

Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Munster Technological University held on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 at 5.00pm via video conference.

Members: Mr Jimmy Deenihan, Chair
Prof. Maggie Cusack
Ms Ursula Barrett
Dr Joan Cleary
Ms Paula Cogan
Ms Petrina Comerford
Ms Mary Cooney
Mr Martin Dineen
Mr Thomas Doyle
Mr Jim Finucane
Ms Mary Hegarty
Prof. Sigbritt Karlsson
Mr Denis Leamy
Ms Christina Mandrusiak
Mr Jerry Moloney
Mr Alan Murphy
Ms Aoife O'Brien
Mr Colman O'Flynn
Ms Aisling O'Mahony
Ms Ingrid O'Riordan
Mr Peter Somers

In Attendance: Ms Ciara Looney, MTU Kerry Campus
Ms Geraldine Faherty, Minute Taker
Prof. Hugh McGlynn, Agenda item 1(a) only

The Chair welcomed all to the first meeting of the expanded Munster Technological University Governing Body. He congratulated the President on her appointment as first President of MTU. He discussed the special opportunity to create and champion a unique new university for the region and the responsibility of the Governing Body to see that it is brought to fruition.

The Chair invited Governors to study the Code of Governance and the TU Act 2018, it was important that they would have a clear understanding of both. Whilst today's meeting was virtual, it is intended to hold in person meetings when Government guidelines allow.

There were no apologies for the meeting, however, it was noted that Ms Mandrusiak would leave the meeting at 5.45pm. Conflict of interest was addressed and no conflicts were declared.

Prior to commencing with the agenda, the matter of compliance with Standing Orders and due diligence in terms of the agenda, circulation of documentation and recent changes to the Standing Orders were discussed. In relation to the agenda, the President outlined that the items for noting in the Information Pack had been moved the end of the agenda to assist with the flow of the meeting. These items which included the minutes of the previous Governing Body meetings held from January to June were for the information of Governors. Matters Arising and Risk Register to be included on future agendas.

In relation to a request for an additional meeting in July and a further meeting in either August or September, the Governing Body agreed to hold an additional meeting as soon as practicable in the coming weeks. The Chair and the President to discuss a suitable date so as to ensure the attendance of the maximum number of Governors. An additional date to be included in the schedule of meetings for September.

The Chair acknowledged the work done by the smaller Governing Body and complimented them on the progress made to date.

1. Introduction

a. Introduction to MTU

The Chair welcomed Prof. Hugh McGlynn to the meeting and invited him to commence his presentation on MTU. In his presentation, Prof. McGlynn gave an account of the transition from CIT and IT Tralee to MTU, the legislative framework under the TU Act 2018 and the enabling function of the Technological University Transformation Fund driving the transformation journey. An update on the internal communication strategy employed to keep staff and students informed of the transformation process was also outlined.

The Governing Body were appreciative of the presentation and in response to a query regarding when the outputs of the staff listening sessions and the cultural values assessment would be relayed to staff and students, Prof. McGlynn confirmed that this will occur post analysis of that data, in early September 2021.

The Chair thanked Prof. McGlynn for his comprehensive overview and Prof. McGlynn left the meeting at 5.45pm.

b. Welcome to new members and confirmation of appointments

The Chair and President formally welcomed the new members of the expanded Governing Body. They look forward to working with Governors over the next two years and, whilst acknowledging there would be challenges ahead, they were looking forward to the opportunity to build a great university for the benefit of generations to come.

Each Governor gave an introductory overview on their profile and background.

2. Draft Minutes

a. Governing Body Meeting held on Monday 28 June 2021

The minutes of the meeting of the MTU Governing Body held on Monday 28 June 2021 were approved.

3. Governing Body Committees

The Chair invited Ms Looney to discuss this item. Ms Looney outlined the current Committees of the MTU Governing Body, what had been established by the previous Governing Bodies of both pre-merger institutions, as well as referring to the Committees in place in other universities around the country.

The Governing Body briefly discussed their views on possible committees and agreed to discuss further at the next meeting. To be an agenda item for the next Governing Body meeting.

4. Governing Body Project Plan

The President confirmed that the Governing Body Project Plan was a summary of what had been undertaken in accordance with the Act. To be an agenda item again for the next Governing Body meeting.

5. 12-Month Induction Plan

Ms Looney discussed the proposed 12-month plan which included details on the next induction session in September and MTU specific induction sessions, as well as outlining suggested options for additional training/workshops.

Governors welcomed the inclusion of specific briefings on the activities across the university from the various departments/faculties/schools at each of their meetings from September. It was also agreed to facilitate tours of the campuses, subject to public health guidelines and restrictions, and whenever in person meetings can recommence.

6. Schedule of Meetings

The Chair confirmed that a meeting will take place as soon as practicable in July and that an additional date in September would also be included in the schedule of meetings. Governing Body agreed to move to physical meetings once Government guidelines permit, rotating between the Cork and Kerry Campuses, with options on blended meetings being made available to facilitate Governors' personal circumstances.

There was a general consensus to the proposal that meetings will take place on the first Thursday of the month with a 2-hour meeting time from 3.00pm to 5.00pm.

To remain an agenda item for the next Governing Body meeting for final approval.

7. AOB

At the request of a Governor, the Chair agreed to the inclusion of MTU's membership of Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) and Irish Universities Association (IUA) as an agenda item under AOB.

a. MTU's membership of THEA/IUA

The President briefed Governors on MTU's membership of THEA, confirming that today (30 June) was MTU's last day as a member of THEA.

The President confirmed that TU Dublin were now members of the IUA and that MTU had received details in relation to the membership criteria.

The be included as an agenda item for the next Governing Body Meeting.

No further items were discussed.

The Chair thanked Governors for their participation at the meeting this evening with particular thanks to them for agreeing to become members of MTU Governing Body. He looked forward to working with Governors and other stakeholders for the betterment of MTU. The President also recorded her thanks to Governors and looks forward to working with them to deliver for MTU and the region.

The Governing Body noted with sincere thanks the contributions of Ms Petrina Comerford, Students' Union President (Kerry Campus) on this her first and last day as an MTU Governor. They acknowledged her time and effort in the Students' Union as well as being a key driver in setting out the process to the establishment of a single student union.

The President agreed to write to Ms Comerford to formally record the thanks of MTU.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed: *Jimmy Deenihan*
Chair of MTU Governing Body

Date: 22 July 2021