

Minutes of proceedings of the Governing Body Meeting

Date: Thursday, 25th November 2021
Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm
Location: Microsoft Teams and Boardroom, Galway Campus

Present: Mr Joe Cunningham (Acting Chair)
Dr Orla Flynn (President)
Mr Gareth Roe
Mr Michael Geoghegan
Ms Maureen Walsh
Ms Mary McGinley
Mr David Leahy
Dr Eleanor Rainsford
Cllr Paul Murphy
Cllr Terry O’Flaherty
Ms Maria Madden
Ms Ricarda Bolle
Cllr Colm Keaveney
Mr Colin Kearney
Ms Proinsias Ní Ghrainne

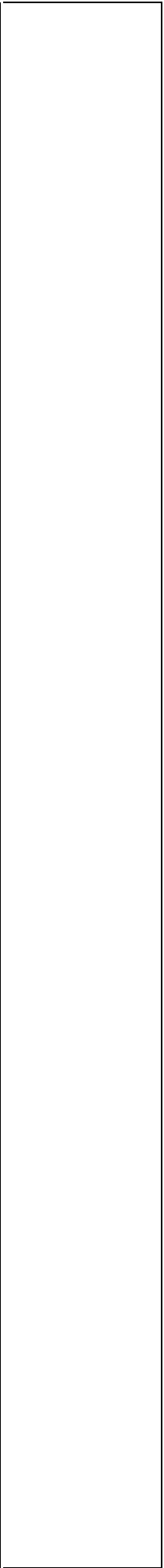
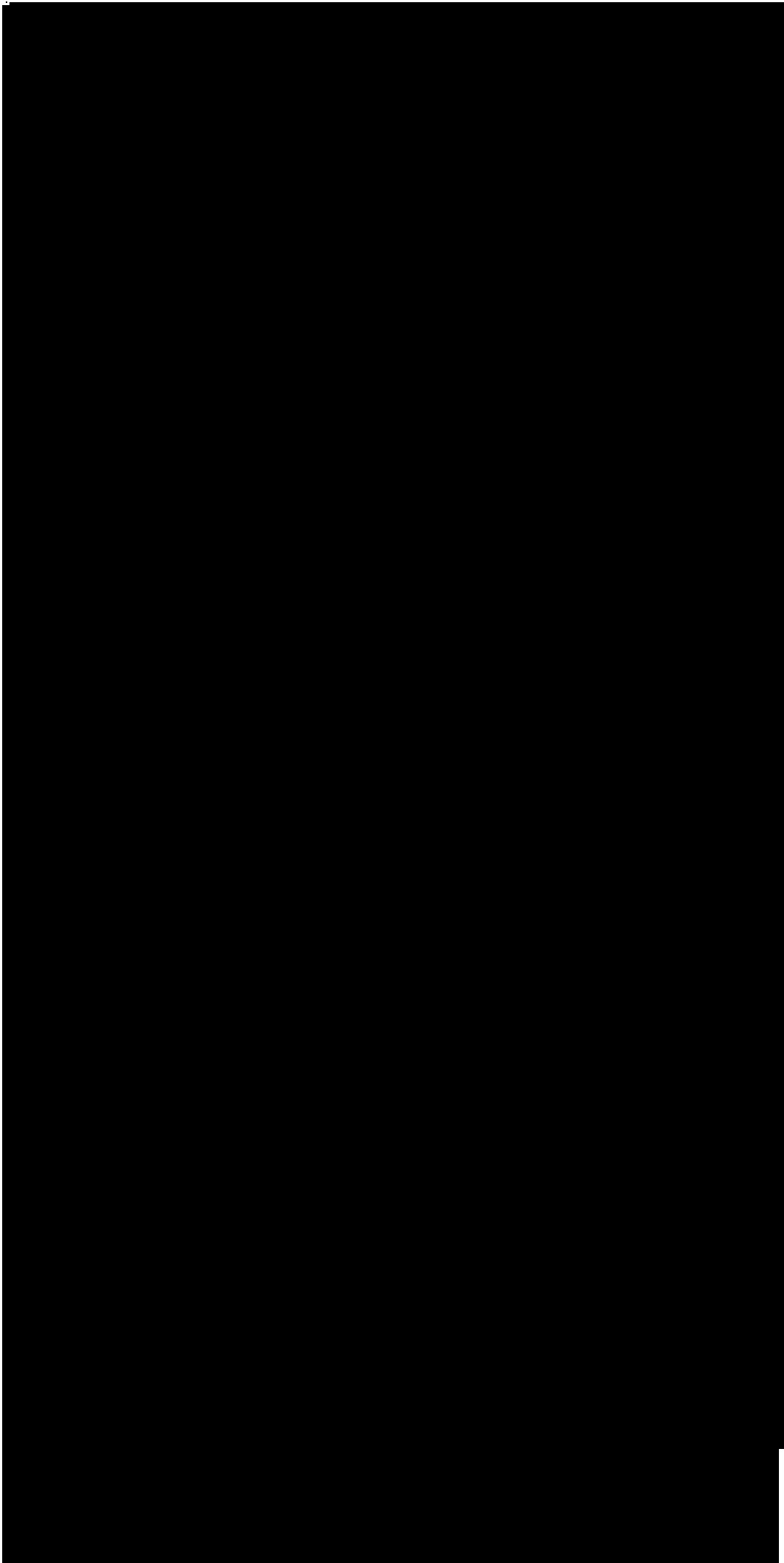
In Attendance: Mr Jim Fennell, Secretary / VP for Finance & Corporate Services
Ms Fiona Faherty, Meeting Secretary

