

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Munster Technological University held on Friday, 23 April 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 9 April 2021

The minutes of the meeting of the MTU Governing Body held on Friday 9 April 2021 were approved for signature.

2. Matters Arising

a. Consortium Agreement: Munster Technological University and Atlantic Flight Training Academy (AFTA)

The President referred to the consortium agreement which had been approved at the previous Governing Body Meeting and informed Governors that an amendment made to the documentation by the Academic Council at their Meeting on 23 March was not included in the version presented to Governing Body at their meeting on 9 April.

The Governing Body noted the change.

3. Correspondence

The Governing Body noted that there were no items to report under correspondence.

4. Academic Council

The Chair invited the President to discuss this item.

The President informed Governing Body that the first meeting of the Transitional Academic Council was due to take place on Wednesday. However, it was agreed to postpone this meeting and the commencement of the term of the Transitional Academic Council to allow more time for nominations for membership of that iteration of Council to go ahead. The meeting has been rescheduled for two weeks. A meeting of the current Academic Council took place in order to approve the “Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Home Economics & Business” programme so that there would be no delay in the launch and recruitment for the programme ahead of CAO change of mind on 1 July.

5. President’s Report

The Chair invited the President to discuss her circulated report.

The President highlighted the following strategic activities since the last meeting of the Governing Body:

- The President referred to the EDI Awareness programme taking place across the university and her participation in the events. She conveyed her sincere thanks to all the staff and students for their participation and for speaking honestly on very difficult and sensitive topics. Governors noted that the MTU hashtag “#EDI Aware MTU” had been trending in 4th place in Ireland after the recent launch and congratulated all involved in the awareness programme.
- The President referred to attending the HEA Technological University Research Network (TURN) meeting on 13 April in relation to the OECD review and outlined that a two-phase review of contracts including lecturing contract had commenced.
- The award of €3.5m under the New Frontiers entrepreneur development programme funded by Enterprise Ireland to support the development of entrepreneurs over the next 5 years.

Governors thanked the President for her report and the update on the activities taking place across the university.

6. Financial Results for the 16 months to 31 December 2020 – CIT and IT Tralee

The Vice Presidents (VPs) Corporate discussed the tabled draft financial results for the 16 months to 31 December 2020 and highlighted the surplus for both institutions.

The Governing Body welcomed this positive outcome and noted the prudence in making an additional allocation of 15% of capital projects not yet procured to the capital reserves as a result of the impact of Covid-19 on construction costs and timelines. The additional provision approved amounts to €4.2 million. The Governing Body further noted the university will have their budget meeting with the HEA next week and the main items for discussion at this meeting. They thanked the VPs and all involved in this positive outcome and for their work.

7. Students' Union

a. Meeting on 14 April

The President referred to the positive meeting with the two Presidents and their Vice Presidents on 14 April and highlighted the main points discussed at this meeting. A further meeting to take place in the coming weeks.

8. Governing Body Committees:

a. Nominations Committee Meeting

The Governing Body noted the draft minutes of the Nominations Committee meeting held on 9 April.

The Chair confirmed that the media campaign had begun in relation to the process to appoint external members of the Governing Body, the closing date for expressions of interest/applications is 4 May.

The Committee agreed to meet next week to monitor progress and prepare for a process for evaluation.

The VPs Corporate updated the Governing Body on the campaign to date and that Marketing will continue with the social media campaign. They informed Governing Body that the notice was not available on Stateboards.ie due to lack of capacity.

The Chair thanked the VPs Corporate and Mr Coughlan for their assistance and hard work to date.

9. Membership of Governing Body:

a. Staff Nomination & Election Process Update

The VPs Corporate outlined the election process to date. They confirmed that a hustings event (Teams Webinar) had taken place earlier today to allow candidates an opportunity to meet and present themselves before the election. An election will take place for Panel D (Professional Management and Support Staff). The online ballot will be open from 26 to 28 April with the announcement of the successful candidate on 29 April. Single nominations were received for Panels A (Kerry Campus) and C (Other Cork Campus) and as the candidates were unopposed, they were deemed elected. Panel B (Bishopstown) had two candidates, however, due to the withdrawal of one of the candidates, the remaining candidate will be deemed elected on 29 April.

Panel E will run subsequently, and it is expected that this process will be completed by the end of May.

The Governing Body commended the VPs for the excellent work and conveyed their thanks. They noted the importance of finalising the induction programme in order for all members to undertake the induction and be available to attend the Governing Body meeting in June. They further noted that gender balance from the elections A – D will be 50/50 and agreed that this was a positive outcome also meaning that no gender specification will be required for Panel E.

b. External Members Campaign Update

This item was discussed under agenda item 8a above.

10. Policies & Procedures

a. Equality & Diversity Statement

The Governing Body noted that the Equality & Diversity Statement was a requirement under the TU Act and agreed to its approval as presented.

The Governing Body agreed to discussing agenda items 12 and 13 before agenda item 11 so that the VPs Corporate and Mr Coughlan could absent themselves from the meeting for agenda item 11.

12. Schedule of Meetings – Next Meetings (monthly)

Governing Body meetings will move to monthly meetings for May and June, meetings will take place on 21 May and 18 June 2021. The Governing Body noted that at present there was not a necessity for a July meeting, however, the VPs Corporate agreed to revert on this matter at the next meeting on 21 May.

13. AOB

Not further items were discussed.

The Chair thanked the team for all their work and the great progress made to date. The VPs Corporate and Mr Coughlan left the meeting at 3.20pm.

11. Engagement with DFHERIS

The President discussed the finalised draft business case and confirmed that this will be submitted to the DFHERIS early next week.

The Governing Body discussed their views and were fully supportive of the President in these endeavours.

The Chair thanked Governors for their participation and the work being done at the meeting this afternoon. The meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Signed: 

Chair of MTU Governing Body

Date: 21 May 2021
