

NOTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

HELD ON THURSDAY 13th AUGUST 2020 AT 10.00 A.M.

VIA TEAMS

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

Before the meeting commenced there were a few technical issues, therefore, the Governing Body Chairman and the FAR Chairman joined by telephone.

The Governing Body Chairman was at the meeting but requested that the Governing Body Vice Chairman chair the meeting. The Vice Chairman clarified that the Chairman wanted him to chair the meeting while the Chairman was present. The meeting commenced at 10.08 a.m.

G.273.1 Land and Buildings Update (Item was deferred G272.10)

The President and the FAR Chairman outlined the background to this proposal.

At the meeting of FAR (5th August 2020), the VP SCD updated the FAR Committee in respect of the North and South Building Refurbishment and STEM Extension Project as follows:

- Funding of €18.47 million has been secured from HEA for the project.
- Advising that the Enabling Works Tender was approved at the last Governing Body meeting held on the 28th July 2020.
- Planning Permission from Louth County Council was granted in June 2020 with a small number of minor conditions.
- The DkIT STEM Extension Stage 2b Report provides a detailed estimated costing for the construction of the STEM extension. The STEM extension is estimated at €5.682m. The overall projected costs for the entire refurbishment project is circa €22.48m and the HEA are aware of this.
- In addition, the estimated costs for the equipment and furniture for the STEM facility had now been devised and this currently exceeds the budget of €510K by an additional €520K, which has been added to the overall deferred works.

- FAR agreed that consideration should be given to exploring an alternative to the STEM Building construction given the implication of COVID-19 on how programmes are delivered. The Institute will explore with the HEA the option of repurposing existing infrastructure.
- It will be a matter for the HEA to give the approval to go to tender as per as per Capital Works Management Framework Guidelines.

Approval was sought and received from the FAR Committee on 5th August 2020 on the DkIT STEM Extension Stage 2b Report to go to the HEA for approval to go to Tender as per Capital Works Management Framework Guidelines. Approval of the recommendation from the FAR is now being sought from the Governing Body.

Discussion and Q&A followed:

Mr. Alec McAllister: Any work done at this stage in relation to repurposing existing building and the cost of exploration.

President: No work on this area focused on what we agreed we cannot deviate without consulting the HEA.

Mr. Aidan McKenna : Plan for the new building was exploration done earlier.

President / FAR Chairman: Different environment now with COVID-19. Space would now be available. Totally new building with additional labs and refurbishment was original plan. Originally not looking at repurposing existing building.

Dr. Fiona Lawless: Concerned implications to HEA refurbishment may do in place of a new build. Does it reduce lab space?

President: Not a trivial matter to provide alternative/repurposing. Would not embark on this without consultation with the HEA. We would be informing the HEA that the costings are done on the STEM building and we are ready to proceed to Tender.

If we get approval to explore repurposing, the Governing Body will be notified and consulted.

Ms. Anna Shakespeare: In attendance at the FAR meeting, simply wished to endorse the discussion and that in relation to the overall vision for the building it was prudent and behoves the Governing Body to think about the spend of €22m and the best value. Supports the recommendation by FAR.

Mr. Fergus Grimes: Need to ensure that nothing would delay the overall project.

FAR Chairman: Planning Permission has been given for summer works (delayed due to COVID-19). No discussion re timescale. It is important to remember the original plan is on track.

Vice Chairman: The Institute is seeking to go to Tender as soon as possible.

Dr Fiona Lawless: Prudent to look at any spend in light of changes caused by COVID19. Important for STEM and engineering area that their needs are met and to keep on track.

Vice Chairman: Planning Permission is in place and now seeking approval to go ahead with the Tender from the HEA.

Ms. Aprilanna Barker: Need for speed. If funding is there, we need to use it. Keep the momentum going?

The Vice Chairman asked if the Chairman wished to comment and give his views on the proposal.

Chairman: Time, refurbishment for building has been long. Prudent sense. Everything has changed post COVID-19. In agreement to go ahead as recommended by FAR and thanked the FAR Committee for their recommendation.

Following discussions, the Governing Body agreed to approve the recommendation from FAR Committee that the DkIT STEM Extension Stage 2b Report go to the HEA to seek approval to go to tender.

Proposed by: Cllr. Nick Killian
Seconded by: Michael Mulvey Ph.D.
Voted on: Agreed unanimously.

The Governing Body Chairman thanked the Governing Body Vice Chairman for chairing the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 10.42 a.m.

Patrick W. Malone
Chairman

Date: