Minutes of the 33rd Governing Body meeting

Date:	Tuesday, 6th May 2025
Time:	3.00pm – 5.15pm, via MS Teams,
Chairperson:	Professor Patrick Prendergast
Attendees:	Professor Veronica Campbell Ms Ruth Beadle Ms Eileen Curtis Dr David Dempsey Dr Zeta Dooly Dr Greg Doyle Mr Mark Dunne Ms Trish Finegan Ms Louise Grubb Mr Richard Lacey Mr Kevin Lewis Ms Pauline Oakes Mr Derek Sheridan Ms Louise Walsh
Apologies:	Mr Jim Bergin Professor Marie-Christine Ho Ba Tho

In attendance under the Code of Governance:
Ms Elaine Sheridan, VP Governance /University Secretary

In attendance for Agenda Item 3
Mr Tony Minogue, Independent advisor to Governing Body
Ms Shauna Whyte, VP People, Culture & EDI

In attendance for Agenda Item 4
Dr John Power, Branding Manager

In attendance for Agenda Item 6.3
Dr Tom Ward, Senior Governance Specialist, IPA
Ms Eve Ryan, IPA

Secretariat: Ms Annette Byrne

Item Title - Section A	
1.	**<u>Chairperson's Opening</u>:**
1.1	<u>Welcome & approval of Agenda</u> NOTED The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting and confirming the meeting was quorate and with approval of the agenda he commenced the normal business. Apologies submitted for this meeting were noted.

1.2	<u>Conflict of Interest</u> NOTED The Chairperson asked members if they had any conflicts of interest to declare associated with items on the meeting agenda. No members present declared a conflict for this meeting.
1.3	<u>Approval of minutes</u> AGREED To approve the minutes of 8th April 2025 and to publish on the website.
1.4	<u>Matters arising (Action Log)</u> NOTED The Chairperson indicated that matters, as noted on the Action Log, are in hand. There were no other matters arising.
2.	**<u>Report from President:</u>** NOTED The President provided updates to the Governing Body as follows; • Submission of Preliminary Business Case relating to Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy capital developments to the HEA; course approvals and policy development underway; • Upcoming launch of the Lifelong Learning Strategy; • Matters regarding Capital projects, including the PPP projects, Wexford campus site and the status of the TSSPF submissions; • Engagement with external stakeholders; • Recruitment process for the three Senior Vice President posts; • The new Technological Universities Association as the advocacy body for the TUs • Other matters including staff recognition awards, Foundation Day 2025, and key research funding awards. The Chairperson thanked the President for her report.
3.	**<u>Briefing from Independent advisor to Governing Body</u>** NOTED Reminding members of the decision made at the previous meeting to identify an independent advisor to the Governing Body, the Chairperson welcomed Mr Minogue to the meeting. Following a brief introduction and outlining the contextual purpose of his report, Mr Minogue provided details of the review he had undertaken in relation to the Cyber Security Incident Recovery process. In doing so he set out details of recent interactions and meetings with key staff, his findings and his recommendations to support the timeline of the recovery process. Mr Minogue commended the speedy and assertive actions taken when the breach was discovered and validated decisions taken not to rebuild the legacy environment. He then focused on the status of the recovery process to date and highlighted the priority to reinstate fully functional operational services by 31st July 2025 and provided a number of recommendations to support this plan. In order to meet the timeline, he stressed the importance of ensuring the availability of appropriate resources. He noted that the overall programme extends beyond recovery but emphasized that the immediate focus must be on recovery. In responding to Mr Minogue's report the President extended her appreciation for his comprehensive report and the reassurance he provided regarding the early actions and decisions that had been taken. She indicated her full support for the recommendations in the report. The Chairperson then opened the discussion to the Governing Body. The Governing Body expressed concern in relation the availability of appropriate resources and the capacity of the IT team to support the completion of necessary recovery tasks within the required timelines. Notwithstanding the challenges that exist, the President advised that progress had been made in relation to the recovery and resource plan. Further discussion ensued and the VP for People, Culture & EDI was invited to join the meeting and she provided an update in relation to progress on IR matters as a result of ongoing discussions and facilitated workshops to address staff concerns. In concluding the discussion, the Chairperson proposed that the recommendations provided by Mr Minogue be implemented and he proposed that a special meeting of the Governing Body be convened in approximately three weeks' time to review progress of

	these recommendations. This was agreed by all present. He thanked Mr Minogue and the VP People, Culture & EDI and they both left the meeting. ACTION Convene a one item agenda meeting in the coming weeks to review progress regarding the IT Recovery process.
4.	<u>**Branding Review:**</u> NOTED Dr Power, Branding Manager, was welcomed to the meeting. He provided a presentation in relation to the awareness of the SETU Brand across key audiences and stakeholders, brand implementation, co-branding, future focus and further developments. He drew attention to the recognition and success of the SETU brand which has received two global awards in recent months. In outlining on going work and the immediate areas of focus, the Branding Manager drew attention to the development of wayfinding signage and a Merchandising strategy. He also noted that brand perception research would be carried out later in the year. Dr Power provided clarity in relation to co-branding noting that clear guidelines have been established in this regard. The Chairperson thanked Dr Power and he left the meeting.
5.	<u>**Strategic Discussion:**</u> NOTED Due to time constraints it was agreed to defer the discussion on SRS March 2025 & Interim CAO data 2025/26 to a future meeting.
6.	<u>**Governance Matters:**</u>
6.1	<u>Update on Governance trends & key risks in the HEI sector</u> NOTED Due to technical connection issues, Ms McDermott, Deloitte was unable to join the meeting and therefore it was agreed to postpone this item and reschedule to a future meeting.
6.2	<u>Policy Approvals</u> NOTED The Chairperson outlined the review and recommendation for approval as set out by the Policy Committee in relation to the policies below; • Code of Conduct for Responsible Practice of Research Policy; • Dignity & Respect Policy for Students; • Student Complaints Policy; • University Reviews Policy. NOTED Some queries were raised in relation to elements of the Dignity & Respect Policy for Students and Student Complaints Policy, and it was therefore agreed that further clarity would be provided at the June meeting before seeking formal approval. AGREED To approve the Code of Conduct for Responsible Practice of Research Policy and the University Reviews Policy and to upload these policies to the website.
6.3	<u>Update on process regarding External Effectiveness Review</u> NOTED Dr Ward and Ms Ryan from the IPA were welcomed to the meeting. Dr Ward presented details of the methodology and timeline relating to the process of external review of Governing Body Effectiveness, as required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. He indicated that initial interactions would include the Chairperson and University Secretary, and circulation of a questionnaire will be actioned in the coming weeks. He further outlined the actions and tasks that will be carried out over the term of the review with a view to completing same by the end of November 2025. The Chairperson welcomed the clear and organised plan and looked forward to participating. He thanked Dr Ward and Ms Ryan for their presentation and they both left the meeting.

7.	**<u>Academic Council:</u>** NOTED Academic Council Minutes 8th April 2025. The President drew attention to discission regarding Academic Freedom, noting that this is ongoing and will revert to the Policy Committee and Governing Body in due course.
9. *9.1* *9.2*	**<u>Minutes of GB Committees:</u>** NOTED Audit & Risk Committee draft minutes of 1st April 2025. NOTED Policy Committee draft minutes of 16th April 2025.
  B1. **B2.**	**<u>SECTION B:</u>** AGREED To approve senior Staff Appointments as presented for Director of Capital Projects and VP People, Culture & EDI. NOTED Draft minutes regarding SETU Subsidiaries/DAC's.
10.	**<u>AOB:</u>** NOTED The Chairperson thanked the Governing Body for their input and reminded all of the upcoming special meeting. The President sought approval to share the report of the independent advisor with relevant senior executive members. Governing Body approval was granted in this regard. NOTED The Chairperson indicated that he had arranged to conduct a private meeting of external Governing Body members at this point. There being no other business to attend to he thanked all and closed the meeting at 5.15pm. The President, University Secretary, Secretariat and Governing Body staff members excused themselves from the meeting. The meeting of the external members concluded at 6 pm.

Approved: **Date:** <u>17th June 2025</u>