

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2022.

Via TEAMS

PRESENT VIA TEAMS IN THE BOARDROOM

Mr. Patrick W. Malone, Chairman
Gerard (Bob) McKiernan, President

PRESENT VIA TEAMS EXTERNALLY

Ms. Aprilanna Barker
Ms. Amanda-Jane Gainford left at 11.27.
Mr. Fergus Grimes
Ms. Marianne Lyons
Ms. Brenda McGeeney
Ms. Isabell Murphy
Cllr. Damien O'Reilly
Ms. Anna Shakespeare
Mr. Bill Sweeney
Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Clifford Kelly
Dr. Fiona Lawless
Mr. Aidan McKenna

IN ATTENDANCE VIA TEAMS IN THE BOARDROOM

Mr. Hugh Nolan, Secretary to Governing Body
Ms. Irene McCausland, Vice President of Strategic Planning, Communications and Development ("VP SCD")
Ms. Lynda McQuaid, Head of Marketing & Communications joined the meeting at 11.42 and left at 12:10
Mr. Pat McCormick

Declarations of Interest

None

The Chair reminded members they could identify a possible conflict of interest at any stage during the meeting.

G.300.1 M299 Minutes of the Meeting of 29 November 2022

The minutes of the Governing Body of 29 November 2022 were approved.

Proposed by: Bill Sweeney

Seconded by: Fergus Grimes

G.300.2 Matters Arising

Briefing note on DConnect DAC – Capital Project

The Chair and Mr. Pat McCormick declared a possibly perceived declaration of interest as they are both Directors of one of the entities directly funding the DConnect project.

Further to a query from members at the meeting on 29 November 2022 a briefing note has been drafted by Ms. Irene McCausland, VP SCD, and included in members' packs. The VP SCD provided an overview to the Governing Body and advised of the intricacies of Enterprise funding which firstly resulted in a lease being granted by the Institute to DConnect DAC.

Ms. Anna Shakespeare queried the risk of possibly losing allocated funding and the VP SCD advised that the Board of DConnect DAC have formally decided not to proceed with the capital aspect of this project and therefore were closing off this capital grant from Enterprise Ireland.

The Governing Body noted the briefing document on the DConnect DAC capital project.

Statement from the Executive Board in relation to comments made by the Governing Body Chair at an Academic Council Meeting on Friday 8 December

The Chair advised he would need to step aside, from the position of Chair, for this discussion.

Ms Anna Shakespeare to Chair this particular item

Proposed by: Bill Sweeney

Seconded by: Sadie Ward McDermott

The President clarified the "Executive Board" was previously referred to as the "Leadership Team".

The President briefed members on a recent meeting of Academic Council and a statement from the Executive Board on the matter.

The Chair responded to the statement put forward by the Executive Board.

A question and answers/discussion took place.

Numerous members noted the need for a statement to clarify the position of Governing Body.

After some additional discussion Ms. Anna Shakespeare proposed a single item agenda at a special meeting should be scheduled to consider this matter.

Proposed by: Bill Sweeney

Seconded by: Amanda Jane Gainford

Ms. Anna Shakespeare requested the Secretary to Governing Body draw up a draft communication outlining full support of Governing Body to the Sustainability Plan. This should then be sent to the President and onward to the Executive Board.

Proposed by: Anna Shakespeare

Seconded by: Isabelle Murphy

It was agreed that this Special Governing Body meeting would need to be chaired by another member of Governing Body. The Secretary will organise a meeting as soon as possible.

G.300.3

Correspondence

Correspondence with the HEA re feedback on the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21.

The Secretary provided an overview of the document, further to the correspondence at the November meeting. In the absence of any queries from members, the correspondence was noted.

G.300.4.1

Personnel Report

Recent progression and appointments were noted by Governing Body.

G.300.5

Finance & Audit Risk Committee (FAR)

Minutes of Meeting M.F. 226 dated 15 November 2022

The minutes of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, M226 dated 15 November 2022 were noted.

