



**SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

***COURSE EVALUATION 2***

**ASSESSORS' REPORT TO ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**COURSE EVALUATED:** Master of Business Studies in Corporate Governance  
(Level 9, 90 credits)

**FACULTY:** Business

**DEPARTMENT:** Graduate Business

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The following is a review report to Academic Council from the panel of assessors on the proposal from the Faculty of Business at South East Technological University to develop a Master of Business Studies in Corporate Governance (Level 9, 90 credits). In accordance with the regulations governing the evaluation of new programme proposals, as set out in the South East Technological University *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures*, the programme proposal was reviewed by a panel of assessors.

The panel of assessors who contributed to this report were:

- Ciaran Lynch, Former Development Manager, Limerick Institute of Technology (Chair)
- Prof. Niamh M. Brennan, Emeritus Full Professor, Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin
- Dr Geraldine Cleere, Academic Council Representative, South East Technological University
- Dr Colin Hughes, Head of Graduate Business School, Technological University Dublin
- Ciara Long, Associate Director, Corporate Secretarial Services, Waystone, Cashel
- Dr Colette Moloney, Assistant Registrar, South East Technological University
- Imelda Murphy, Global Head of Company Secretarial, Caire Group, Dublin
- Mary O'Connor, Student Representative, Mary Immaculate College, Thurles

In accordance with the regulations set out in the aforementioned *Programme Quality Assurance Enhancement Policy and Procedures*, a review meeting took place on 29 May 2025. The review meeting was conducted virtually via MS Teams. In the course of the meeting, the panel of assessors met with the programme development team. The following members of the South East Technological University team were present:

- Dr Tom O'Toole, Head of Faculty of Business, South East Technological University
- Dr Patricia Bowe, Head of Department of Management and Organisation, South East Technological University
- Prof. Denis Harrington, Head of Department of Graduate Business, South East Technological University
- Ger Long, Head of Department of Accounting and Economics, South East Technological University

- Dr Sean Byrne, Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Economics, South East Technological University
- John Casey, Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Economics, South East Technological University
- Dr Mrinal Chadha, Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Economics, South East Technological University
- Dr Collette Kirwan, Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Economics, South East Technological University
- Dr Paul Morrissey, Lecturer, Department of Management and Organisation, South East Technological University
- Dr Helen O’Keeffe, Department of Accounting and Economics, South East Technological University
- Pat Ryan, Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Economics, South East Technological University
- Dr Katie Scallan, Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Economics, South East Technological University

The assessors wish to thank the members of the development team for engaging generously and openly with the review process.

## **2. SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS**

### *2.1 General Remarks*

The panel commends the faculty on proposing a substantive programme at Level 9 to meet the training requirements of the sector. The panel **recommends approval of the Master of Business Studies in Corporate Governance (Level 9, 90 credits)** until the next Review in the Faculty of Business. **Approval is conditional on the submission of a revised programme document that takes account of the conditions and recommendations outlined below; and the submission of a summary document describing the responses and actions of the faculty to address the conditions and recommendations made by the review panel.**

Areas for attention have been emboldened in the text for convenience of reference. Action is required on items marked ‘Conditions’ and such action is mandatory if the programme is to be approved; action is highly recommended on items marked ‘Recommendations’.

## 2.2 Conditions

- **The module descriptors and relevant programme schedules should be reviewed for consistency, particularly in the area of contact hours proposed. The new modules should be entered on the SETU module catalogue when access to same is restored.**
- **The module and programme learning outcomes should be reviewed to ensure that all are expressed at the appropriate level and use measurable verbs.**

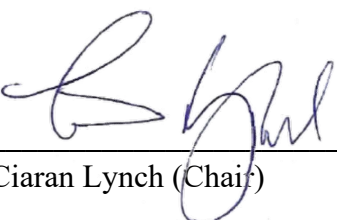
## 2.3 Recommendations

- **It was not clear from the proposal document if the programme is designed as a postgraduate programme to prepare early-career graduates for employment in the corporate governance sector or if it is an executive programme to upskill experienced practitioners in the sector. The faculty should consider the nature of the intended cohort for the programme, articulate same more clearly in the document, and reflect same in the entry requirements.**
- **Consideration should be given to replacing the module ‘Research Paper Series 2: International Business and Politics’ with a capstone project or a research paper more relevant to corporate governance. The programme and special regulations should be revisited to ensure that the research paper or capstone project is always completed in the final year of study.**
- **The volume and level of detail included in the indicative content on individual module descriptors varies considerably. The faculty should review the volume of content proposed in individual modules and the level of detail in which it is expressed to ensure consistency between modules. The proposed aims and content of modules should be streamlined to have a corporate governance focus, to reflect a clearer distinction between management and governance roles, and to incorporate the specific requirements of a specialist corporate governance programme.**

- The faculty should use this opportunity to update both existing and new modules to include sustainability, artificial intelligence, and regulatory requirements in jurisdictions outside of Ireland (at a high level).
- To enhance the learning experience of participants, the faculty should ensure that all modules on the programme are delivered from a corporate governance perspective, whether the delivery is shared with other programmes or bespoke to the cohort. Corporate governance expertise within the Department and external experts in the area should be employed to facilitate the contextualising of the delivery.
- The programme learning outcomes should be reviewed to ensure that all are expressed in language appropriate to Level 9 and follow from the typical opening ‘On successful completion of this programme the graduate will:’
- The faculty should engage with employers prior to scheduling the block delivery modules and facilitate the industry by not requiring learners to take study leave during business workload pressure points in the sector e.g. avoid scheduling block delivery in the month of April or June.
- The following are recommendations on individual modules:

Module Title	Recommendation
Information Analysis	The faculty should consider if ‘Information Analysis’ is the most appropriate title to reflect the nature and content of the module.
Strategic Development and Implementation	Should the title of the module be ‘Strategy Development and Implementation’ rather than ‘Strategic Development and Implementation’?

Signed:

  
Ciaran Lynch (Chair)

Date:

14/07/2025