

Minutes of proceedings of the Governing Body Meeting

Date: Thursday, 29th April 2021

Time: 10.00am

Location: Microsoft Teams and Boardroom, Galway Campus

Present: Mr Cormac MacDonncha (Chair)

Mr Joe Cunningham

Dr Orla Flynn (President)

Cllr Michael Maher

Mr Gareth Roe

Cllr Colm Keaveney

Dr Eleanor Rainsford

Mr Michael Geoghegan

Cllr Paul Murphy

Ms Maureen Walsh

Ms Proinsias Ní Ghrainne

Ms Maria Ruddy

Ms Siobhán Kennedy

Mr Victor O'Loughlin

Ms Mary McGinley

Mr Tom Grady

Cllr Terry O'Flaherty

In Attendance: Mr Jim Fennell, Secretary / VP for Finance & Corporate Services

Dr Michel Hannon, VP for Academic Affairs and Registrar

Dr Rick Officer, VP for Research, and Innovation

Ms Fiona Faherty, Meeting Secretary

Mr David Lee, Buildings and Estates Manager (Agenda Item 6.2)

Dr Paddy Tobin, Head of Centre for Creative Arts and Media (Agenda Item 6.2)

Apologies: Mr David Leahy

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
Cllr Terry O'Flaherty noted her absence at the last meeting was due to Technical issues.	
Ar Gareth Roe referred to Item 5.0 of the minutes CUA / TU and requested the following amendment to paragraph three and four: Mr Gareth Roe asked what level of joint eviewing and planning is taking place and in particular whether decisions in relation to the creation of new posts are being taken with a view to the future organisational structure of the TU, bearing in mind that the merger itself will create duplication of a lange of current posts?	
The President acknowledged Mr Roe's comments and noted that these matters were under active consideration. The President also added that there will be a transitional period for all three founding institutes which needs to occur in a sensitive manner.	
tem 6.1 Report from Capital Projects Subcommittee (Meeting 24 th March), to include 'm' after figures €53,470 and €47,370.	
tem 7.1.1 Mr Gareth Roe requested the following amendment be made to the third paragraph: Mr Gareth Roe queried the physical infrastructure and space requirements needed for the projected additional post graduate students, has this been considered?	
Subject to the above amendments the minutes of the meeting held on 25 th March 2021 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Michael Maher and seconded by Cllr Colm Keaveney.	
3.0 Matters Arising	All
Ar Michael Geoghegan requested the process for the creation of Grade IV panels be eviewed. This was noted by the President who will review the process with the HR Manager in line with best practice guidelines.	
The President proposed an amendment to the minutes of Governing Body meeting held on 25 th February 2021, as an error had been brought to her attention after the March meeting.	
tem 6.0 Capital Projects, Update from Mr David Lee on Capital Projects. Amend paragraph two and insert paragraph three under the heading Student Centre Building, as follows:	
- STEM Building: Ms Siobhan Kennedy, left the meeting for this item. The Institute is working in conjunction with NDFA in Bundle 2 with the expectation of going to market during 2021. Dr Flynn noted the critical importance of this project.	
- Student Centre Building: The SU President welcomed the presentation on the student building and complimented Mr Lee on the design and work, he noted the critical asset the building will be for students. Mr Michael Geoghegan also complimented Mr Lee and his team and welcomed the presentation. Approval was sought for an extension of time to continue negotiations with the original	

This was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Colm Keaveney and seconded by Mr Michael Geoghegan. 4.0 President O Flynn **4.1 President's Report** The President's report was tabled for information. Dr Flynn provided a brief presentation to the Board which included the following: Education Awards – GMIT has six initiatives being recognised. The overall winner will be announced in May. Feedback from the OpinionX report was provided to the members where over 1,200 students took part in the discussion platform. Four teams from final year Mechanical Engineering (Product Design Stream) have been shortlisted for Stage 2 of the Enterprise Ireland Student Awards GMIT achieved the Athena SWAN Bronze award on March 31st, 2021. The President congratulated all involved in this significant achievement. The launch of LGBT+ and Allies Staff Network is expected to take place in June. An invitation to the launch will be issued to the Governing Body. Dr Rick Officer provided an update on Research and Innovation: GMIT has formally engaged with LERO (the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software). This is a significant development for the Institute to further engage with expert software teams from Universities and Institutes of Technology. Dr Liam Morris was commended for his research leading to this engagement. GMIT is a member of the Data2Sustain European Digital Innovation Hub consortium that has successfully progressed through a national designation process to the European Commissions restricted funding call. The President congratulated Dr Rick Officer and his team on this achievement.

