

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

HELD ON MONDAY 19th DECEMBER 2016 @ 4PM.

IN THE BOARDROOM, DR. T.K. WHITAKER BUILDING

PRESENT

Cllr. Clifford Kelly, Acting Chairperson
Mr. Ann Campbell, President
Mr. Bill Sweeney
Mr. Paschal McGuire
Cllr. Oliver Tully
Ms. Kitty Warnock
Cllr. Cathy Bennett
Mr. Paddy Matthews
Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott
Mr. Fergal Smyth
Mr. Aaron Lawless

APOLOGIES

Mr. Brian Harten
Ms. Síle O'Connor
Ms. Margaret Swords
Ms. Antoinette Rourke
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
Mr. Richard Crowley

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Peter McGrath, Vice President for Finance & Corporate Affairs

Declarations of Interest

Nil

Bereavements

Recent bereavements were noted.

G.233.1 M.232 Minutes of the Meeting of 24th October 2016

The minutes of the Governing Body of 24th October 2016 were approved.

Proposed by: Paschal McGuire

Seconded by: Oliver Tully

Voted and agreed on.

G.233.3 Correspondence

1. Letter from Department of Education and Skills, 10th October 2016, re Continuation of Appointment of President of DkIT on an Interim Basis.
2. Email from HEA, 11th November 2016, re DkIT Non-Progression Data 2013/14 to 2014/15.
3. Final IOT Financial review October 2016.
<http://www/hea.ie/news/financial-review-institutes-technology>
4. Letter from LMETB confirming the approval of Mr. Aaron Lawless as male student representative to Governing Body up to 31st August 2017.

G.233.4.1 Personnel Report

Recent appointments were noted and confirmed.

G.233.4.2 President's Report

Conferring

The annual Conferring of awards took place on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th November 2016. A total of 1,340 students were conferred with awards at Levels 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The increase in the number of post graduate degrees was noted. The Chairman congratulated the President and Staff on the Conferring which has been excellently organised.

Quality Dialogue (QQI)

The Annual Dialogue Meeting between DkIT and QQI was held on Tuesday 25th October in DkIT.

Regional Development Centre

The 93% occupancy in the RDC was noted.

Strategic Planning Process

The draft plan is almost complete and it is hoped to have it at the January meeting for ratification. The President reported that she had received notification that DkIT have been awarded Category 2 in the HEA Strategic Dialogue process.

Lifelong Learning

There has been a slow take up in the first semester. Special meetings of EB are being held to deal with Lifelong Learning.

Social Innovation: Lagan to Liffey Conference

Over 75 attended this successful conference.

THEA meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Skills

The President, Ann Campbell was one of a delegation of 6 Presidents from the Institute of Technology Sector who represented THEA at a meeting with the Joint Committee on Education and Skills to discuss the findings of Investing in National Ambition: A Strategy for Funding Higher Education. Report of the Expert Group on Future Funding for Higher Education [Cassells Report].

THEA meeting with Minister for Education and Skills

The Presidents of the Institutes of Technology met with Minister Bruton, T.D. and Officials from his Department on 28th November.

Visit by HEA and the Land and Buildings Unit to DkIT

The Visit took place on 11 November to discuss the Institute's Capital requirements in preparation for the 2017 Capital Review.

Open Day

This day's open day was one of the most successful ever with large numbers attending on the Saturday.

DkIT hosts regional forum at the request of the Minister for Education and Skills

The Minister for Education, Mr. Richard Bruton T.D. hosted a regional "Action Plan for Education Forum on Entrepreneurship" in DkIT on 19th December. This was followed by a Workshop on Brexit and its implications for Higher Education. The Minister also visited the North Block and the Carroll Building during his visit.

DkIT|NetwellCASALA collaboration with ALONE: The THINKTECH Award

On the evening of the 7th December 2016, the DkIT President attended the THINKTECH Awards Ceremony at Google's Foundry in Dublin where a technology collaboration between DkIT|NetwellCASALA and the Dublin based charity ALONE were presented with Social Innovation Fund Ireland's prestigious THINKTECH award worth €170,000 in financial investment and €40,000 in mentoring support for growth and development.

Research Update

The Institute has had three Interreg proposals approved. The total worth of these submissions is around €6M to €7M.

G.233. 5 Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Minutes of Meeting MF155 20th September 2016

The minutes of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, MF155 of 20th September 2016 were noted.

Review of Internal Financial Controls 2015/16

The Review of Internal Financial Controls 2015-16 was noted.

Audit Risk Register Review 2016

The Risk Register has been referred to the Governing Body from the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee and will be discussed at their board meetings going forward, should the Members have any issues they wish to add or arise.

Financial Statements 2014/15

Mr Peter McGrath withdrew from the meeting.

Mr B Sweeney Acting Chair of the FAR committee advised the meeting that a Protected Disclosure had been received from a staff member. The FAR had considered the disclosure at a meeting earlier that afternoon and had decided to have the matter fully investigated by LHM Casey McGrath Auditors. The FAR would consider the findings of the investigation and would then report back to the Governing Body.

Mr Peter McGrath rejoined the meeting.

The Comptroller & Auditor General's office had been informed.

Following discussion, the Financial Statements 2014/2015 were approved.

Proposed by: Bill Sweeney

Seconded by: Cathy Bennett

Voted and agreed on.

G.233. 6

Academic Council Minutes

Minutes No 149, 30th September 2016 were noted.

Minutes No 149S, 24th October 2016 were noted.

G.233 .7

Technological University/Connaught Alliance

The President reported that Athlone IT and Dundalk IT have been invited by the Connaught Ulster Alliance group to join them in discussing the possibility of forming a larger Technological University. The Governing Body agreed for the President to engage in these discussions.

Proposed by: Oliver Tully

Seconded by: Bill Sweeney

Voted and agreed on.

G.233. 8

Seal

The Institute's seal was applied to Statsports, Diaceutics, Brandt Translations, SDS Energy Group Ireland & Celtic Testing.

G.233.9

HR Issues

The Governing Body was advised that a disciplinary process was in place and they would be advised appropriately as this progressed.

G.233.11

AOB

The Board discussed the possible effects of Brexit in light of the meeting taking place in the Institute today. The President reported that the HEA and the Department would keep the Institute apprised.

The Chairman wished all a Happy Christmas.

Next meeting is Monday 30th January 2017 @ 4pm.

Chairperson: _____ **Date:** _____