



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

Minutes of the 40th ATU Governing Body Meeting
Held on Monday 16th February 2026 at 10am at the Donegal –
Letterkenny Campus and on TEAMS

Present:

Maura McNally – online	MMcN
Dr Orla Flynn – in person	OF
Conor Murphy – in person	CM
Dara Foynes – online	DF
Dr Brian De Souza – online	BDS
Dr John Bartlett – in person	JB
Dr Martin Robinson – in person	MR
Emil Kindl – in person	EK
Joanne Grehan – online	JG
Joe Cunningham – in person	JC
John Daffy – online	JD
Joseph Sweeney – in person	JS
Kathya Rouse – in person	KR
Naomi Walsh – online	NW
Professor Rachel Ashworth – online	RA
Regina Daly – in person	RD
Thomas Gallagher – in person	TG
Seamus Hughes – in person	SH

In attendance:

Jim Fennell (Secretary) – in person	JF
Dr Billy Bennett – in person	BB
Carol Geraghty (Recording Secretary) – in person	CG
Shane O'Connor – in person – items 6.1, 6.3 & 9	SO'C
Henry McGarvey – online – items 5.6, 6.3.5 – 6.3.8 & 8	HMcG
Helen McGrandles – online – items 5.4 & 5.5	HMcGra

Apologies: none

At the request of MMcN, JC chaired the meeting.

JC conveyed the condolences of the Governing Body to Maura McNally on the passing of her mother Milly and to the family of the late Michael O'Neill, one of the founding members of the Community Development Company Connemara West, who played a major role in the establishment of the campus at Letterfrack.

GB 40.01 Declaration of Conflicts of Interests

No conflicts of interest were declared at the start of the meeting.

GB 40.02 Approval of Governing Body Minutes

GB 40.02.1 Minutes of 8th December 2025

Decision: The minutes of the 8th December 2025 Governing Body meeting were approved on the proposal of CM and seconded by JB.

GB 40.02.2 Minutes of 19th December 2025

Decision: The minutes of the 19th December 2025 Governing Body meeting were approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by KR.

GB 40.03 Matters Arising & Correspondence

GB 40.03.1 Governing Body Log of Actions

The Governing Body Log of Actions was circulated to members prior to the meeting. JF summarised "propose closed" items. Papers were provided for actions 209 & 215.

Decision: On the proposal of CM and seconded by SH all actions listed as "propose closed" to be closed.

GB 40.03.1.1 Action 209 – Summary of Legal Advice re Section 89 of TU Act

The following changes were agreed:

- Statutory Framework section for the TU Act 2018 Section 11(1) &(1A) – replace "GB must **oversee** university functions" with "GB must **exercise oversight of** university functions"
- Governance Responsibilities at-a-Glance section replace "Assurance **Arrangements**" with "Assurance **Framework**"

GB 40.03.2 Report from Subcommittee with Delegated Authority

A report and copy of the documents circulated was provided for information. OF provided a summary of the meeting. It was noted that the *Contract Type & Term* for the Head of Department of Architecture should read [REDACTED]

GB 40.04 President's Report

GB 40.04.1 President's Update to Governing Body

OF summarised the report circulated in advance of the meeting giving further updates as follows:

- A mid-term review of the University's Strategic Plan has commenced.
- The first pages of the report give an indication of the extent of the President's travel between ATU campuses since the last GB meeting.
- ARISE funding launch 9th February – this is an initiative supported by private philanthropy that supports breakfast clubs being rolled out to all campuses.
- The Faculty of Science & Health secured "reasonable assurance" from the Veterinary Council of Ireland for the new Veterinary degree, confirming alignment with accreditation standards and enabling progression toward full programme approval. This is a significant milestone for this programme.
- The schools and faculties established across the University have started to meet and come together as unitary entities e.g. School of Nursing & Healthcare recently met at the Sligo campus, School of Health, Sports Science & Nutrition recently met at the Mayo campus, the entire Engineering & Computing Faculty recently met online.
- Disengagement from the X platform – members supported this move. In response to a question about the TUA stance on this, OF advised the meeting that there was not a unified approach across TUA members at this time.
- TUA has recruited a Chief Executive, an announcement on this is expected in the coming weeks.

GB 40.04.2 UPT Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 11th November & 15th December UPT meetings were circulated for information. From January 2026 the University Planning Team meeting has been replaced with the Senior Leadership Team meeting; SLT meeting minutes will be provided going forward.

GB 40.05 Items for Approval

GB 40.05.1 Staff Appointment

The following staff appointment was presented for approval:

Post	Location on Job Advert	Location	Contract Type & Term	Grade	Basis for Appointment	Recommended Candidate
Director of Academic Affairs and Quality	Any ATU Campus	Galway City Campus				Dr Sean Duignan

Decision: This post was approved on the proposal of RD and seconded by CM.

GB 40.05.2 2026 HEA & ATU Oversight Agreement

The 2026 HEA & ATU Oversight Agreement was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Decision: 2026 HEA & ATU Oversight Agreement was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by DF.

Action: Discuss the timing of budget allocation with HEA at the Budget & Accountability meeting in March.

GB 40.05.3 Appointment of Members to the Second Academic Council

As outlined in the Membership Regulations for the Second Academic Council approved by GB in December 2025, members have been appointed through nomination and election. Reference Appendix A for a list of nominated and elected members of the second Academic Council.

A number of seats are vacant as a result of:

- (1) Insufficient nominations were received for the *Faculty of Business – Men* and *Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science – Men* Constituencies. It was proposed that a second election would be run for these constituencies. If vacancies arise during the term of AC for constituencies where reserves spaces have not been filled a by-election will be held.
- (2) Specific roles not yet being filled. As specific roles are filled the post holder will assume membership of Academic Council.

Decision: On the proposal of SH and seconded by JB the membership of the second Academic Council detailed in Appendix A was approved for a term of three years until 15 February 2029.

Decision: On the proposal of MR and seconded by KR approval was given to run a second election in accordance with the election regulations approved in December 2025.

GB 40.05.4 Staff Development Policy

GB 40.05.5 Fee Support Policy

HMcGra joined the meeting and provided the background to the policies and information about the consultation undertaken for these policies. The Staff Development team will be reporting metrics related to these policies to the SLT.

Decision: V1 of the Staff Development Policy was approved on the proposal of EK and seconded by KR.

Decision: V1 of the Fee Support Policy was approved on the proposal of EK and seconded by MR.

GB 40.05.6 Signature on Deed of Covenant and Use of Seal

HMcG joined the meeting and advised that a gym extension on the Letterkenny campus is being funded through a combination of funding from the sports capital grant and University capital reserves. As part of the sports capital grant process, various conditions/charges are placed on the land in question. Based on an assessment by the University's legal advisors, we may need to make an application to Land Registry for a new folio in support of the requirements of the sports grant approval process.

Decision: On the proposal of JB and seconded by CM approval was given to apply the University seal to:

- The Deed of Transfer for the subdivision of Folio DL 97930F, if required.
- Both a deed of covenant and a deed of charge, following review and approval by the University's legal representatives and the CSSO.

GB 40.06 Committee & Subcommittee Reports

GB 40.06.1 Report from Joint ARC & FSC Meeting on 19th December 2025

A joint meeting of ARC and FSC reviewed the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st August 2024 following completion of the audit by the C&AG, these Financial statements were subsequently approved by GB at a meeting on 19th December.

GB 40.06.2 Report from Strategic Development Subcommittee Meeting of 26th January 2026

KR presented the report from the Strategic Development Subcommittee Meeting of 26th January 2026. The meeting discussed costs involved in capital development, the legislation and processes with which public sector bodies must comply and the potential impact on cost of design changes.

GB 40.06.2.1 Terms of Reference Version 1.3

No changes are proposed to the TOR at this time, the membership of the SDS is currently being considered by the subcommittee.

Decision: V1.3 of the SDS TOR was approved on the proposal of CM and seconded by JB.

GB 40.06.3 Report from ARC Meeting of 27th January 2026

SO'C presented the report from the ARC meeting of 27th January. The following are recommended by ARC for approval.

GB 40.06.3.1 Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a statutory annual return to the HEA that confirms the University's governance arrangements, internal control mechanisms & full compliance with the Code of Practice. The AGS has been reviewed by the SLT and scrutinised by the ARC. On approval by the GB it will be submitted to the HEA. In response to clarification requested for the cost associated with an

item entitled Investigations on Internal Matters (Table 4.iii) the meeting was advised that this related to a collective grievance where, at the request of the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), a number of consultation rooms were booked.

Decision: Subject to the inclusion of the above clarification, the AGS was approved on the proposal of KR and seconded by JB.

GB 40.06.3.2 Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members

At the request of GB, ARC reviewed the proposed updates to the Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members from a governance perspective. ARC recommended approval of the proposed changes. Members were reminded that this is a live document which can be amended in the future if required. A vote on this decision was called for in accordance with section 11.1.5 of the Standing Orders. A member expressed significant concern about the legality of the provisions contained within Sections 4.8.1 and 4.8.2 of the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct for GB Members.

