



M.276(A)

NOTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 16.00

VIA TEAMS

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

Declarations of Interest

Nil

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the GB Meeting via TEAM and noted apologies.

G.276.1 Strategic Plan Committee

The Chairman referenced the Term of Reference (ToR) that he circulated prior to the meeting and acknowledged Ms. Anna Shakespeare's assistance in collating the ToR. He had also sought legal advice.

The Chairman informed the GB that the President was not happy with the ToR drawn up and the Vice Chairman and FAR Chairman highlighted some problems too with this document. He referenced the proposal that the VP SCD wrote too and had no issues with her document on Strategic Plan.

The following are other points that the Chairman made at the beginning of the meeting:

- Referenced GB meeting in September whereby minutes 9 people would be on the committee.
- The VP SCD had prepared a five-page document that outlines ToR and this stands alone.
- The Committee is only focusing on TU and will work with Dr. Neavyn along with the Head of Research group and the Leadership Team.
- Also set up a Strategic Committee

- The Chairman reiterated the message/points of view from Dr. Neavyn, HEA Advisor from his presentation to Governing Body and when he met Dr. Neavyn.
 - Dr. Neavyn is not interested in overall strategy areas.
 - Only internally with Governing Body, Sub Committee, the Head of Research Committee and Staff of the Institute re TU.
 - His focus in on TU metrics and will be liaising with the Head of Research group.
- The Chairman sees his ToR in a different context compared to the ToR drawn up by the VP SCD.

HR Manager/Secretary to Governing Body

The HR Manager/Secretary to Governing Body informed the Chairman that before discussions take place the Governing Body has to formally establish the Committee that was noted as a Minute in the Governing Body meeting of the 29th September 2020 (G.275) and agree to change the name.

Chairman

The Chairman reflected on previous minutes and changed his mind to have two committees to be more flexible allowing a time limited group address one issue while a second group with a large number of outside stakeholders address Irene's brief and reached out to the President and the VP SCD re Strategic Planning Arching Committee. The Head of Research group continues separately.

The Chairman referenced the ToR again: -

- Set long-term goals to link in with TU.
- Trying to reflect what Dr. Neavyn said at this meeting
- Short driven and short focus – March/April

Dr. Tom Dooley

Agreed with the Chairman's analysis and proposed adopting the document and the composition of the committee noted in the Governing Body Minutes G275 dated 29th September 2020 with the addition of Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott and Mr. Fergus Grimes.

Chairman

Referenced again that the Governing Body members have all been appointed individually by different organisations. He was appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills. He reiterated that the members are representing DkIT on the Governing Body and not the organisation that appointed you and to work for the betterment of DkIT.

President

The President referenced previous minutes where the Chairman had a combination of Strategic Plan & TU groups consisting of 9 members as the Governing Body meeting of 29th September 2020.

Stressed that the document interferes with the executive function and the role of the VP SCD.

Mr. Fergus Grimes

Referenced the Chairman's earlier comment in relation to members being nominated to Governing Body Board. He said that all members come from a Constituency and he is there in his role for the Professional Management & Support Staff in the Institute and to bring the views of those staff to Governing Body. Like ETBs bring their background with them. The Academic Staff and he should be allowed to bring their views to the Governing Body.

Vice Chairman

Referenced Seamus Given, Arthur Cox presentation to Governing Body. Mr. Given always outlined that members of Governing Body are appointed to serve as Board Members of DkIT not the organisation that nominated them.

Training is required for the Governing Body.

Listened to the Chairman, President and Dr. Neavyn and appears there are different views. Suggestion that it may be worthwhile if the Chairman, President and VP SCD meet Dr. Neavyn to seek clarity from them. It is important that we move promptly on this.

Cllr. Sharon Tolan

Referred to Governance and there are real issues with Governance on this Board. Appointed to represent the best interests of DkIT. It is very clear from meetings there is an issue on Governance and Best Practice. Staff grievance are for the Executive.