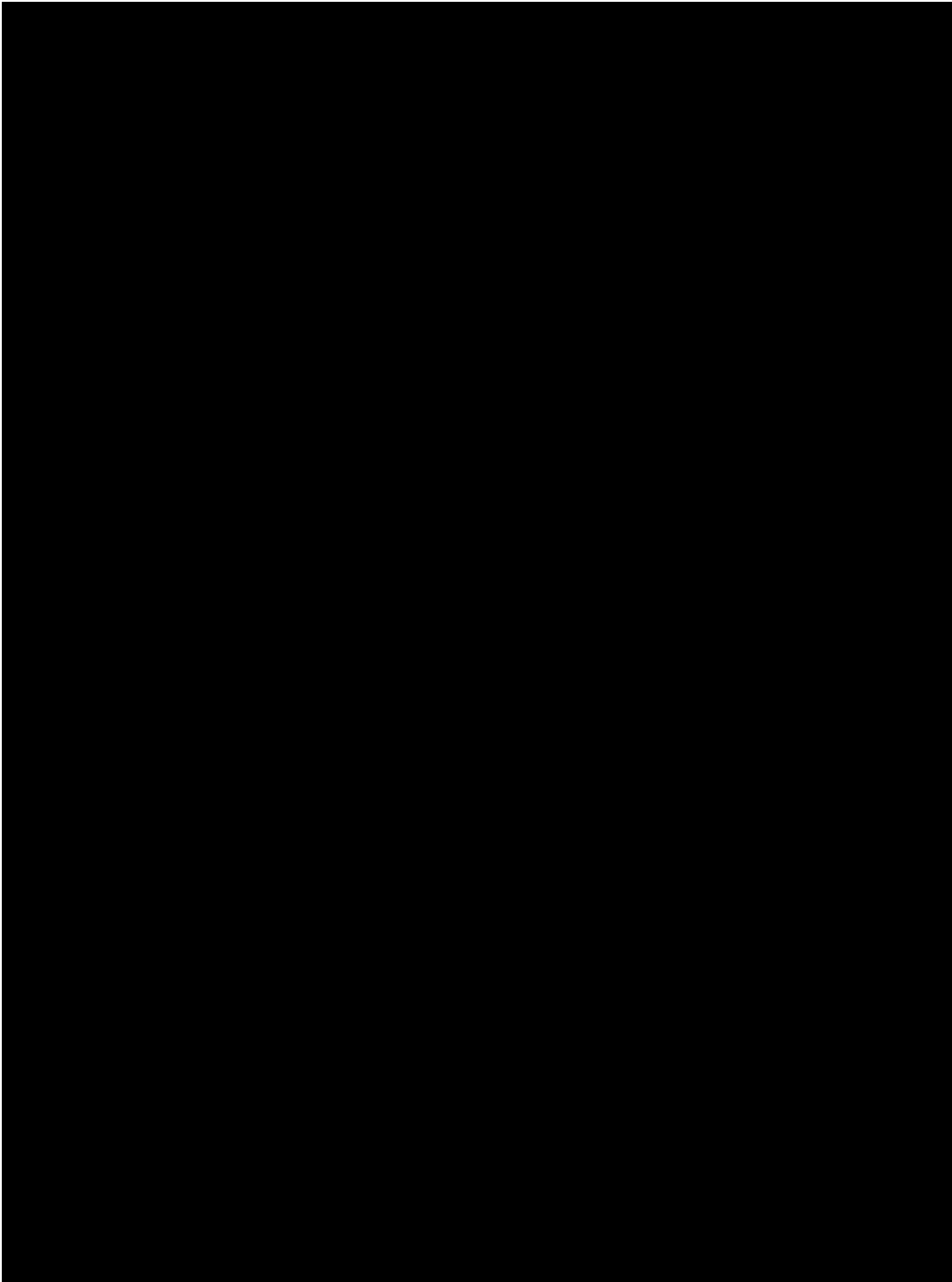

Apologies: Mr Cormac MacDonncha
Ms Siobhán Kennedy
Cllr Michael Maher
Dr Michael Hannon
Dr Rick Officer
Mr Tom Grady

1.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest with Agenda Items	ALL
There were no conflicts of interest declared by those present or in attendance.	
2.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting	All
<p>The minutes of Governing Body Meeting held on 28th October were approved on the proposal of Cllr Terry O’Flaherty and seconded by Cllr Paul Murphy subject to the following amendment suggested by Mr Gareth Roe:-</p> <p>Page 6, last paragraph under item 6.1.</p> <p>Amend paragraph as follows:</p> <p>'The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar, Dr Michael Hannon, noted the strong growth in student numbers and demand for places at GMIT and expressed his concern that GMIT now finds itself in a position where it is not able to make offers to all students who wish to study in GMIT; for some of whom GMIT is their college of first choice. Dr Hannon further stated that the discussion perfectly encapsulates the current situation in GMIT.'</p>	
3.0 Matters Arising from Minutes	All
Dr Michael Hannon, who was an apology for the meeting, asked to convey to the meeting that the Office of Academic Affairs had a new portal which is an information platform for students. He will provide an update on this at the December meeting.	
4.0 President	O Flynn
<p>4.1 President’s Report</p> <p>The President’s Report to Governing Body was circulated for information and was taken as read.</p> <p>Dr Flynn reflected on some of the Institute’s achievements over the previous two years. Some highlights of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TU Designation - Dealing with COVID-19 - Athena SWAN Bronze Award - Became a member of an SFI Centre for the first time (LERO) - New School established in Mayo Campus (HSW&S) - Acquisition of Crowley Park - Remote working and teaching <p>Dr Flynn’s full presentation is available on SharePoint.</p> <p>The President congratulated the staff and students on GMIT’s recent designation as the Sunday Times Institute of Technology of the Year for 2022.</p> <p>Members of the Board expressed their congratulations to the President and team at GMIT for achieving so many significant milestones whilst dealing with all the issues associated with COVID-19 during 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>4.2 Technological University (TU) Update</p> <p>The name for the new TU has officially been announced as Atlantic Technological University (ATU), the branding for which is now underway. Designation date will be 1st April 2022. The roles of the TU President, Chairman and Governing Body membership</p>	

<p>are now advertised. The Steering Group, Joint Governing Body Subcommittee and Joint Executive Boards will continue to meet monthly up until the date of designation.</p> <p>Ministerial approval has been granted in principle for the integration of St Angela's college.</p> <p>4.2 (a) Correspondence Letter</p> <p>The letter of congratulations from NUIG President, Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, on the achievement of Technological University status was welcomed by the Board.</p> <p>4.3 Media Coverage Report</p> <p>The Media Coverage Report was taken as read.</p>	
<p>5.0 SU President Report</p>	<p>C Kearney</p>
<p>The Students Union President, Mr Colin Kearney presented an update on the recent activities carried out by the Students Union Team. He thanked the team for their immense work and efforts to assist students over the past number of weeks. He noted the positive feedback from students as being happy to have returned to Campus studies.</p> <p>Mr Kearney focused on the draft new structure for the Students Union under the new TU. This will include a new TU President of the Students Union.</p> <p>Mr Joe Cunningham thanked Mr Kearney for the presentation and wished him well with the proposed new structure.</p> <p>Mr Fennell noted that the issue of a Students Union Trustee will be discussed with the Students Union later.</p>	
<p>6.0 Crowley Park</p>	<p>J Fennell</p>
<p>6.1 Purchase Contract</p> <p>Mr Fennell presented the purchase contract for Crowley Park. He noted the significance of this event and that discussions on the purchase of Crowley Park commenced almost 20 years ago. The HEA have approved the contract and licence and Governing Body approval of the contract and licence is now required.</p> <p>The was welcomed by the Board and congratulations were conveyed to all involved in this project over the past number of years.</p> <p>The purchase contract for Crowley Park was approved on the proposal of Cllr Terry O'Flaherty and seconded by Mr Gareth Roe.</p> <p>6.2 License to Galwegians</p> <p>The License to Galwegians as was presented was approved on the proposal of Cllr Terry O'Flaherty and seconded by Ms Mary McGinley.</p> <p>Mr Fennell highlighted two conditions of note from the HEA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep the HEA informed regarding the approval process 2. No formal publicity campaigns to take place without notifying the HEA 	

7.0 Finance	J Fennell
<p>Mr Fennell presented the Finance Outturn to 31st October 2021.</p> <p>While the Recurrent Grant Outturn reflected a positive variance of €1.8m for the 10 months to October 2021 due to a positive variance on non-pay expenditure, the projection for the year was an outturn in line with budget. The projections reflect expenditure in line with the approved amended budget and revenues to be ahead of budget by circa. €500K. The amount of the funding allocation in respect of the State Grant for COVID-19 remains uncertain and the projections assume funding of circa €800k for the eight months to August 2021 and a total of €1.1m for the calendar year 2021.</p>	
<p>8.0 Corporate Governance</p> <p>8.1 Sponsorship Policy</p> <p>Dr Eleanor Rainsford had provided some suggested amendments to the policy which are reflected in the draft circulated to the meeting. The amended wording is as follows:</p> <p>1. Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensuring that sponsorship proposals are assessed fairly, equally and with regard to ethical considerations.</i> <p>2. Principles</p> <p><i>3.2 Ethical issues should be considered before GMIT enters into any sponsorship agreement. Sponsorship agreements should be reviewed annually to ensure that they remain acceptable</i></p> <p>The amended Sponsorship Policy was approved on the proposal of Dr Eleanor Rainsford and seconded by Ms Maria Ruddy.</p> <p>8.2 Corporate Procurement Plan 2022 (CPP)</p> <p>Mr Fennell presented the Corporate Procurement Plan 2022 (CPP) for approval.</p> <p>This was approved on the proposal of Mr Michael Geoghegan and seconded by Ms Mary McGinley.</p> <p>Mr Fennell advised the meeting that the Social Media Policy was provided for consideration at a late stage and asked the Board if they wished to consider this at this meeting or to review it and put on the Agenda at the December meeting.</p> <p>Mr Gareth Roe queried clause 5.4.4 and 5.2 and asked if they are duplication clauses. He also sought clarification on who the policy is for, is it for GMIT Staff and Students using official GMIT social platforms or is it for GMIT Staff and Students using their own social platforms.</p> <p>Mr Fennell asked the Board to email any specific queries they may have on the policy to his office and clarification will be provided for the December meeting.</p>	J Fennell
9.0 Schedule of Meetings 2022	J Fennell
<p>A schedule of meetings for 2022 was approved on the proposal of Cllr Terry O’Flaherty and seconded by Ms Mary McGinley.</p>	
10.0 HR Matters	J Fennell



