Commercialisation Committee

Annual Report to Governing Body

2025 / 2026

16th June 2026

setu.ie

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Oirdheiscirt
South East Technological University

Contents

1. Introduction

The Commercialisation Committee is a sub-committee of the Finance and Capital Investment Committee (FCIC), which is itself a committee of the Governing Body. The Committee's remit is to support and encourage the work of the Technology Transfer Office (TTO), while ensuring that appropriate standards of governance and good practice are applied to all aspects of the commercialisation process.

Agendas, Minutes and Terms of Reference of the Commercialisation Committee can be found here.

2. Membership

As per Terms of Reference, the members of the Commercialisation Committee are:

- Ms Louise Grubb, Chairperson
- Dr James O'Sullivan, Head of Innovation & Commercialisation
- Mr Cormac O'Toole, VP Finance/Financial Controller
- Ms Elaine Sheridan, VP Governance/University Secretary
- Professor Marie Claire Van Hout, VP Research, Innovation & Impact
- Dr Anne Graham, Staff nominee
- Dr Frances Hardiman, Staff nominee
- Mr Brian Ogilvie, Staff nominee
- Dr Aisling O'Neill, Staff nominee
- Dr Rich Ferrie, External member

The Technology Transfer Manager will support the Commercialisation Committee.

A member of the administrative staff acts as recording secretary to the Committee.

3. Meetings

During the reporting period (1/9/2025 – 30/6/2026), the Commercialisation Committee met on three occasions.

Number of Meetings (3)	Attendance	Dates
Ms Louise Grubb	3/3	29/10/2025, 22/1/2026, 18/5/2026
Dr James O'Sullivan	3/3	
Mr Cormac O'Toole	3/3	
Ms Elaine Sheridan	3/3	
Professor Marie Claire Van Hout	2/3	
Dr Anne Graham	0/3	
Dr Frances Hardiman	3/3	
Mr Brian Ogilvie	2/3	
Dr Aisling O'Neill	Extended leave	
Dr Rich Ferrie	3/3	

4. Key Activities and Discussions

Since the establishment of the Commercialisation Committee, and in carrying out the responsibilities as per the Terms of Reference, the following matters have been reviewed and considered:

- Conducted a comprehensive review of the activities carried out by the Technology Transfer Office (TTO), including the management of spin-out activities, external engagement work, and the oversight of potential conflicts of interest associated with these activities;
- Reviewed, considered, and made recommendations in relation to proposals for potential spin-out company opportunities;
- Reviewed, considered, and provided recommendations on potential investment opportunities;
- Examined Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (KTI) reporting metrics, along with other relevant performance indicators and measurement frameworks;
- Reviewed the University's overall portfolio of spin-out companies and licensing arrangements.
- Recommended the extension of the University's Intellectual Property Policy pending the outcome of a national Intellectual Property Protocol Review;
- Received a presentation on an **Impact Licensing Initiative**, outlining its objectives and the anticipated benefits for research impact and commercialisation activities across the University;
- Received a presentation on the **TU-RISE (Technological University Research & Innovation Supporting Enterprise)** strategic initiative, noting the range of programmes and work packages under the initiative, as well as the allocation of targeted funding to support each work package.

5. Other activities

During the reporting period, SETU commissioned the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) to conduct an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the Governing Body and its committees. The review assessed performance and governance practices and reported on its findings and recommendations.

Feedback from members of the Governing Body was analysed alongside the review findings to inform a consolidated set of observations and recommendations. This feedback indicated a neutral response about the effectiveness and reporting of the Commercialisation Committee and also the Committee's relationship with the Finance & Capital Investment Committee.

The review also identified a programme of recommendations and specific areas of focus for the Commercialisation Committee over the next 12 months, which are intended to guide the Committee's work plan during that period.

The Chairperson welcomed the external Effectiveness Review of the Governing Body and its Committees and noted the positive outcome of the review. Further consultation with the Governance Unit on the development of an implementation plan for the recommendations is forthcoming.

6. Conclusion

Finally, the committee wishes to extend its gratitude to those who have provided support during the year.

On behalf of the Commercialisation Committee:

Ms Louise Grubb

Chairperson

16th June 2026