The President updated the meeting on the interim review of the Mayo Campus Working Group Report which is now complete.

The Institute has received an additional query from the PAC regarding the ring-fenced funding on the Mayo Campus.

Sixty GMIT lecturing staff have been nominated for the Teaching Hero Awards, with 120 nominations made in total. The awards ceremony will take place in the afternoon of today's meeting and a link will be issued to Governing Body members after the meeting.

Dr Flynn provided an update on COVID-19:

- On Campus activities will soon come to an end as the Institute approaches end of term
- The library will reopen bookable study spaces in Galway and Mayo Campuses
- No onsite exams will be held in Autumn
- The GMIT Business Continuity Team held a meeting on 15th April to work on planning for the next academic year 2021/2022.

4.2 Media Coverage Report

The Media Coverage Report which was circulated prior to the Meeting was taken as read.

5.0 CUA / TU	O Flynn

The application document is ready for submission. Negotiations with the TUI are complete and the MOU will be considered by the TUI members in a ballot in the coming weeks. The President thanked all involved for the significant efforts made in completing the MOU.

Tendering process is underway for the branding and re-naming of the TU.

Mr Gareth Roe raised the issue of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IT Sligo and St Angela's college wherein it is proposed that St Angela's College be integrated into IT Sligo. He raised his concerns around a new unity which is required from all three Institutes whereby they develop a shared culture of collaboration and consultation.

The Chairman added that a discussion had taken place regarding the potential merger of ITS and St Angela's College at the last TU Subcommittee meeting.

Cllr Moegie Maher noted that this item was also raised as a concern at the Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

The President advised that the MoU was considered by IT Sligo last week and the views of GMIT Executive were noted.

6.0 Capital Projects Update

O Flynn

6.1 Capital Projects Update

The President informed the meeting that GMIT's offer for Crowley Park was now subject to the approval of an EGM of the members of Galwegians.

The STEM Building is progressing in conjunction with NDFA in Bundle 2.

New modular building project was approved by the Executive. This will comprise of additional classrooms and office space. Planning permission is required.

There are four capital projects to close out on completion:

- 1. iHUB
- 2. Mayo Campus Building Fabric
- 3. Refurbishment for Met Project
- 4. Canteen Refurbishment

6.2 CREW Project (CCAM Campus)

Mr David Lee and Dr Paddy Tobin joined the meeting for this Agenda item.

Dr Paddy Tobin presented the Master Plan of the Cluain Mhuire Campus. Approval is sought from the Governing Body to give permission to Comhoibriu CLG to lodge for Planning Permission to proceed with the CREW Project. The period of lease will be for a period of 20 years and this will be finalised next month and submitted to the Governing Body for approval

Dr Tobin added that the CREW Project is a collaborative project set up as a separate entity and GMIT is one of the founders. The benefits of this new building will be for the students and it will provide opportunities for a distinctive career pathway for past and present students of Cluain Mhuire while also displaying the 'commitment to the industry and attracting additional external collaborative opportunities'.

Mr Michael Geoghegan noted his concerns regarding parking facilities and the utilisation of the site capacity to its full potential which could include four stories high instead of two.

Cllr Terry O'Flaherty raised the issue of car parking facilities also.

The SU President recommended the annual traffic survey carried out by the Buildings and Estates office in GMIT be used as a mechanism for tracking cars used on the Cluain Mhuire Campus.

Mr David Lee noted the concerns of the members around the carparking facilities and added this factor has been taken into consideration with planning.

Mr Gareth Roe stated that he shared Mr Geoghegan's concerns, and further noted that the proposed site of the building is of high value to GMIT and asked whether the planned building is ambitious enough.

Has the projected demand for occupancy of this two-story building over the first 5 years of its operation been considered by the design team? Do these projections indicate that it might be better to build higher than two storeys initially, rather than just put in the foundations to cater for this possibility in the future, as currently proposed?

The meeting was advised that the budget for the building is limited to funding which has been secured.

The meeting decided to give permission to Comhoibriu CLG to lodge a planning application for the proposed new building on the site of the Centre for Creative Arts & Media Campus on the proposal of Cllr Colm Keaveney and seconded by Cllr Terry O'Flaherty.

7.0 School of Business Data Breach

O Flynn

7.1 Report from an Independent Investigator and 7.2 Recommendations from Data Protection Commission.

The President noted that the report from the Independent Investigator and its recommendations had been considered by the Executive Board and the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). Dr Flynn noted the sensitive timeline of the report due to upcoming student exams.

The Chair of the ARC, Ms Mary McGinley added that the ARC was satisfied with the report and the recommendations from the Data Protection Commission. The recommendations will now be implemented, and the ARC will work with the Executive to ensure this is achieved.

Cllr Colm Keaveney welcomed the sensitive approach to this issue by the Institute and around the timing of student exams. He suggested the issuing of the report and the implementation of the recommendations be carried out internally in a timely fashion outside of term time.

This suggestion was welcomed by the Chair of the ARC and by the SU President. The SU President expressed his concerns regarding media coverage associated with the issuing of the report and its recommendations and the impact this may have on all students.

Ms Maria Ruddy agreed with the concerns of the President and the Chair of the ARC. She noted that the communications plan is critical in notifying both students and staff involved and added this should be completed discreetly to all involved in the first instance. The President agreed and added this would be communicated in line with the Terms of Reference.

The President of the Students Union sought an amendment to the recommendations, to include specific training for staff. It was agreed that additional recommendations be discussed and agreed between the SU and President and included in the recommendations as an addendum.

The Chair acknowledged the concerns raised around the sensitivity of this issue for both staff and students involved. It was agreed the parties involved would be notified discreetly in the first instance and relevant actions and a communications plan will be put in place following discussions with all. The Report from an Independent Investigator was approved on the proposal of Cllr Michael Maher and seconded by Mr Victor O'Loughlin. The Recommendations from the Data Protection Commission was approved on the proposal of Cllr Michael Maher and seconded by Cllr Colm Keaveney to include the additional recommendations as agreed. The President advised the meeting that recommendations will be amended to reflect the foregoing comments and that the revised recommendations and associated action plan will be provided to the May meeting. 8.0 Registrar / Academic Council **M** Hannon 8.1 Academic Code of Practice No 5 – Updated Dr Michael Hannon presented the Academic Code of Practice No 5 – Updated for approval. He highlighted the amendments in the document and noted that they were approved by Academic Council on 16th April. This was approved on the proposal of Cllr Paul Murphy and seconded by Ms Mary McGinley. 8.2 Quality of Service Charter The Quality of Service Charter was considered by the Executive Board on 13th April and was circulated to the Governing Body in advance of this meeting. The purpose of this Quality of Service Charter is to set out the nature and quality of service which our stakeholders can expect to receive from Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. This charter is based on the twelve Principles of Quality Customer Service for Customers and Clients of the Public Service. The Quality of Service Charter approved on the proposal of Cllr Michael Maher and seconded by Ms Maureen Walsh. 8.3 Annual Institutional Quality Report The Registrar provided an update on the Annual Institutional Quality Report. The Chair welcomed the report and asked if an update could be provided on CAO numbers at the next meeting. This was agreed. 9.0 SU President Report V O'Loughlin The SU President, Mr Victor O'Loughlin gave a presentation to the meeting on the CUA merger involving all three Students Union's from IT Sligo, Letterkenny IT and GMIT coming together as one Union. Mr O'Loughlin acknowledged the work being carried out by other TU counterparts and team partners including Ms Ruth Merrigan.

10.0 Corporate Governance

J Fennell

10.1 Report from Chair of Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)

Ms Mary McGinley, Chair of ARC provided an update on the recent ARC meeting which was held on 20th April 2021. She informed the meeting that the C&AG have issued a clean audit opinion to GMIT. The management letter, which was received just prior to the ARC

meeting, comes with three recommendations which will be discussed by the ARC at their next meeting and an update will be provided to the Governing Body.

The Data Breach report and Data Commission Recommendations were discussed, as mentioned under item 7.0 of the Agenda.

Training requirements for the Governing Body and its Subcommittees will be agreed following the review of effectiveness of the Governing Body and its Subcommittees, which is an Agenda item today.

The Quality of Service Charter was the main remaining item outstanding to achieve compliance with the THEA Code, this has been approved at today's meeting.

Ms Kerrie Power has resigned from the ARC Committee and therefore a vacancy remains on the ARC. The ideal member would be Education and IT Skills based and recommended nominees are welcome from the Board.

