

NOTES OF MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

HELD ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2019 AT 16.00

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

- G.263.1 M.262 Minutes of the Meeting of 23rd September 2019**
The minutes of the Governing Body of 23rd September 2019 were approved.
- Proposed by:** Mr. Bill Sweeney
Seconded by: Mr. Paschal McGuire
- G.263.2 Matters Arising**
- G.262.4.1 Personnel Report**
The President confirmed he has met with Ms. Ward McDermott.
- G.263.3 Correspondence**
None.
- G.263.4.1 Personnel Report**
Recent appointments were noted and confirmed.
- G.263.5 Finance Audit & Risk Committee (FAR)**
M.F. 192.5 Fixed Assets Disposals May 2019 – August 2019
The Fixed Asset Disposals for the above period were approved.
- Proposed by:** Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott
Seconded by: Ms. Maria Maguire
- G.263.6 Land and Buildings Minutes**
Ms. Irene McCausland, Vice President of Strategic Planning, Communications and Development joined the meeting at 4.10pm
- Minutes of Meeting L&B 03 dated 17th July 2019**
The minutes of the Land and Buildings, L&B 03 dated 17th July 2019 were noted.

Minutes of Special Meeting dated 2nd August 2019

The minutes of the Special Land and Buildings dated 2nd August 2019 were noted.

G.263.7 Draft Letter re Ice Dome

A draft letter to the Louth GAA in regards to Car Parking Facilities for Louth GAA's proposed new Sports Stadium was distributed and discussed.

Paragraphs 2 & 3 to be amended to remove "Please find enclosed" and replaced with "This letter of consent."

Following a detailed discussion, it was agreed to approve the letter subject to the amendments.

Proposed by: Mr. Paschal McGuire

Seconded by: Ms. Margaret Swords

Voted on: 8 in favour

A copy of the Louth GAA's Planning Application has been received. The Chairman requested that a report is given to the Committee on the Planning Application.

The VPSCD reported that there is no update yet in relation to the lease of the Ice Dome.

G.263.8.9 HEA Compact – Self Evaluation Report & DkIT Strategic Planning

The VPSCD gave a presentation on the HEA Compact Self Evaluation Report 2018-2019. This presentation comprised three elements to include:

- An update on progress of the HEA Mission-based Performance Compact for academic year 2018-2019 as submitted to the HEA on 14th October 2019. The Institute is on track to achieve its objectives within priority areas. Overall, the Institute achieved/exceeded on 37 out of 40 key performance indicators (KPIs) and significantly progressed a further three KPIs. The President updated the Committee on the recent success in securing €550K of funding under the Landscape Call.
- An update on the Strategic Plan 2017-2019 with the Institute set to achieve 89% of KPI targets.
- An update on the new Strategic Planning Consultation Process for the next Strategic Plan 2020-2022. Pascal Maguire updated the Committee on the progress of the AMBITION Sub-Group on Changing Landscape and advised that the report would not be finalised until after the meeting with the Department of Education and Skills scheduled in November 2019.

The Chairman thanked her for her detailed presentation and requested that the Marketing Team are invited to give a presentation to the Committee.

Members of the Committee also acknowledged the work of the VPSCD and her team in preparing the report.

Queries were raised by members of the Committee in relation to the Consultation process and in particular

- AMBITION Steering Sub- Groups, Changing Landscape
- Schedule of Consultation meetings, Student Experience

Mr. Richard Crowley asked if members of Senior Management could make a presentation to Governing Body, the Chairman explained that the request must be made in writing from the members and details of the presentation must be given to him.

Members of the Committee were reminded that they are not representatives but rather Nominees.

Mr. Crowley then spoke of his concerns in regards to the Institute's current position in regards to TU status and that he had been approached by numerous Academic Staff who have also raised their fears and concerns.

Ms. Ward McDermott asked if there would be any issues with funding in the future in regards to Cross Border options. The President again advised of the success under the Landscape Call, part of which is aimed at enhancing cross-border alliances as part of the Region of Learning.

Mr. Crowley spoke of the recent Funding announced for TU's that excludes DkIT and his concerns in regards to this.

The VPSCD left the meeting at 5.20pm

G.263.10 AOB

Gender Equality Sub Committee

A replacement for Oliver Tully RIP was deferred to the next meeting.

Mr. Crowley asked for leave to read a statement. The Chairman allowed this on the basis that it was a personal statement.

Mr. Crowley read the following statement:

“There exists a considerable and growing consternation amongst academic staff the DkIT is now, with the exception of IADT, the last IoT remaining outside the TU Process.

Staff strongly feel that the implications of Technological University Act for the IoT sector have been clear for a long time, and that the practical effect of

Government policy has been known to be that new Technological Universities will effectively replace Institutes of Technology.

In light of these implications all the other Institutes, with the exception of IADT, have now formed partnerships wot work towards TU status, and in the case of TUD have already completed the process.

Academic Staff in DKIT clearly expressed their desire that DkIT Administration engage with the TU Process on numerous occasions.

On the 6th Feb 2019 a motion, urging that DkIT enter the TU process was unanimously passed at the monthly meeting of the Dundalk IT Branch of the TUI. This was duly communicated to management. This desire of staff was subsequently reiterated through the Strategic Options survey.

In a meeting between senior members of Institute Administration and members of the TUI Branch Committee, the staff representatives made clear the time critical nature of seeking TU Status, and also expressed that DkIT Administration should engage in the TU Process in parallel with the development of a new Strategic Plan, to avoid any further unnecessary delay detrimental to the Institute's interests.

We are now seeing the detrimental effects of the failure to heed that advice, as while €250,000 in funding for cross border initiatives is welcome, this figure is dwarfed by the €90 million announced in the Department of Education's press release of last Friday which will be allocated to those Institutes in the TU process over the next 3 years, which DkIT will not be able to benefit from while it remains outside the TU Process.

Staff are deeply frustrated and angry that DkIT now finds itself disadvantages by being unable to access it's share of a €90 million fund, money from which is badly needed to maintain and develop the Institute.

Furthermore staff strongly believe that, given upcoming changes to the funding of higher education, the trajectory of the other IoT's and a range of other indicators staff are now more convinced than ever that urgent pursuit of TU Status is already evidently the optimal strategic option for DkIT strategic future that any other proposals, such as a legislatively impossible Cross – Border HEI, or remaining as an IoT in a landscape from which all other IoTs have vanished, faces such barriers and/or presents such hazards to the interests of the Institute as to be evidently and obviously less optimal strategic options to the point of their pursuit in preference to seeking TU status is unthinkable.

Therefore staff again call on DkIT Administration to engage in the TU Process without further delay”

The President reiterated that the criteria for applying for the €90m funding has not been published and that it will be carefully considered when available. He stated he is very confident about DkIT and its future and that consultation processes are in place for the Strategic Plan.

Mr Sweeney enquired about the Hunt Report and whether an IOT can stand-alone.

Ms. Ward McDermott enquired if information could be provided, with a timescale on the process, to the staff.

Ms. Maguire expressed concern that the Institute is the only IoT left now.

Mr. McGuire explained that as per the AMBITION processes in place, the final presentation from the Steering groups' findings will be presented to the Leadership Team and then Governing Body and that members cannot divert from the process in place.

Mr. Crowley enquired as to who the Secretary of Governing Body is and where members can seek advice if required, as per the THEA Code of Governance. The President confirmed that this is done through his office.

Mr. Sweeney thanked Mr McGuire for all his work on the Steering Group, on behalf of the Governing Body.

Mr. Sharkey wanted it noted that all correspondence received by members should be dealt with as per the procedure in place.

Meeting concluded at 17.40pm

Cllr. Clifford Kelly

Chairman

Date: