

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY

TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2026 @ 10:00

BOARDROOM, T.K. WHITAKER BUILDING & MS TEAMS

Participants in the Boardroom:

Prof. Thomas (Tom) Collins	Chair
Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan	President
Ms. Ann Marie Lacey	
Ms. Antoinette Rourke	left the meeting at 11:58
Ms. Ciara O'Shea	
Mr. Gerard O'Brien	
Dr. Jennifer Brennan	
Ms. Madeleine Thornton	left the meeting at 11:50
Mr. Martin Long	
Mr. Patrick W. Malone	
Mr. Patrick McCormick	
Ms. Paula McCaul	
Mr. Richard Hanlon	
Ms Rosheen Hornby	left the meeting at 12.04, returned at 12.10
Ms. Tobi Bewaji	left the meeting at 11.30, returned at 11.51

Participants MS Teams:

Ms. Anna Shakespeare
Dr. Fatima Hamroush
Prof. Paul Moynagh
Mr. Tommy Fanning

Apologies:

None

Attending:

All agenda points:

Ms. Caroline Pigott	Secretary to the Governing Body and Vice President for Finance & Corporate Affairs ("Secretary" / "VP FCA")
Ms Valerie Ward	President's Office

In attendance for Agenda Items 3 & 4:

Dr. Edel Healy	Head of School of Health & Science
Ms. Irene McCausland	Vice President of Strategic Planning, Communications and Development (VP SCD)

Ms. Irene McCausland joined the meeting at 10:00 and left at 12:00

Dr. Edel Healy joined the meeting at 10:04 and left at 11:12

The meeting commenced at 10:01.

Declarations of Interest

None.

G.324.1 Draft Minutes of Meeting (G323) dated 25 November 2025

The Draft Minutes of Meeting G323 held on 25 November were approved.

Proposed by: Ms. Jennifer Brennan

Seconded by: Ms. AnnMarie Lacey

G.324.2 Matters Arising

None.

G.324.3 Update and repurposing of the Technological Sector Advancement Fund Work Package 1 (TSAF WP1) Project Plan: DkIT/Maynooth University (MU) activities

DkIT & MU Strategic Engagement: A Scoping Study for potential models of engagement

Dr Edel Healy, Head of School of Health and Science provided an update on the activities of TSAF WP1 project relating to activities with Maynooth University. This included the DkIT & MU Strategic Engagement: A Scoping Study for potential models of engagement which was completed with Prof. Aidan Mulkeen from Maynooth University. As a consequence of the Governing Body decision on the 18 November 2025, a repurposing of the project plan relating to TSAF WP1 DkIT/MU activities was presented.

Dr Healy made reference to the following documents circulated prior to the meeting during her presentation:

- DkIT & MU Strategic Engagement: A Scoping Study for potential models of engagement
- Advance HE UK and European/ International College University Partnership Arrangements
- Indecon MU DkIT Regional Impact Assessment Report November 2025
- DkIT MU Collaborations Baseline Report

Dr Healy gave an update on the activities that have been completed as outlined in the signed Letter of Intent (June 2024). She also referenced activities still ongoing with Maynooth University i.e. MU DkIT Regional Graduate Academy; Research Collaborative Projects and Teaching and Learning Collaborations.

Dr Healy wished to acknowledge in particular the support of Prof. Aidan Mulkeen and Prof. Fiona Lyddy with these activities

The Chair drew members attention to the reports and is delighted collaborations are ongoing between DkIT and Maynooth University and the importance of continuing our relationship with Maynooth University.

The Governing Body noted the reports and briefing from Dr Healy.

The Chair and Governing Body members expressed their gratitude for the work undertaken to date by Dr Healy and Prof. Mulkeen in the collaboration developed between DkIT and Maynooth University and for providing a verbal update on repurposing of TSAF WP1 Project Plan: DkIT/MU activities.