Decision: V3 of the Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members was approved following a vote. Vote results:
For 15 | Against 2 | Abstained 1

GB 40.06.3.3 Interim Code of Governance

The Interim Code of Governance has been updated to reflect the responsibilities of GB as outlined in the HEA Act 2022, findings from the 2016 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies gap analysis and the IPA evaluation completed in 2025.

Decision: V1.1 of the Interim Code of Governance was approved on the proposal of CM and seconded by KR

GB 40.06.3.4 Protected Disclosures Annual Report

The statutory annual report under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 (as amended) covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2025 – no protection disclosures were received during 2025.

Decision: The 2025 Protected Disclosures Annual Report was approved on the proposal of KR and seconded by CM.

GB 40.06.3.5 Software & Cloud Platform Evaluation Policy

This new Policy establishes the framework for evaluating software and cloud services to ensure security, compliance, and value for money. Includes assessment criteria for data protection, vendor reliability, and integration requirements.

Decision: V1.0 of the Software & Cloud Platform Evaluation Policy was approved on the proposal of MR and seconded by TG.

GB 40.06.3.6 Cyber and Data Protection Training Policy

This is a new Policy which mandates comprehensive training for all staff and students on cybersecurity awareness and data protection obligations. This policy aligns with GDPR requirements and sector best practice for information security.

Decision: V1.0 of the Cyber and Data Protection Training Policy was approved on the proposal of KR and seconded by MMCN.

GB 40.06.3.7 IT Asset Management Policy

This new Policy provides a systematic approach to managing IT assets throughout their lifecycle and gives a mechanism for tracking, maintenance, and security of the University's technology resources.

Decision: V1.0 of the IT Asset Management Policy was approved on the proposal of KR and seconded by CM.

GB 40.06.3.8 Acquisition & Disposal of Property & Property Leasing Policy

This new Policy sets out the governance framework for property transactions including acquisition, disposal, and leasing arrangements. Ensures appropriate due diligence, value assessment, and approval processes. The following clarifications were requested:

Section 4 Governance:

- Replace UPT with SLT
- Include full details of acronym CPC
- Change value for SLT / CPC approval to €200,001 - €999,999
- Change value for Governing Body approval to €1,000,000+

Section 5 Reporting

- Replace "€200,001 - €1,000,001+" with "€200,001+"

Decision: Subject to inclusion of the requested clarifications, V1.0 of the Acquisition & Disposal of Property & Property Leasing Policy was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JB.

Action: Bring V1.0 of this Policy to the Strategic Development Subcommittee for information. Any future updates to this policy to be brought to the SDS before going to GB.

GB 40.06.3.9 Bank Mandate

The bank mandate was updated to reflect current organisational requirements and banking institution procedural changes. There were no changes to authorised signatories; the proposed updates related

solely to administrative amendments - added Sharon Conway, Catherine O'Reilly and Clare Feerick as online banking file approvers (authoriser one of two) for the University's bank accounts, ref Appendix B.

Decision: The updates to the bank mandate as reflected in appendix B were approved on the proposal of CM and seconded by MMcN.

GB 40.06.4 Report from Honorary Doctorate Committee Meeting of 3rd February 2026

OF presented the report from the Honorary Doctorate Committee Meeting of 3rd February 2026:

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved
- A new student representative was welcomed to the Committee
- The Terms of Reference were reviewed & changes are proposed
- The meeting endorsed two candidates for recommendation to the Governing Body
- Arrangements for conferring to be finalised pending approval by GB and availability of the nominees.

A summary of the accomplishments of the two nominees being endorsed was presented to the meeting. Members were requested to keep the names of the candidates confidential until they are officially announced.

Decision: [REDACTED] were recommended by the Honorary Doctorate Committee and were approved by GB on the proposal of RD and seconded by EK.

GB 40.06.4.1 Update to Honorary Doctorate Committee Terms of Reference

OF summarised the proposed changes to the TOR.

Decision: V1.1 of the Honorary Doctorate Committee Terms of Reference was approved on the proposal of JG and seconded by DF.

GB 40.07 Report from Student Representatives

JS presented information about surveys on the timing of Semester 1 exams and student accommodation and provided details of the ongoing work on the SU merger.

Members thanked JS for the clear, concise and informative presentation.

GB 40.08 Student Social Infrastructure on the Galway City-Dublin Rd Campus

HMCG presented information about a change made on the Galway City-Dublin Rd campus to provide additional social space for students. The space opened in January and there are plans to improve it over the summer months. The Buildings & Estates team on the Galway City-Dublin Rd campus was commended for their work on this.

GB 40.09 Corporate Governance

GB 40.09.1 Annual GB Effectiveness Review – Self Assessment

The proposed questions for the annual GB Effectiveness Review were circulated in advance of the meeting. SOC advised that the review will be circulated to members on MS Forms. The results will be collated and presented at a future GB meeting.

Decision: The annual GB Effectiveness Review was approved on the proposal of CM and seconded by KR.

GB 40.09.2 Statement of Interest (SIPO) Declaration

SOC reminded members that members of Governing Body are required to furnish an annual statement of interests. For the 2025 return this is an on-line form.

GB 40.09.3 Skills Matrix Survey

SOC advised that, as recommended by the IPA following their evaluation of GB in 2025, a skills, experience and diversity matrix is being drafted. In order to draft this matrix a survey was circulated to members. Members are asked to complete the survey by Friday 20th February. The results will be report to GB at a future meeting.

GB 40.10 AOB

GB 40.10.1 Sponsorship Schedule

The sponsorship schedule, summarising sponsorship approves since September 2025, was provided for information.

Action: Annual report to GB outlining sponsorship profile.

Action: Annual report to GB on sponsorship with value under €1,000 which have been declared to the Sponsorship Committee.

Action: Sponsorship Committee to review the definition of sponsorship vis-a-vis marketing.


GB 40.10.2 Scheule of Agenda Items

The schedule of agenda items was provided for information. This is a live document and is subject to change as required. OF requested a regular agenda item – Presentation from Dean of Faculty.

Action: Allocate time on the meeting agenda for strategic items & Report from Deans of Faculty.

Action Agenda item for next GB meeting - ATU & AI.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th March 2026 at the Sligo campus and on TEAMS.

Signed: 
Chairperson

Date: 20/04/26

Appendix A – Membership of the Second Academic Council

Membership	Name
President	Dr Orla Flynn
Registrar and Chief Academic Officer	Dr Billy Bennett
Chief Officer Research, Innovation and Engagement	Dr Brendan Jennings
Dean of Business	Dr Amelia Au-Yeung
Dean of Engineering and Computing	Professor Graham Heaslip
Dean of Design, Education & Social Science	Dr Paddy Tobin
Dean of Science and Health	Dr Joanne Gallagher
Nominees of the President	Professor Frances Lucy
Nominees of the President	Dr Nicola Anderson
Nominees of Registrar and Chief Academic Officer, one senior officer from each of the areas: (i) Teaching and Learning	Dr Carina Ginty
Nominees of Registrar and Chief Academic Officer, one senior officer from each of the areas: (ii) Student Services	Dr Michele Glacken
Nominees of Registrar and Chief Academic Officer, one senior officer from each of the areas: (iii) Academic Affairs and Quality	Director of Academic Affairs ^{Note 1}
Nominees of Registrar and Chief Academic Officer, one senior officer from each of the areas: (iv) Global	John Andy Bonar
Nominees of Registrar and Chief Academic Officer, one senior officer from each of the areas: (v) Librarian	Librarian
Nominees of Chief Officer Research, Innovation and Engagement, one senior officer from each of the areas: (i) Flexible, Online and Part time Learning	Professor Jacqueline McCormack
Nominees of Chief Officer Research, Innovation and Engagement, one senior officer from each of the areas: (ii) Research	Head of Graduate Research School
Academic management nominated by Dean of Business	Dr Bronagh Heverin
Academic management nominated by Dean of Business	Professor Gary Kerr
Academic management nominated by Dean of Business	Dr Seamus Lennon
Academic management nominated by Dean of Engineering and Computing	Dr Carine Gachon
Academic management nominated by Dean of Engineering and Computing	Dr Trevor McSharry
Academic management nominated by Dean of Engineering and Computing	Dr Emmett Kerr
Academic management nominated by Dean of Design, Education & Social Science	Dr Helen Maguire
Academic management nominated by Dean of Design, Education & Social Science	Dr. Perry Share
Academic management nominated by Dean of Design, Education & Social Science	Head of School of Creative Industries
Academic management nominated by Dean of Science and Health	Dr Justin Kerr
Academic management nominated by Dean of Science and Health	Marita Kinsella
Academic management nominated by Dean of Science and Health	Damien Costello
Student representatives	Claire McCaul
Student representatives	Jesus Quaye-Saya
Student representatives	Chariene Grehan