Verbal Update

The FAR Chair provided a verbal update of the main points arising from the meeting on 6 December 2022.

G.300.6

Minutes of Meeting L&B24 dated 11 October 2022

The Minutes of Land and Buildings Committee L&B 24 dated 11 October 2022 were noted.

In the absence of the Chair of the Land & Buildings Committee, the VP SCD provided a verbal update on pertinent matters discussed at the recent Land and Buildings meeting.

G.300.7 Academic Council Minutes

Draft Academic Council Minutes No 183 dated 14 October 2022

The Academic Council Minutes No 183 dated 14 October 2022 were noted.

DCU-DkIT Graduate School Review 2021/2022 report and response (including enhancement plan).

- Peer Review Group Report
- Post Review Response and Enhancement Plan

The Governing Body noted the above reports.

The President provided an update on recent discussions with DCU in relation to the Graduate School Agreement. A discussion ensued.

G.300.8 Governing Body Strategy (TU) Project Governance and Oversight Committee

The Minutes of the above subcommittee TUSG18 dated 28 July 2022 were noted.

The TU Project Governance & Oversight Chair, Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott, provided a verbal update of the main points arising from the meeting on 30 November 2022 with no key decisions or recommendations being proposed until the President Elect commences in their role.

G.300.9 Draft Higher Education System Performance Framework 2023 – 2027 &

Recommendation for the Extension of the DkIT Strategic Plan 2022 – 2022 to 2023.

The VP SCD advised Governing Body that DkIT's current Strategic Plan ends in December 2022 and provided members with an overview of the documents included in Governing Body meeting packs.

The following are the main reasons for pausing the development of a new Strategic Plan.

- New President commencing in January 2023;
- Inclusive and extensive consultation by the new President and Executive Board in the formation of the new Strategic Plan;
- Alignment of DkIT's Institutional Strategic Plan and the new proposed System Performance Framework 2023-2027 (in terms of national and institutional strategic priorities, goals and KPIs).

The VP SCD envisages the Strategic Plan would be finalised before the end of 2023 and this extension would provide the Executive time to ensure adequate planning and consultation takes place.

The Governing Body approved the extension of the current Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022 for an additional one year, up to the end of 2023.

Proposed by: Bill Sweeney

Seconded by: Anna Shakespeare

G.300.10 Marketing & Communications Presentation

The Head of Marketing & Communications, Ms. Lynda McQuaid joined the meeting at 11.42 to present a summary of the various marketing and student recruitment initiatives that were engaged in throughout 2021/22.

The VP SCD advised the ambition was to prevent further declines in student numbers and this had been achieved along with growth in first year undergraduate recruitment. This growth demonstrated the excellent work undertaken by Marketing & Communications, being a small team but highly skilled. Numerous members congratulated Ms. McQuaid and noted the visible difference across the Institute as a result of the Marketing & Communications team's work over the past twelve months.

G.300.11 Higher Education Authority Act 2022

The HEA Act commenced on 10 November 2022. Training will be provided to members in January 2022 by Imelda Reynolds, Partner & Chair of Beauchamps. Ms. Reynolds is a previous Chair of Technological University Dublin.

The Secretary to the Governing Body drew attention to pages 109 and 110 of the HEA Act. He also advised Governing Body of work being undertaken across the sector in developing procedures referred to in the Act along with obtaining legal opinion on how members will be recruited going forward.

Ms. Anna Shakespeare recalled this Act being a result of a report from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) and requested the Secretary to Governing Body to forward same to all members.

G.300.12 Seal

The use of the Institute's seal was noted on leasing documents.

G.300.13 AOB

The Chair wished to express his sincere thanks to Dr. Gerard (Bob) McKiernan for his time as President and the Governing Body concurred.

The President very much appreciated Governing Body's comments and noted it was an honour and privilege to serve as President of DkIT. He thanked members for their time and commitment and it is evident they have a passion for the Institute.

Bereavements

Recent bereavements noted and a minute of silence followed.

The meeting ended at 12:28.

Patrick W. Malone
Chairman

Date: