

Technological University Dublin Governing Body


MINUTES

- MEETING 50:** Friday 17th May 2024 (09:00 – 11.00)
- PRESENT:** Dr C Larkin (Chair), Dr M Carr, Mr W Johnston, Ms P Kelly, Dr E Maher, Mr E O’Shea, Ms S A Sherry, Ms L Shoemaker, Ms M Cooke, Dr N Burns, Ms C Clune-Mulvaney, Ms A O’Toole, Mr M Gately
- Electronic Attendance:** Prof John Doran (Interim President), Mr B Ó Mhurchú,
- APOLOGIES:** Mr B Jordan, Ms A Meya, Ms L Kavanagh, Mr C O’Donovan,
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms B Elliott (University Secretary and Head of Governance and Compliance)
Mr D Murphy (Chief Operations Officer), Mr Stephen Harton (Interim Chief Finance Officer)
- SECRETARIAT:** Ms M Holden
- DOCUMENTATION:**
- No Documentation circulated prior to meeting**
 - Documentation circulated at the meeting**
- 50.B.01 Report for submission to HEA (including covering note)
Item not included on the agenda – Sample draft Recruitment Brochure for New President

REF	ITEM	Decision
Section A – Standard Items		
50.A.01	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</p> <p>INTRODUCTION, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone and noted apologies for this meeting. The Chair welcomed the new Interim CFO, Stephen Harton to the meeting.</p>	Noted
50.A.02	<p>PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA</p> <p>The agenda for the meeting, as had been circulated, was approved and adopted.</p>	Approved Proposed: N Burns Seconded: E Maher
50.A.03	<p>DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</p> <p>The Chair noted there were no conflicts of interest declared by members present.</p> <p>The Chair noted the conversations with the HEA regarding minimising the possibility of leaks which have occurred from Governing Body in the past. Consequently, the Section 64 Report was not circulated electronically in advance.</p>	Noted Noted
Section B – Items for Approval		
50.B.01	Section 64 Report (“the Report”) for submission to HEA (including covering note)	

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	<p>Pre-numbered hard copies of the Report were given to governing body members only at the meeting and members were given time to review same. The reports were collected from members at the end of the meeting to maintain confidentiality</p> <p>The Chair made the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Members are being asked to review and accept the recommendations contained in the Governance Ireland report. II. When submitted to the HEA, the HEA can publish the Report if they so decide, with/without redaction. III. The Chair is to report to the HEA every 2 months for up to the next 18 months. IV. The Chair thanked and acknowledged the Ardú Committee and the Executive for all work done to date in responding to the S64 Letter. <p>Members were also provided with the draft covering letter prepared by the Ardú Committee to accompany the Report as part of the submission to the HEA.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the letter explains the work done by the Ardú Committee and highlights some of the successes that the University has had since the S64 letter was received on 21 February 2024 including the appointment of a CRAO (Chief Risk and Assurance Officer) and a CFO; but also acknowledges that there is still significant work to be done.</p> <p>It was noted that the Interim CFO is a member of UET and reports to the President. The Head of Finance reports to the Interim CFO. The CRAO reports to the Head of Governance and Compliance and is not a member of UET.</p> <p>Members who sit on ARC indicated that finance function was a concern to ARC before the finance errors arose and before the S64 letter was received from the HEA and requested that the letter be amended to reflect this and to state a stronger position.</p> <p>Governing Body approved the covering letter, subject to the proposed amendments for submission to the HEA.</p> <p>Governing Body support the measures as reported by Governance Ireland that are recommended for further consideration as to their implementation and approve the submission to HEA together with the covering letter from Governing Body.</p> <p>Update on Mazars and BDO reviews</p> <p>The COO/Interim CFO gave the following updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. BDO have almost finished their work and aim to have their report completed by the end of June 2024. II. Ardú Committee requested that a draft of the BDO report be issued to the next Ardú Committee meeting. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Approved Proposed: L Shoemaker Seconded: CC Mulvaney</p> <p>Approved Proposed: E Maher Seconded: SA Sherry</p> <p>Noted</p>

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	<p>III. TU Dublin Head of Strategy Planning continues to work with Mazars and the Executive on the financial recovery plan. Mazars have been provided with the information requested to date including cash flow and capital projections; their focus is on reviewing projections and underlying assumptions.</p> <p>IV. Ardú Committee requested that the financial forecasts provided to Mazars be uploaded to the S64 Portal.</p> <p>Members sought clarification on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether the exact figures regarding the University’s reserves have been provided. <p>The COO explained that this information is included in the audited Financial Statements which have also been provided. However, it was emphasised that the focus of Mazars is on future projections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether student retention issues were being addressed as part of the Financial Recovery Plan <p>The Interim President confirmed this and explained that a student retention plan is being drafted by one of the working groups set up to input into the Financial Recovery Plan.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Section C – Items for Noting</p>		
<p>50.C.01</p>	<p>Section 64 Communications update</p> <p>The Chair advised that a communications plan has been agreed by members of the Ardú Committee in conjunction with the Head of Communications and Marketing.</p> <p>The Chair will submit the letter and S64/Governance Ireland Report to the CEO of the HEA. Subsequently the Interim President will provide the same documents to UET members. Following that an agreed communication will issue to staff and to students.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Section D – Standard Items</p>		
<p>50.D.01</p>	<p>University Geopolitical Position</p> <p>The Interim President gave the following update:</p> <p>UET have received various communications from TUI/TUDSU jointly regarding Gaza/Israel. To date there has never been a position taken by the University on geopolitical matters.</p> <p>UET members are to meet with TUDSU and TUI to discuss a statement, and any communication will be circulated to GB in advance of approval.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>50.D.02</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>The Chair raised the following item:</p> <p>Governing Body approved the proposal (verbal) that the Process for Recruitment of the new President be delegated to the Deputy Chair, Eoin O’Shea.</p> <p>The deputy chair distributed a draft brochure from the 2018 recruitment competition for review by members and indicated that he would be in touch with them to receive their feedback on this matter.</p> <p>A member verbally raised the following matters:</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved Proposed: W Johnston Seconded: M Cooke</p> <p>Noted</p>

REF	ITEM	Decision
50.F.03	<p>I. Pastoral Care provision in the University</p> <p>II. Recent HSA report with two improvement notices following a recent HSA inspection of the Bolton Street campus.</p> <p>Members emphasised the need for Governing Body to be informed of Health and Safety matters. It was confirmed that Health and Safety matters are reported to Governing Body via the Finance and Property Committee and via the University Executive report.</p> <p>It was agreed that a full update on both matters would be provided at the next Governing Body meeting.</p> <p>The University Secretary reminded members of the approved protocol for including items on the agenda as laid out in the standing orders and requested that this be adhered to as a matter of best practice and good governance.</p> <p>Next Governing Body Meeting</p> <p>Next Regular Governing Body Meeting 51 (26th June 2024) on Blanchardstown Campus</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for their attendance and participation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  SIGNED _____ DATE: 26th July 2024 Charles Larkin, Chair </p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>