G.324.4 Advancing DkIT QUB Partnership

The following documentation had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- DkIT QUB Heads of Agreement
- Business Case
- Timelines
- Communications & Consultations

The President and VP SCD updated the Governing Body regarding progress around the DkIT QUB Partnership.

Presentations were made, encompassing:

- Update on progress of the DkIT QUB Initiative since the announcement of 18 November 2025.
- Establishment of four working groups with Executive Leads to progress the University College model
 1. Legislation / Partnership Agreement / Governance / Communications
 2. Academic Integration
 3. Research & Innovation
 4. Regional Impact
- Overview of Draft Heads of Agreement.
- Key elements of the Preliminary Business Case
- Alignment with DkIT's Vision and Strategic Plan 2024-25
- High level timelines
- Key Stakeholders, Consultation, Engagement and Communications.
- Upcoming workshop in February 2026 with QQI and QAA – key stakeholders in relation to awarding Level 8-10 at university level.

The Chair thanked both the President and Ms. McCausland for their presentations and opened the meeting for discussion.

Discussion ensued in relation to the following:

- Resources (people), acknowledging the support received from HEA through the Targeted Enhancement Fund (TEF) in supporting this key strategic initiative
- Research
- Legislation
- Development of criteria to meet QUB and Irish University status re Level 8-10 awards with consideration to be given as to need for International Review
- Timeline's relevance in both the South and North
- Academic admissions, fee structure and fee setting criteria
- Risk / Interim arrangements
- Discussions held with DFHERIS, QQI etc
- Future student intake

- Shared Island

The Chair requested that, Advancing DkIT QUB Partnership, would be a standard item on the agenda going forward.

The Governing Body approved the DkIT QUB Heads of Agreement.

Proposed by: Ms. Paula McCaul

Seconded by: Mr. Gerry O'Brien

The Governing Body noted the contents of the other three documents circulated and presented at the meeting.

G.324.5 President's Report & Personnel Report

The President walked members through the President's Report, drawing attention to the most pertinent aspects.

The President outlined that the impact on the 2024/25 Financial Statements, of the supplementary budget received in November 2025, is being reviewed by the C&AG.

The Chair formally thanked Dr. Healy, Executive Project Lead and Dr. Maguire, Head of School of Health & Science for their contributions to the Institute as both have reverted to their previous roles.

Recent appointments and progressions across the Institute noted.

G.324.6 Correspondence

The President referenced the following correspondence.

- a) Letter from LMETB Board re Queen's University
Letter from Martin O'Brien, CEO LMETB, on behalf of the Board of LMETB conveying their congratulations to the Governing Body of DkIT on the formation of a partnership with Queen's University, Belfast.
- b) Letter from South West College
Letter from Celine McCartan, Principal & Chief Executive, South West College on behalf of South West College Governing Body, staff and students expressing their sympathy to the young people, teaching community, families and the entire community of DkIT in the wake of the devastating accident of November 15 2025.

The Governing Body noted both letters.

G.324.7 HEA Oversight Agreement 2026

Oversight Agreement 2026

The President walked through the HEA Oversight Agreement 2026. The HEA oversight agreement sets out the broad governance and accountability framework required of DkIT by the HEA. It sets out the key responsibilities which form the basis of the relationship between the HEA and DkIT.

The President and Chair signed the Oversight Agreement 2026 for submitting to the HEA.

The Governing Body adopted the Oversight Agreement.

Proposed by: Mr Paddy Malone

Seconded by: Ms Ciara O'Shea

G.324.8 Annual Statement of Interest (Ethics)

The President reminded members to ensure forms are completed and returned to the President's Office by 31 January 2026. Declaration forms were circulated at the meeting for members to complete.

G.324.9 AOB

Bereavements:

Recent bereavements were noted at the meeting and a minute's silence held..

Next meeting 24th February 2026.

Meeting concluded at 12:09

Prof. Thomas Collins
Chair of the Governing Body