The recruitment of the Corporate Governance and Risk Management Officer is now complete, and the recommended candidate is before the meeting for approval today.

10.1.1 2019/2020 Corporate Governance Statement and Statement on System of Internal Control

The 2019/2020 Corporate Governance Statement and Statement on System of Internal Control was reviewed by the ARC and is recommended for approval by the Governing Body. Mr Fennell presented the document and noted that the Governing Body did not convene a meeting without the Executive during 2020 and this is a requirement. It was agreed to hold a meeting without the Executive at the May meeting.

The 2019/2020 Corporate Governance Statement and Statement on System of Internal Control was approved on the proposal of Cllr Colm Keaveney and seconded by Cllr Terry O'Flaherty.

10.1.2 2019 Annual Governance Statement

The 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement was reviewed by the ARC at its meeting on 20th April. The Institute is requested by the HEA to confirm any non-compliant and non-competitive procurement. In the Annual Governance Statement, GMIT has confirmed its compliance with procurement public procurement procedures. Clarification was sought by the ARC as to what constitutes non-competitive procurement and the Institute requested a definition of non-competitive procurement from the HEA. The ARC has recommended/ the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement for approval to the Governing Body

This was approved on the proposal of Ms Maureen Walsh and seconded by Mr Tom Gradv.

The Chair commended the ARC for their outstanding commitment and workload.

10.1.3 Review of Effectiveness of Governing Body and Subcommittees

Deloitte were asked to produce a questionnaire and approval is sought from the Governing Body members for Deloitte to issue the questionnaire and collated the responses.

This was approved on the proposal of Cllr Colm Keaveney and seconded by Mr Victor O'Loughlin.

10.1.4 Review of Compliance with THEA Code

Mr Fennell informed the meeting that the review is ongoing, and a final review will ensure any remaining gaps will be complete.

10.1.5 Governing Body Training

The training for Governing Body members will be reviewed when the review of the effectiveness of the Governing Body is complete.

10.1.6 Risk Management

Mr Fennell presented the COVID-19 Risk Register and Report. He noted that significant work has been carried out resulting in a number of risks mitigated and other risks closed. It is expected that Deloitte will complete their review of the Risk Register in June. This will be provided to the ARC at its July meeting and be considered for approval by the Governing Body in at the subsequent Governing Body meeting. Mr Fennell thanked all involved and acknowledged the significant progress made on the COVID-19 Risk Register.

Ms Mary McGinley acknowledged the continued engagement on the COVID-19 Risk Register and noted the collaborative collective document produced. She thanked Mr Fennell and the Corporate Governance Team for their continued work on this.

Mr Joe Cunningham noted the particularly challenging time that Ms Mary McGinley took up the role of Chair of the ARC and acknowledged her significant contribution to the committee and the smooth operation of matters involved.

The President and the Chair concurred with Mr Cunningham's comments and thanked Ms McGinley and the entire ARC Committee members for their commitment and continued work.

10.2 Overpayments Policy

The Overpayments Policy was circulated for approval. This was approved on the proposal of Cllr Michael Maher and seconded by Cllr Colm Keaveney.

11.0 Report from Subcommittees

11.1 EDI Subcommittee

Cllr Colm Keaveney, Chair of the EDI Subcommittee, provided an update from the EDI Subcommittee meeting which was held on 19th April.

- He congratulated the Institute on achieving the Athena SWAN Bronze Award. An action plan is now being developed to implement the recommendations.
- Sexual Violence and Misconduct Action Plan was submitted on 26th March. A working group has been established to work on the actions and requirements.
- The establishment of LGBT+ and Allies Staff Network has commenced. It is hoped to formally launch this in June and an invitation will be issued to all Governing Body Members to attend.
- Disability will become a more regular Agenda item on the EDI Subcommittee and EDI Steering Group.

The Chairman acknowledged the support and commitment of the President and all committee members regarding the important items on the EDI Agenda.

Cllr Terry O'Flaherty thanked the Chair and the President for their commitment to the Subcommittee.

The President noted the Chairman's commitment to the Subcommittee and thanked him for his support. She acknowledged the subcommittee members for their active commitment to the subcommittee also.

11.2 Finance Subcommittee

Cllr Michael Maher provided an update on the recent Finance Subcommittee Meeting which took place on 26th April:

- The subcommittee requested the executive to ask the HEA to revise the RGAM model to ensure that full and appropriate recognition is given to the cost associated with STEM programmes.
- Discussions took place regarding a potential merger with St Angela's College and IT Sligo. The FSC requested that the Executive Board ensure that any merger with St Angela's College and IT Sligo be subject to the same level of due diligence as has been conducted on GMIT, ITS and LYIT.
- Due Diligence Reports on the CUA was considered and the FSC requested the Executive to prepare an action plan to implement the recommendations in the report.
- The Students' Union Financial Statements for year ended 31st Aug 2020 were reviewed by the Subcommittee and all were in order. The FSC requested that the Students' Union rotate their Auditors in accordance with good corporate governance.
- It was agreed that Schools and activities that were incurring deficits would be kept under review by the FSC.

Cllr Maher thanked the Finance Team for their comprehensive reporting, and he thanked the subcommittee members for their commitment to the Board.

Cllr Maher offered his condolences to

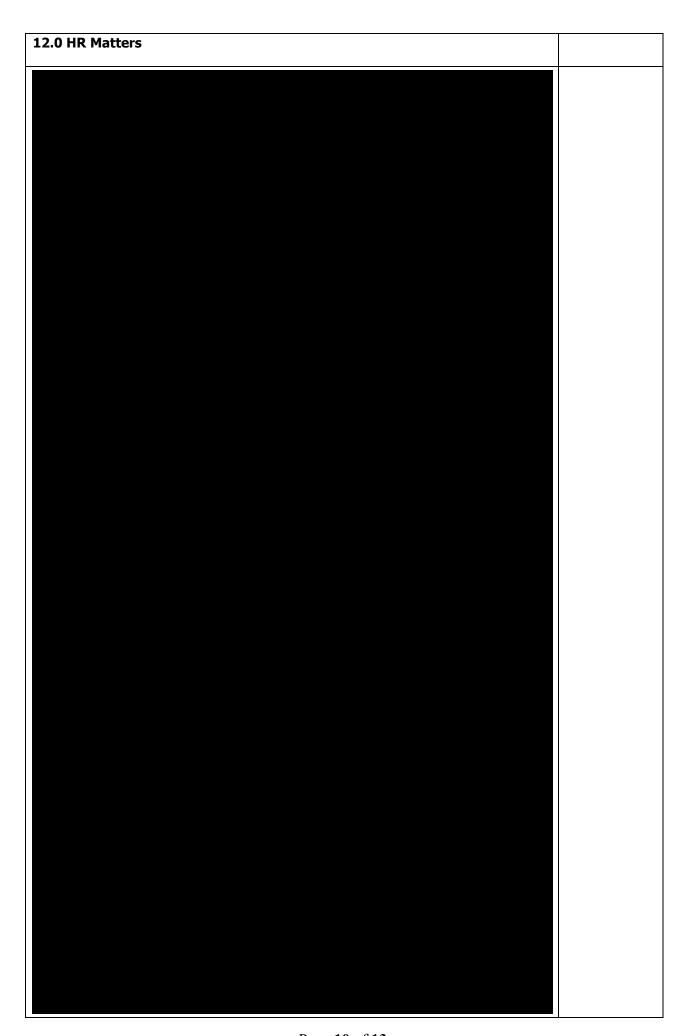
The Board noted their condolences and it was agreed that a message of sympathy would be sent to on behalf of the Governing Body.

11.3 Mayo Campus Subcommittee

The Chairman provided an update to the meeting on the Mayo Campus Subcommittee meeting which was held on 8^{th} April:

- It was the first meeting of the new subcommittee
- There are no staff or student representatives on the subcommittee yet from the Mayo Campus. Staff representation was sought through election but there were no applicants. The Institute will seek nominations again.
- Potential collaboration opportunities with Mayo County Council and the HSE were discussed and welcomed by all stakeholders.
- The new VP for the Mayo Campus, Dr Justin Kerr, will also lead the development of a new GMIT School of Health Science, Wellbeing & Society.
- The interim review by the HEA on the Working Group Report is now substantially complete, the Institute continues to work with the HEA on any clarification issues.
- Financial deficits continue to decline each year.
- The President presented the ten elements contained in the approved Strategic Framework which was welcomed by the subcommittee.
- Ring fenced funding for the Mayo Campus remains critical
- The meeting welcomed the pending merger with ITS and LYIT and acknowledged the importance of having a TU campus in the Mayo region.

The President welcomed the significant collaborations with the HSE and Mayo County Council and also acknowledged ongoing discussions with Mr Tom Grady in MSLETB on future projects.



10.0 Any Other Business	
It was agreed the May meeting would be scheduled to take place on Campus if possib	le.
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	Action	Action	Target	Status
Item		Owner	Date	
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	- 1. International	VP for International	January 2020	Delayed due to COVID19
30.01.20 - 9.1	Benchmarking exercise on Internationalisation within the Sector		March 2020	Deferred due to COVID19
	Explore appointment of an External Consultant to review International		March 2020	Decision not to proceed at this time
26.09.19 – 3	Establishment of GIHS Working Group / Review of School/Strategic Plan	Chair & President	Nov/December 2019	Presented to December 2019 meeting
30.01.20 – 3.0	GIHS Strategic Plan		2020	Review as part of Academic Plan Q4 2020 – Complete Presented to GB Oct 2020
26.09.19 – 5.1	Institute to write to HEA regarding Accommodation Crisis	VP for F&CS	October 2019	Complete/Part of sectoral discussions.
12.12.19 – 5.1	Clarification on Garda Vetting for Guest Lecturers	VP for F&CS	January 2020	Complete
12.12.19 – 8.0	Communications Plan for delivering Mayo campus Strategic Plan to all Stakeholders	President/VP for Mayo campus	December 2019	Complete
28.05.20 – 5.1	Update from Return to Campus Implementation Team	President	June 2020	Agenda Item at August Meeting Regular updates at monthly meetings — Complete
27.08.20 – 3.0	Review of Action List	President and VP FSC	Sept 2020	Complete
27.08.20 – 4.2	Update of Inaugural Shadow GB meeting	President	Sept 2020	Complete
27.08.20 - 5.2	TOR Mayo Campus Subcommittee	President	Sept 2020	Complete

27.08.20 – 5.2	ARC to review Risk Registers and provide update on findings	ARC/ JFennell	Sept 2020	Complete
27.08.20 – 5.2	Set up EDI Meeting	J Fennell	Sept 2020	Complete Meeting taking place on 5 th October
27.08.20 - 6.0	Capital Projects Priority List	J Fennell	Sept 2020	Complete
27.08.20 – 10.0	CAO outcome required for schools with poor student no's	J Fennell	Oct 2020	Complete
27.08.20 – 10.3	Trend analysis of Unit Cost Report	J Fennell	Sept 2020	Agenda Item for October Meeting – Complete
24.09.20 – 4.4	Honorary Fellowships	President	Sept 2020	Agenda Item for October Meeting - Complete
24.09.20 – 8.4	CAO Numbers – GIHS	Registrar	Oct 2020	Agenda Item for October Meeting - Complete
24.09.20 – 12.0	TU Submission	President	Oct/Nov 2020	Separate 1 Item Meeting – Date to be agreed Q1 2021
26.11.20 – 4.2	Circulation of Article	J Fennell	Dec 2020	December Meeting – Complete
26.11.20 – 6.2	Clarification on procurement – Reappoint Design Team on Student Building	J Fennell	Dec 2020	January Meeting Complete
26.11.20 – 6.3	Capital Projects Subcommittee 1. Circulate TOR 2. Members of Subcommittee	J Fennell	Dec 2020	Agenda Item December Meeting - Complete
26.11.20 – 8.1.1	Update on Student Support – Recording Policy	M Hannon	Dec 2020	December Meeting – Complete
26.11.20 – 9.1	Finance Outturn Deferred	J Fennell	Dec 2020	Agenda Item December Meeting – Complete
28.01.21 – 3.0	HR Practices for Post-Graduates	R Officer	Feb 2021	Agenda Item February Meeting Complete
28.01.21 – 4.1	Update from Acad Council Meeting regarding COVID-19 impact on Semester 1	M Hannon	Feb 2021	February Meeting Complete
28.01.21 – 4.4	Capital Projects Update	O Flynn	Feb 2021	Agenda Item February Meeting Complete
28.01.21 – 8.2	COVID-19 Risk Register	J Fennell	Feb 201	Agenda Item February Meeting Complete
28.01.21 – 10.0	Seek staff nominations for Mayo Campus Subcommittee	J Fennell	March 2021	Seek nominations again