

Minutes of Special Governing Body meeting

Date: Wednesday, 4th March 2026

Time: 4.00pm via MS Teams

Chairperson: Professor Patrick Prendergast

Attendees: Professor Veronica Campbell
Ms Ruth Beadle
Ms Eileen Curtis
Dr David Dempsey
Dr Greg Doyle
Ms Trish Finegan
Professor Marie-Christine Ho Ba Tho
Mr Richard Lacey
Professor Hannah McGee
Mr Derek Sheridan
Ms Louise Walsh

Apologies: Mr Jim Bergin
Ms Lucy Kate Bosch
Dr Zeta Dooly
Ms Louise Grubb
Mr Kevin Lewis
Ms Erin Ní Fhoghlú
Ms Pauline Oakes
Ms Aisling O'Beirne

In attendance under the Code of Governance:

Ms Elaine Sheridan, VP Governance /University Secretary

Secretariat: Ms Annette Byrne

Item Title	
1.	<u>Chairperson's Opening:</u>
1.1	<u>Welcome & approval of Agenda</u> NOTED The Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting in particular new member Professor McGee and thanked all for making themselves available for this special meeting. Professor McGee provided a brief self-introduction and indicated that she looks forward to meeting members in person at the meeting on March 31 st .
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.
Confirming the meeting was quorate and with approval of the agenda the Chairperson commenced the business of the meeting.	

2. Senior Appointment

NOTED The Chairperson noted that the purpose of convening the special meeting is to consider the recommendation of a candidate for the role of Chief Academic Officer & Deputy President. He then asked the President to outline the recommendation being presented. The President firstly thanked the Governing Body for agreeing to the special meeting, noting that the early request for approval is to enable the candidate to commence the resignation process with their current employer and fulfil the required notice period in order to commence in the role at the start of September 2026. The President also stated that it would allow for a staff communication on the matter. The President confirmed that, different to the roles of Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer, only the Chief Academic Officer includes the role of Deputy President as part of their job description and in line with the role advertised.

NOTED The VP Governance reminded members of the delegation approved in May 2022 that gives consent to the President to delegate, in writing, various functions to the senior management team in line with respective job descriptions. It was noted that as the senior roles were not established at the time of this particular delegation and that an updated delegation would be submitted to the Governing Body for approval in due course.

NOTED The Chairperson then requested the Governing Body to consider the recommendation for appointment to the role of Chief Academic Officer & Deputy President as presented. Additional clarifications were provided regarding academic leadership experience and the probation period pertaining to the role.

AGREED Unanimous approval from the Governing Body to appoint Professor Harriet Dunbar-Morris to the role of Chief Academic Officer & Deputy President on a five-year fixed term contract basis.

10. AOB:

There being no other matters to attend to, the Chairperson thanked all and closed the meeting at 4.20pm.

Approved:



Date: **31st March 2026**