

Minutes of proceedings of the Governing Body Meeting

Date: Friday 21st May 2021
Time: 12.00pm
Location: Microsoft Teams and Boardroom, Galway Campus

Present: Mr Cormac MacDonncha (Chair)
Mr Joe Cunningham
Dr Orla Flynn (President)
Cllr Michael Maher
Mr Gareth Roe
Cllr Colm Keaveney
Mr Michael Geoghegan
Cllr Paul Murphy
Ms Maureen Walsh
Ms Proinsias Ní Ghraíne
Ms Maria Ruddy
Ms Siobhán Kennedy
Mr Victor O'Loughlin
Ms Mary McGinley
Mr Tom Grady
Cllr Terry O'Flaherty
Mr David Leahy

In Attendance: Mr Jim Fennell, Secretary / VP for Finance & Corporate Services
Dr Michel Hannon, VP for Academic Affairs and Registrar
Dr Rick Officer, VP for Research, and Innovation
Ms Fiona Faherty, Meeting Secretary

Apologies: Dr Eleanor Rainsford
Ms Saidhbh McIntyre

1.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest with Agenda Items	ALL
There were no conflicts of interest declared by those present or in attendance.	
2.0 CUA Application for Designation for Technological University	All
<p>The Chairman welcomed the Board members and thanked them for attending this extraordinary Governing Body meeting.</p> <p>He thanked all involved in meetings over the past number of years and noted the momentous decision that is before the Governing Body for approval today. He noted the recent efforts of the Joint Governing Body TU Subcommittee, including members from IT Sligo and Letterkenny IT, as significant. He also noted the concern of the Governing Body to ensure the financial resources earmarked for GMIT projects should remain committed to those projects.</p> <p>He thanked the negotiations teams and the TUI representatives.</p> <p>Dr Flynn welcomed the overwhelming positive vote from the TUI members and noted the significance of the occasion today. She thanked the Governing Body members for their support and efforts over the past number of years.</p> <p>Dr Flynn referred to the application and highlighted some of the chapters contained in the document.</p> <p>Mr Michael Geoghegan raised his concern about the significant lack of infrastructure on the Dublin Road Campus and the negative impact it may have on the ability of the TU to grow student enrolments. The issue of funding to address this deficit is not contained in the document and expressed his significant concerns on this matter.</p> <p>Dr Gareth Roe concurred with Mr Geoghegan’s comments and concerns. He asked if it would be appropriate to note these significant concerns in the application. He added that unless something is done to address this matter it will be a concerning start for the TU. He suggested the Governing Body members engage in a walk around the Dublin Road Campus to view the building and areas of concern. The student facilities are poor, there are no sports facilities and there is a high student density on campus. He added that the understanding of this concern by our TU partners would be beneficial.</p> <p>The President acknowledged their concerns and added that the challenges raised are a concern for GMIT in the first instance that will remain an issue to be dealt with when we become a TU. She noted page 97 of the document and appendices 6.3 and 6.7 provide an overview of planning capital projects. Dr Flynn added that the €50m Capital Projects investment planned by GMIT will continue. The balance of €4/5m funding requirement remains an issue but will be addressed under the TU and future funding calls. 2024 will see a new STEM Building and a new Student Building which will be positive steps for GMIT.</p> <p>The Chair agreed that GMIT has significant capital expenditure planned. He added that the Institute would be in a good position to seek capital funding due to our lack of space and doing so under the TU status will put us in a stronger position.</p> <p>Cllr Moegie Maher noted the significance of this day for GMIT. He congratulated and complimented the working groups and subcommittees involved in this process over the past number of years. He thanked the Chair and the President for all their work and contribution in getting GMIT to this stage.</p> <p>Ms Maureen Walsh agreed with Cllr Maher’s sentiments and noted the sprit in which the process and collaborations had taken place as positive. This brings exciting opportunities for GMIT in both the Galway and Mayo regions.</p>	

<p>Cllr Terry O'Flaherty also expressed her compliments for the process and congratulated the Institute. She offered her support to the Institute management going forward and suggested a subcommittee be established to deal with the concerns raised regarding capital funding for the infrastructure deficit.</p> <p>Cllr Colm Keaveney agreed with the capital funding deficit concerns raised and acknowledged the job of work that is required. He noted that the Institute may be in a position to present a stronger case as part of the TU rather than as a single entity.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged the concerns raised by the members regarding the lack of infrastructure and physical capacity on the Dublin Road Campus. He noted the need for investment and the requirement to continue to seek clarification and assistance from the HEA on this funding deficit.</p> <p>He also noted the collaboration opportunities with industry that will become available on becoming a TU.</p> <p>Mr Joe Cunningham noted this great occasion for the Institute. He also noted the significance of the end of GMIT. The student experience has been of the highest level over the years at GMIT, the attention provided to students and hands on approach provided by GMIT staff is exceptional and this must be acknowledged. He noted the challenges raised and added that these will remain regardless of becoming a TU or remaining as an IoT. He acknowledged the contribution the Institute has made to the region and the contribution the staff have made to the success of the Institute.</p> <p>The SU President agreed with the concerns raised and noted the additional lack of student space on campus. This is an area of concern that requires addressing.</p> <p>The President acknowledged the capital funding deficit for capital projects and agreed to revisit the appendices as mentioned.</p> <p>She thanked the staff of the Institute for their contribution to the success of GMIT over the past number of years.</p> <p>The CUA Application for designation for Technological University was approved on the proposal of Cllr Michael Maher and seconded by Mr Victor O'Loughlin.</p>	
<p>3.0 Application for an order under the Technological Universities Act 2018 to become a Technological University</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>The Chairman sought approval for the Governing Body for the following:</p> <p>The Governing Body hereby grants approval to GMIT for GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo, in pursuance of section 29 of the Technological Universities Act 2018, to jointly apply for an order under section 36 of the Act to become a Technological University.</p> <p>This was approved on the proposal of Cllr Michael Maher and seconded by Mr Victor O'Loughlin.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Governing Body members for their support over the past number of years and for all their contributions made in the process of becoming a TU. He noted the significance of the occasion for the Institute and the region as GMIT will cease and the Institute will embark on a new journey as a TU. He added that as a TU we will be required to provide different learning opportunities for students and noted the increase in engagement that will be required. He thanked the Academic and Administrative staff of the Institute who have worked on the application. He thanked Mr Jim Fennell and Mr Gareth Roe for their involvement with the recent TUI negotiations. He noted the outcome of the TUI vote as very positive, 75% voted in favor of the application.</p> <p>Mr David Leady acknowledged the historic event of today and the approval by Governing Body on the Application to become a TU. He noted the opportunities that will come with</p>	

<p>becoming a TU and he also reflected on GMIT achievements. He acknowledged the contribution made by GMIT staff past and present and noted this opportunity as a positive move forward for the Institute and education sector in the Region.</p> <p>The President thanked the members for their contribution at today's meeting and she thanked the Chair for his support also.</p> <p>Mr Joe Cunningham acknowledged the support and contribution provided to the Institute and the Governing Body by the Chairman, Mr Cormac MacDonncha over the past number of years. He also thanked the President, Dr Orla Flynn and Mr Jim Fennell for their contribution and work on behalf of the Governing Body and Institute.</p>	
<p>4.0 Any Other Business</p>	
<p>Mr Fennell reminded the Governing Body members to return the Deloitte survey which had been circulated to them by Deloitte.</p> <p>This concluded the business of the meeting.</p> <p>Signed: _____ Chairperson</p>	<p>Date: _____</p>