



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

**Minutes of the 38th ATU Governing Body Meeting
Held on Monday 8th December 2025 at 10am at the Galway
City – Dublin Rd Campus and on TEAMS**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Jim Fennell (Secretary) – in person	JF
Dr Billy Bennett – in person	BB
Carol Geraghty (Recording Secretary) – in person	CG
Edel O'Connor – online – item 7.1	EO'C
Brid Prendergast – online – item 7.2	BP
Shane O'Connor – in person – items 7.3 & 9	SO'C
Dr Jacqueline O'Toole – online – item 7.4	JOT
Richard Neville, O'Flynn Exham Solicitors – online – item 9.2	RN

Apologies: Joanne Grehan, Kathya Rouse

GB 38.01 Declaration of Conflicts of Interests

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

GB 38.02 Approval of Governing Body Minutes

GB 38.02.1 Minutes of 3rd November 2025

A request was received to add an action to section GB37.05 - seek letter from legal advisors confirming advice provided to meeting.

Decision: Subject to inclusion of the above action, the minutes of the 3rd November 2025 Governing Body meeting were approved on the proposal of EK and seconded by JB.

GB 38.03 Matters Arising & Correspondence

Correspondence between a GB member and a Minister of State was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The member read a statement to the meeting.

GB 38.03.1 Governing Body Log of Actions

The Governing Body Log of Actions was circulated to members prior to the meeting. JF summarised “propose closed” items. A paper was provided for action 214.

Decision: On the proposal of MMcN and seconded by EK all actions listed as “propose closed” to be closed.

GB 38.04 President’s Report

GB 38.04.1 President’s Update to Governing Body

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

- Conferring – 5,200 graduates received major awards in 2025 (spring & autumn conferring ceremonies); the 20,000th student to graduate from ATU since 1st April 2022 was conferred on Tuesday 18th November.
- Research funding – Minister Lawless announced a new research fund, INSPIRE [Minister Lawless launches €750 million INSPIRE Research Infrastructure Investment Package](#)
- Professors for TU sector – expect to have a decision on this in the coming months.
- Senior Leadership Team – still awaiting approval to proceed with the final four posts.
- TUA (Technological Universities Association – replacement for THEA) – recruitment has commenced for a new CEO, expect to have a decision on this in the coming weeks.
- Faculty reports – as Deans and Faculty Operations Managers are appointed they will be providing regular reports to UPT. Key points of strategic importance from these reports will be included in the President’s updates to GB going forward.

Congratulations to JS on the article in the Donegal Daily on 13th November re men's mental health [Donegal student turns past struggles into campaign for men's mental health - Donegal Daily](#).

GB 38.04.2 UPT Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 20th October UPT meeting were circulated for information.

GB 35.05 Report from Chief Academic Officer & Registrar and Academic Council

GB 38.05.1 Membership Regulations for the Second Academic Council of ATU

Membership Regulations for the Second Academic Council of ATU were circulated, this document outlined the proposed membership, procedures for selection and appointment of members, term of office and eligibility for reappointment for the Second Academic Council of ATU.

Decision: Membership Regulations for the Second Academic Council of ATU were approved on the proposal of JB and seconded by JD.

GB 38.5.2 Extension of Term of Academic Council to 16th February 2026

The current Academic Council term expires on 31st December 2025 & elections are scheduled for February 2026, with members being appointed to the second Academic Council at the February 2026 GB meeting. Governing Body was asked to approve the extension of the term of the current Academic Council until elections for the second Academic Council are concluded.

Decision The extension of the term of the current Academic Council to 16th February 2026 was approved on the proposal of JC and seconded by EK.

GB 38.5.3 Regulations for the Conduct of Academic Council Elections

Regulations for the conduct of academic council elections were circulated prior to the meeting.

Decision: Regulations for the conduct of academic council elections were approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by EK.

GB 38.05.4 Academic Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 17th October 2025 Academic Council meeting were circulated for information.

GB 38.06 Items for Approval

GB 38.06.1 Staff Appointment

The following staff appointment was presented for approval:

Post	Location	Contract Type & Term	Grade	Basis for Appointment	Recommended Candidate
Capital Projects Manager	Galway City				Tomás Grimes

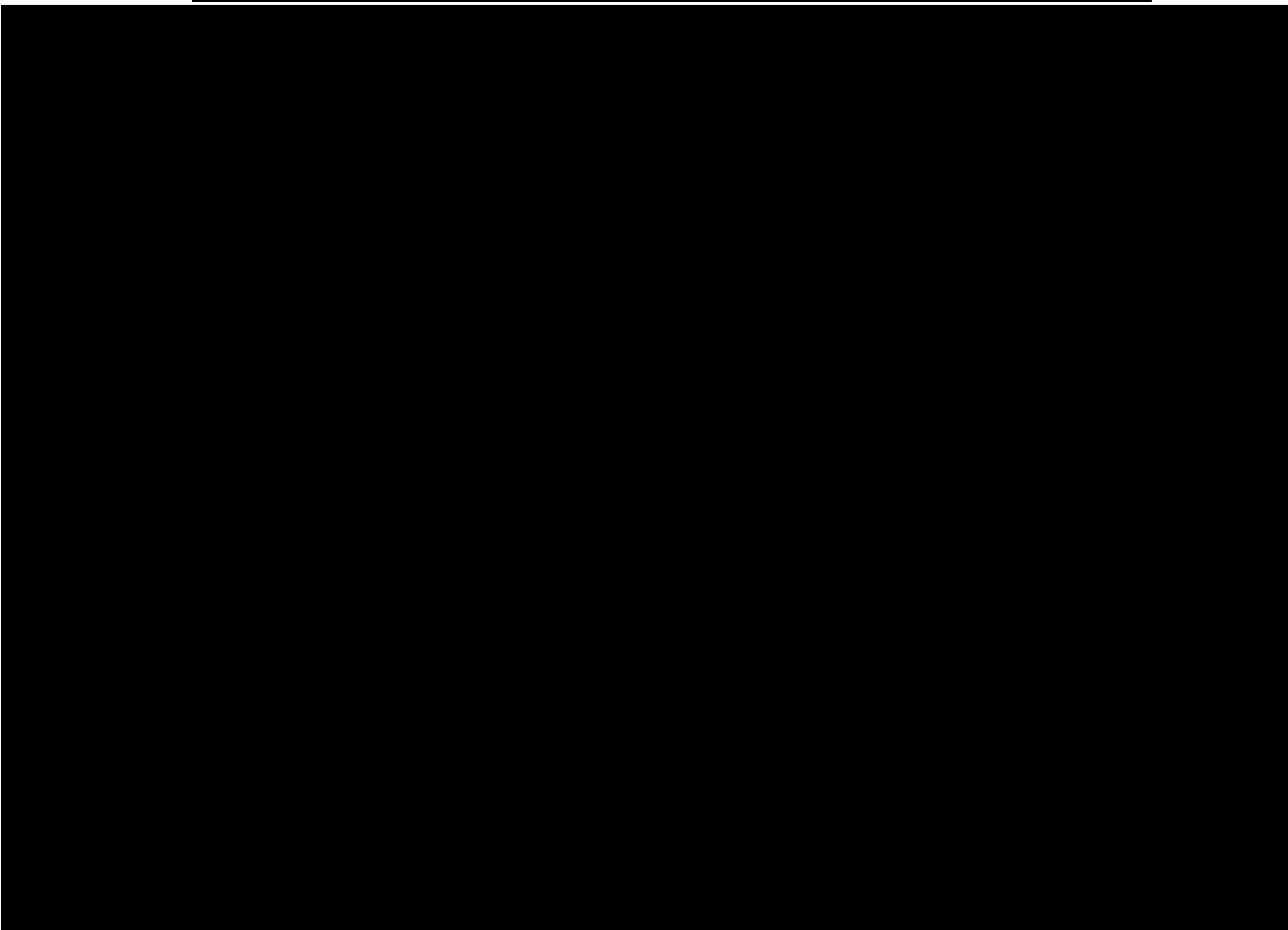
Decision: This post was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JD.

GB 38.06.2 Recruitment & Selection Procedure

The composition of selection boards section of the Recruitment & Selection Procedure was updated to take account of the Senior Leadership Team appointments of Chief Officer and Deans.

Decision: V1.3 of the Recruitment & Selection Procedure was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JD.

GB 38.06.3



GB 38.06.4 Request for Delegated Authority

Members considered a Delegation Resolution giving a subcommittee of GB consisting of the Governing Body Chair, the University President and one of either the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee or the Chair of the Finance Subcommittee the authority to:

1. Award contracts with a value more than €1m provided same are within the approved budget.
2. Make appointments to senior management grades provided same are within the approved budget.
3. Make senior leadership appointments provided the posts have been approved by DFHERIS and are within the approved budget.

The purpose of this delegation resolution is to facilitate the smooth running of the University until the Governing Body meets on 16th February 2026, at which time this delegation resolution shall expire.

Any contracts approved and appointments made under this delegation resolution shall be notified to the Governing Body at its meeting on Monday 16th February 2026 but shall not be subject to confirmation by Governing Body.

A list of potential delegations was provided to the meeting.

Decision: The delegation resolution was approved on the proposal of JB and seconded by RD.

GB 38.08 Student Presentation

TG presented an update on the work carried out by the Students Unions since the last meeting. The SU Presidents were commended for their work on the governance side of the SU integration project. The meeting discussed the information provided regarding student social infrastructure at the Galway City-Dublin Rd campus and the potential impact that this could have e.g. on student experience and retention. Members suggested short-term solutions and the possibility of a focus or working group, including student members, to formulate, communicate and implement short-term solutions. OF outlined medium and long term plans for student social space on the campus, gave some background on the proposed student services building and information about student retention rates, tracking at 15% for the current year, which reflects a 6% improvement since 2022.

Action: Agenda item for the February GB meeting - Plans for Student Social Infrastructure on the Galway City-Dublin Rd Campus

GB 38.07 Committee & Subcommittee Reports

GB 38.07.1 Financial Statements for Year Ended 31st August 2025

A joint meeting of ARC and FSC reviewed the financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2025 and recommended to GB that approval be given to submit the Financial Statements to C&AG for audit. The meeting extended its thanks to Edel O Connor and the Finance team who prepared the Financial Statements and the Fees team who provided the student fees data. EO'C presented the Financial Statements to the meeting..

Decision: The meeting approved the submission of the Financial Statements for 12 months ended 31st August 2024 to C&AG for audit on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JC.

GB 38.07.2 Report from FSC Meeting

The reports from the FSC meetings of 12th November and 1st December were circulated for information. CM presented the items recommended to GB for approval.

GB 38.07.2.1 Transfers to Capital Development Reserves (CDR)

Approval requested for the transfer of revenue reserves to CDR to ensure sufficient funding for approved projects.

Decision: On the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JD the following transfer of revenue reserves to capital development reserves were approved:

- Killybegs campus works & apprenticeship expansion	€750k
- Dust extraction replacement Connemara campus	€440k
- EEDPP 2020	<u>€1,266k</u>
Total	€2,456k

GB 38.07.2.2 Request for Capital Development Reserves (CDR)

Approval requested for transfer of revenue reserves to CDR for minor capital works at the Letterkenny campus to provide additional teaching space and staff office space.

Decision: On the proposal of JB and seconded by TG the following requests for transfer from revenue reserves to capital development reserves for projects at the Donegal-Letterkenny campus were approved:

- Additional teaching space	€512k
- Staff office space	<u>€558k</u>
Total	€1,070k

GB 38.07.2.3 Additional Non-Pay Budget

GB was asked to approve an addition of €2.5m to the non-pay budget for expenditure items incurred in 2025 which were not provided for in the non-pay budget.

Decision: The addition of €2.5m to the 2025 non-pay budget was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by EK.

GB 38.07.2.4 Debtors Control Policy

This policy outlines how the University manages non-student debt.

Decision: V1 of the Debtors Control Policy was approved on the proposal of MMCN and seconded by RD

GB 38.07.2.5 Finance Outturn as at 31st Aug 2025

BP presented the finance outturn as at 3^{1st} August 2025.

GB 38.07.2.6 Employment Control Framework

The Employment Control Framework for Q3 2025 was circulated for information.

GB 38.07.3 Report from ARC Meeting

The report from the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting of 18th November 2025 was circulated for information. JC advised that ARC met privately with representatives from the C&AG and the University's internal auditors. Both were very positive meetings which gave ARC members an opportunity for open and independent discussions. The C&AG representatives commented on their positive working relationship with the University's Finance Managers. SO'C presented the items recommended for approval by GB.

GB 38.07.3.1 Annual Review of Systems of Internal Control & Risk Management

ARC completed its annual effectiveness reviews, fulfilling its oversight responsibilities and providing assurance to the Governing Body on the operation of key governance systems including internal control, risk management, governance and assurance.

Decision: The annual review of systems of internal control and risk management was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JD.

GB 38.07.3.2 ARC Annual Report to GB

The ARC annual report to GB was circulated for information.

GB 38.07.3.3 Review of Effectiveness of ARC

Decision: The review of effectiveness of ARC was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JB.

Action: Review action on log of actions relating to HEA & the timing of budgets.

GB 38.07.3.4 Charites Code Compliance Record Form

The University is a registered charity & must complete the Charities Compliance Record Form (CRF) annually. This demonstrates adherence to the Charities Governance Code.

Decision: The Charites Code Compliance Record Form for the annual reporting period ending 31st August 2025 was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by EK.

GB 38.07.3.5 Conflict of Interest Policy

This was a routine cyclical review with a change to a 2-year review cycle.

Decision: V1.3 of the Conflict of Interest Policy was approved on the proposal of JD and seconded by JB.

GB 38.07.3.6 Child Protection Policy

The Child Protection Policy was updated to address internal audit recommendations and was substantially revised. The updates strengthen safeguarding procedures, clarify reporting lines, enhance training requirements, and align with Children First Act 2015 obligations.

Decision: V1.2 of the Child Protection Policy was approved on the proposal of RD and seconded by EK.

GB 38.07.4 Report from EDI Subcommittee

The report from the EDI Subcommittee meeting of 10th November was circulated for information. JMCC advised that the Race Equality Plan is expected to go to UPT in January. The allocation of resources and budgets to EDI related activities was discussed.

GB 38.07.4.1 Feedback from the Athena Swan Application

Feedback from the Athena Swan application was circulated for information.

GB 38.09 Corporate Governance

GB 38.09.1 Statement of Interest (SIPO) Declaration

Under Section 5.1 of the ATU Interim Code of Governance, all members of Governing Body are required to furnish an annual statement of interests prior to 31st January of the following year. For 2025, this is an on-line form, the link was provided in the meeting papers. Members were asked to complete the form before 31st January 2026. The meeting was advised that University staff members are required to complete only 1 form for their roles within the University.

GB 38.09.2 Standing Orders & Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members

RN provided background to the proposed updates to the Standing Orders & Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members. Following some discussion it was decided that the Standing Orders would be approved and the proposed updates to the Code of Conduct for Governing Body members would be submitted to ARC for review at their meeting in January.

Decision: V1.4 of the Standing Orders was approved and the draft update to the Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members was referred to ARC for review from a governance perspective on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JD

Action: The draft update to the Code of Conduct for Governing Body Members to be reviewed by ARC from a governance perspective.

GB 38.10 AOB

GB 8.10.1 Schedule of Agenda Items

Provided for information.

MMcN thanked the following for their work throughout the year - members of GB, its committee and subcommittees and members of the University executive & staff who have contributed to meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 16th February 2026 at the Donegal-Letterkenny campus and on TEAMS.



Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: 15/04/2026