Chairman

Referenced the meeting with External Members held prior to this meeting and Training was identified. Will be followed up on.

Agreed that the Vice Chairman's motion has merit.

Mr. Aidan McKenna

Attended the meeting in September (G275) and a Committee was set up to progress Strategy / TU development and would support the executive.

President

The comments were made about the document circulated. It interferes with executive functions and responsibilities of the VP SCD's role. There is a division of Governing Body reserved functions and Executive Functions this is set out in legislation.

Mr. Aidan McKenna

Assist long term strategy development and the Chairman's document bridges a gap between the two. He doesn't see conflict it's a support mechanism. The Chairman's document is not conflicting with the VP SCD 's document.

Doesn't see objection – what is it?

Dr. Fiona Lawless

In relation to the document, this in line with the intent of the motion that was put forward at the Governing Body meeting on the 29th September (G275). Didn't look at the bigger picture, intent was to look at TU.

Dr. Neavyn said at his presentation that he doesn't want to get involved with Strategy.

What is being proposed at Governing Body today?

FAR Chairman

Seconds the proposal suggested earlier by the Vice Chairman and suggested including the Vice Chairman, two members of the Executive and two members of Governing Body.

Dr. Tom Dooley

References Section 5(i)j and this committee falls under this. We are the only Institute of Technology that is not part of a Consortia. Have to get help from the HEA. Don't have much time to resolve. Adopt ToR and move on otherwise we will be left further behind.

Vice Chairman

Has no issue with the Committee and no doubt there is a major role for Governing Body to facilitate and support the Committee. His proposal would be to meet early next week to ensure that the Committee covers aspects and move forward fast and get the job done. The meeting would be worthwhile. Takes on board comments made by other members.

President

Wishes to work together with the Governing Body. Concerned that any ToR for Governing Body Committees respects the function of Governing Body and the Executive. Would be happy to proceed with the Vice Chairman's proposal.

Mr. Aidan McKenna

Welcomed comments from the President. Clarify working with Governing Body issue with proposal to take off line. Members are giving their time and not necessary to delegate to move forward. Can we come to an agreement this evening to move forward? Does not see an issue.

Dr. Fiona Lawless

Dr. Neavyn's role is in short term to achieve TU status. Broadening will dilute the focus of Governing Body. The purpose of this Committee has to be very focused and does not see an issue with the proposal here. The HEA have met the Governing Body twice. We need to make some agreement today.

FAR Chairman

Two decisions: (i) establish Committee; (ii) not 100% happy with the ToR – need to be reviewed and that's why he agrees with the Vice Chairman's proposal.

Mr. Taidgh Kavangh

Governing Body take so long debating topics. Is a Committee being set up re TU status? Need to move forward, we are against the clock, the only Institute not part of a TU. Committee needs to be established.

Dr. Tom Dooley

Proposed the Committee today that was noted in minutes in September (G275) and include Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott and Mr. Fergus Grimes to the new Committee. Reflect on the ToR and revert back to Governing Body next week.

Cllr. Sharon Tolan

Referenced previous minutes of meeting with Dr. Neavyn, Governing Body have ultimate responsibility. The name being put forward for Strategic Committee to look at TU status. It doesn't look good reverting back to the HEA too. Very frustrating.

Dr. Fiona Lawless

Supports Cllr. Sharon Tolan's comments, focus on TU status going back to Dr. Neavyn is not necessary.

Vice Chairman

On reflection on the comments from Cllr. Sharon Tolan he concurs that it may not be wise going back to Dr. Neavyn.

HR Manager/Secretary to Governing Body.

Governing Body to formalise committee TU Steering Committee and include Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott, Mr. Fergus Grimes.

Mr. Taidgh Kavanagh requested that he would be included too on the Committee.