Membership	Name
Student representatives	Mallikharjuna Sakhamuri
Student representatives	Gemma Haverly
PMSS staff (elected)	Gemma Lyons
PMSS staff (elected)	Catherine O'Reilly
PMSS staff (elected)	Niamh Plunkett
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Fiona Malone
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Dr Marion McAfee
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Helen McConnell
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Dr Mara Sintejudéanu
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Dr Cliona Rooney
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Dr Paul Greaney
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Martin Hynes
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Dr Liam Morris
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Dr Oran Morris
Faculty of Engineering and Computing	Dr John Scahill
Faculty of Business	Brian Morrissey
Faculty of Business	Dr Muslim Jameel Syed
Faculty of Business	New election required
Faculty of Business	New election required
Faculty of Business	New election required
Faculty of Business	Dr Gabriela Gliga
Faculty of Business	Dr Catherine McGuinn
Faculty of Business	Dr Valerie McTaggart
Faculty of Business	Dr Michelle Queally
Faculty of Business	Dr Amaya Vega
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Niamh MacCabe
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Dr Jess Mannion
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Dr Rita Melia
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Dr Kathryn McSweeney
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Dr Ailis Travers
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Dr Francis Cousins
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Dr Eamonn Furey
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Dr Tim Hannigan
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	Dr Leonard Taylor
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	New election required
Faculty of Science and Health	Agnes TullyClarke
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Christina Forbes
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Therese Montgomery
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Trish O'Connell
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Rosemary Smyth
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Stephen Daly

Membership	Name
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Ioannis Manolakis
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Luca Mirimin
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Suresh Pillai
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Cormac Quigley

Note 1 Dr Sean Duignan appointed to post of Director of Academic Affairs at 16th February 2026 GB meeting.



Audit & Risk Committee are recommending the Governing Body approval of the following:

Approval for revised list of AIB online banking users as specified below with three staff to be added as first approvers on AIB.

To note: First approvals for sending electronic files for payment are completed by a Grade 7 or Accountant in the ATU Finance Department and second approvals are completed by the President, a VP of Finance & Corporate Services or a Finance Manager.

BANK MANDATE PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL - LISTED BELOW

BANK ACCOUNT	PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL
AIB Current and Deposit accounts (Two signatories required)	<p>NO CHANGES</p> <p>AIB ATU Bank Mandate to be drawn up with authorised signatories currently (as approved by GB June 24):</p> <p>Dr Orla Flynn (President) Elizabeth McCabe (VP Finance & Corporate Services) Louise Kinane (Finance Manager) Declan Flavin (Finance Manager) Brid Prendergast (Finance Manager) Edel O'Connor (Finance Manager) Paul McEldowney (Finance Manager) David Keane (Finance Manager)</p>
Bank of Ireland Current Accounts	No change to existing bank mandate.
PTSB DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS (Three signatories required)	<p>No change to authorised signatories (As approved by GB 24.07.23)</p> <p>Dr Orla Flynn Elizabeth McCabe Louise Kinane Declan Flavin Brid Prendergast Edel O'Connor Paul McEldowney</p>

BANK ACCOUNT	PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL
AIB TREASURY SERVICES DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (Two signatories required)	No change to authorised signatories (As approved by GB 24.07.23) Elizabeth McCabe Louise Kinane Paul McEldowney Brid Prendergast

ONLINE BANKING – AIB – NEW MERGED ATU WIDE PROFILE	PROPOSED IBB ONLINE BANKING FILE APPROVERS
	For Approval
First Authoriser (One of)	Accountants/ Grade 7's Finance Department: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noreen Collum 2. Janette Gillen 3. Ann Marie Howard 4. Sharon Prendergast 5. Sean Boyce 6. Anne Marie Walsh 7. Sharon Gilchrest 8. Bernice Murphy 9. Pauline Collins 10. Angela Mulgannon 11. Clare Bourke 12. Josephine Fowley 13. Paul Toner 14. Declan Scanlon 15. Catherina Ronayne 16. Karen Deignan 17. Deirdre Cannon 18. Sharon Conway – appointed Grade 7 Accountant 19. Catherine O'Reilly – appointed Grade 7 20. Clare Feenick – appointed Grade 7
Second Authoriser (One of)	No change <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Orla Flynn 2. Elizabeth McCabe 3. Louise Kinane 4. Declan Flavin 5. Brid Prendergast 6. Edel O'Connor 7. Paul McEldowney 8. David Keane