Minutes of Special Governing Body meeting

Date:	Thursday 31st July 2025, Via MS Teams
Time:	4.00pm
Chairperson:	Professor Patrick Prendergast
Attendees:	Professor Veronica Campbell Ms Eileen Curtis Dr David Dempsey Mr Jim Bergin Dr Zeta Dooly Dr Greg Doyle Ms Louise Grubb Ms Pauline Oakes Mr Richard Lacey Mr Derek Sheridan Ms Louise Walsh Ms Trish Finegan
Apologies:	Mr Kevin Lewis Ms Ruth Beadle

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

In attendance for Agenda Item 2:
Mr Tony Minogue, Independent Advisor to Governing Body

Secretariat: Ms Susan Green

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 business of the meeting. 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. Mr Bergin indicated that he had a previous working relationship with Mr Minogue however it was deemed not to be a conflict. No other members present declared a conflict for this meeting.

2. **Update on IT Recovery:**

NOTED The Chairperson welcomed Mr Minogue to the meeting noting his role as independent advisor to the Governing Body however reminded all that this role has since evolved, and Mr Minogue has been providing advice and support to the President and members of Executive Management Team during the course of the IT Recovery Phase.

2.1 NOTED Mr Minogue commenced by confirming that the recovery phase is almost complete however it will be necessary to be proactive and reactive in the coming months to ensure that the go live schedule is in line with business as usual. He advised that the stabilsation phase should now commence and stressed the importance of managing expectations as systems come on stream and new security policies are introduced.

2.2 NOTED The President provided an update on the status of recovery tasks as follows:

- 130 tasks required for recovery noting that as at 31st July, 124 of these tasks are complete and 6 are in progress due to external dependencies, however completion dates for these tasks have been agreed for early August;
- Details on what users can expect in the new academic year;
- Ongoing communications updates and plans;
- Commitment to providing continued support to resources;
- The establishment of an IT Steering Committee to provide strategic direction for IT related projects and the development of Terms of Reference and Membership for this committee.

The President extended her gratitude to the IT Team for their efforts and commitment to the recovery phase and also to Mr Minogue for his directness and expert advice in recent months. The President then requested approval from the Governing Body to close-out the IT Recovery phase following the cyber-attack of October 2024.

The Chairperson thanked the President and Mr Minogue for their updates and prior to opening the floor to the Governing Body, Mr Minogue set out a number of considerations going forward as follows;

- Formal Lessons Learned Review;
- Strategic Direction;
- IT Enterprise Architecture;
- Operational Frameworks;
- External Reviews;
- Synergies with other organisation.

The Chairperson then enquired from the Governing Body whether they agree to close out the recovery phase and accept the recommendations outlined by Mr. Minogue. The Governing Body commended the scale of work completed to bring the recovery phase to a conclusion, recognising the commitment of staff during this time. They also stressed the importance of ongoing support and resources to ensure that progress of the stabilsation phase continues and that regular updates are provided to the Governing Body. The President confirmed that the stabilisation stage will include a continuation of the weekly oversight meetings and there will be very close monitoring of the situation particularly related to the preparations for the commencement of the academic year and the first semester. The President also undertook to take on board the comments of the Governing Body in relation to the Terms of Reference for an IT Steering Committee. The Terms of Reference will be brought to the September meeting of Governing Body.

AGREED It was therefore agreed that the objectives set for the Recovery Phase have been achieved and therefore to approve and sign off completion of the IT Recovery Phase.

ACTION To establish an IT Steering Committee and develop Terms of Reference and membership as appropriate.

10. **<u>AOB:</u>**

NOTED The Chairperson provided context to actions recommended following an independent review of the operations and financial performance of SETU Campus Services CLG t/a Novus. In implementing same it has been recommended to appoint the Senior Vice President for Operations /Chief Operations Officer as Chairperson of the board. The President therefore sought approval for the following appointments;

- Mr David Denieffe, Chief Operations Office, as Chairperson;
- Mr Comac O'Toole, Vice President Finance, as Director;
- Ms Elaine Sheridan, VP Governance/University Secretary, as Secretary.

Dr. Derek O'Byrne will also remain as a Director.

AGREED To approve the appointments as recommend above.

There being no other matters to attend to, the Chairperson thanked all and closed the meeting at 17.03pm.

Approved:

Date: 23rd September 2025