Proposed by: Dr. Tom Dooley

Seconded by: Dr. Fiona Lawless

The President' PA read out the extract below from Governing Body minutes (G275) dated 29th September

“Ref: G.275.6

Strategic Plan Committee and TU Steering Group

Mr. Paddy Malone was proposed as Chairman of the new Steering Group

Proposed by: Michael Mulvey

Seconded by: Cllr. Clifford Kelly

The members proposed and approved were:

<i>Ms. Anna Shakespeare</i>	<i>– Proposed by Mr. Aidan McKenna</i>
<i>Dr. Tom Dooley</i>	<i>– Proposed by Dr. Fiona Lawless</i>
<i>Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott</i>	<i>– Proposed by Ms. Anna Shakespeare</i>
<i>Mr. Aidan McKenna</i>	<i>– Proposed by Cllr. Clifford Kelly</i>
<i>Ms. Cindy Andrews</i>	<i>– Proposed by Cllr. Nick Killian</i>
<i>Mr. Fergus Grimes</i>	<i>– Proposed by Dr. Fiona Lawless</i>
<i>Cllr. Sharon Tolan</i>	<i>– Proposed by Cllr. Clifford Kelly</i>
<i>Dr. Fiona Lawless</i>	<i>– Proposed by Ms. Aprilanna Barker”</i>

The Governing Body agreed to formally adopt the Committee to be renamed TU Steering Committee now comprising of the following:

Mr. Paddy Malone, Chairman
Michael Mulvey Ph.D. President
Ms. Anna Shakespeare
Dr. Tom Dooley
Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott
Mr. Aidan McKenna
Mr. Fergus Grimes
Cllr. Sharon Tolan
Dr. Fiona Lawless
Mr. Taidgh Kavanagh or Student Representative

All Governing Body members agreed to formally adopt the above Committee.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Chairman wished to convey his appreciation to Ms. Anna Shakespeare and Mr. Aidan McKenna for their input into the draft ToR that he circulated prior to this meeting.

Again, a number of Governing Body members stressed their frustration at discussion around this item that has been going on for months.

Finally, it was agreed that the following members would form a Committee to seek legal advice to review the ToR circulated by the Chairman to check overlapping between executive function and Governing Body reserved function.

The following were proposed:

Ms. Anna Shakespeare

Proposed by: Mr. Aidan McKenna

Seconded by: Mr. Patrick W. Malone

Mr. Aidan McKenna

Proposed by: Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott

Seconded by: Dr. Tom Dooley

Mr. Bill Sweeney

Proposed by: Cllr. Clifford Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr. Sharon Tolan

Due to the urgency of this matter, the Chairman requested that the HR Manager/Secretary to Governing Body contact Mr. Seamus Given, Arthur Cox to arrange a meeting for tomorrow (Friday 13th).

The following personnel: Ms. Anna Shakespeare, Mr. Aidan McKenna, Mr. Bill Sweeney and 3 members of Institute Management which the President will nominate will be invited to meet Mr. Seamus Given, Arthur Cox. This committee will revert back to the Governing Body meeting a week from today i.e. Wednesday 18th November time to be confirmed.

Cllr. Sharon Tolan

Urged the Governing Body not to micromanage, let the Committee listed above meet to review the ToR with Mr. Seamus Given, Arthur Cox and revert back to Governing Body at the next meeting.

Chairman

The Chairman stated that if the terms of reference were agreed by Mr. Seamus Given, Arthur Cox and those nominated that the committee would then be in existence and could proceed to engage.

Welcomed comments from both the Vice Chairman and the FAR Chairman and the President and the Executive He thanked the HR Manager/Secretary to Governing Body for his input too.

The Chairman emphasised the need for the long term as proposed by the VP SCD and wished to assure the President that

- i. He would at all times respect their respective roles and
- ii. He was there to support the President

Suggested meeting this day week (18th) to finalise and advise if agreement on the ToR had been reached

Meeting concluded at 17.37.

Patrick W. Malone
Chairman

Date: