the two unions which would assist in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion in order to allow for student representation on the Governing Body.


The Governing Body thanked the VPs Corporate and Mr Coughlan for their work and they left the meeting at 4.00pm.

10. Organisational Structure

The President discussed the importance of strong advocacy for the Technological University sector and briefed Governors in relation to her discussions with the Chief Executive of THEA. She referred to her invitation to the Oireachtas Joint Committee and the importance of the opportunity to support the sector, the meeting with the DFHERIS and the commencement of the introductory meetings with staff.

The Governing Body briefly discussed pressing ahead with the formal launch of the University.

The Chair thanked Governors for their participation at the meeting this afternoon. The meeting closed at 4.15pm.

Signed: 
Chair of MTU Governing Body

Date: 12 March 2021