	
	
<p>10.0 Any Other Business</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>The President noted the correspondence from the HEA regarding the Public Accounts Committee. A copy of her response was circulated to the Board and it was agreed that the President would write to the HEA on behalf of the Governing Body stating that the Governing Body is satisfied that it has visibility of all partnerships and funded research projects, that members are aware of the issues and expressing its confidence that GMIT is not involved in any projects which would be acting against the public interest by contributing to the climate and biodiversity crises.</p> <p>This was agreed on the proposal of Mr David Leahy and seconded by Ms Proinsias Ni Ghrainne.</p>	

It was agreed by the Governing Body that they would postpone the planned Christmas lunch at the G Hotel until such time as it was safe to meet in larger numbers. It was suggested a get together take place in mid-March before the dissolution of the current Governing Body and its subcommittees. This was approved on the proposal of Mr David Leahy and seconded by Cllr Terry O'Flaherty.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Chairperson

Date: _____

Governing Body List of Actions 2021

Action Items Reference Nos are explained as follows:

- The first number of the reference relates to the Date of the Meeting
- The second number of the reference relates to the Agenda Item

Action Item	Action	Action Owner	Target Date	Status
29.08.19 – 10.5 28.11.19 – 7.0	Strategic plans to be developed for: - 1. Marketing - 2. Communications	President	January 2020	Self-Evaluation taking place as part of QA process in 2021
29.08.19 – 10.5 28.11.19 – 7.0 30.01.20 – 9.1	- 1. International Benchmarking exercise on Internationalisation within the Sector Explore appointment of an External Consultant to review International	VP for International	January 2020 March 2020 March 2020	Delayed due to COVID19 Deferred due to COVID19 Decision not to proceed currently Closed – Moved to TU Activity
26.09.19 – 3	Establishment of GIHS Working Group / Review of School/Strategic Plan	Chair & President	Nov/December 2019	Presented to December 2019 meeting Closed
28.01.21 – 10.0	Seek staff nominations for Mayo Campus Subcommittee	Sec/VP Fin Services	March 2021	Seek nominations again Closed, not proceeding TU Imminent
25.02.21 – 9.3	Maintain Conflicts of Interest Register	Sec/VP Fin Services	Ongoing	Ongoing
26.8.21- 4.1	Update on position of COVID Officer	President	September	Provide Update in September Mtg
26.8.21 – 5.0	Update on Due Diligence by Deloitte	President	September	Provide Update in September Mtg
28.10.21 – 6.1	Report from Registrar on Exam Results, Progressions and Awards for 2019/20 and 2020/21	Registrar	December	Report will be provided after ARC Meeting
28.10.21 – 6.1	Update Risk Register for mitigating actions relating to acquisition of additional space	Sec/VP Fin Services	December	Report will be provided after the ARC meeting
28.10.21 – 6.3.5	Sponsorship Policy – amend for approval	Sec/VP Fin Services	November	Policy to be circulated for Approval

