Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh

Atlantic Technological University

# Minutes of the 42nd ATU Governing Body Meeting Held on Monday 11th May 2026 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 – in person | CM |
| Dara Foynes – online | DF |
| Dr Brian de Souza – in person | BdS |
| Dr John Bartlett – in person | JB |
| Dr Martin Robinson – online | MR |
| Joe Cunningham – in person | JC |
| Joanne Grehan – online | JG |
| John Daffy – online | JD |
| Kathya Rouse – in person | KR |
| Naomi Walsh – online | NW |
| Regina Daly – in person | RD |
| Seamus Hughes – online | SH |
| Professor Rachel Ashworth – online | RA |
| Thomas Gallagher – online | TG |

## 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 4 & 5 | SO'C |
| Henry McGarvey – in person – item 4.2.1 & 4.2.2 | HMcG |
| Jacqueline McCormack – in person – item 4.2.1 | JMcC |
| Michele Glacken – in person – item 4.2.1 | MG |
| Jamie Kelly – in person – item 4.2.1 | JK |
| Graham Heaslip – in person – item 7.1 | GH |
| Catherine Kennedy – in person – item 7.1 | CK |

**Apologies:** Emil Kindl, Joseph Sweeney

## GB 42.01 Meeting of External Members of Governing Body

External members of Governing Body met in private.

## GB 42.02 Declaration of Conflicts of Interests

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

## GB 42.03 Approval of Governing Body Minutes

### GB 42.03.1 Minutes of 30th March 2026

**Decision**: The minutes of 30th March 2026 were approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by CM.

## GB 42.04 Committee & Subcommittee Reports

### GB 42.04.1 Report from Strategic Development Subcommittee (SDS) meeting of 28th April 2026

KR summarised items for approval.

In response to a question about approval requirements for the Strategic Plan JF advised the meeting that approval of the Strategic Development Plan is a reserved function of GB, this is documented in section 5.1 of Appendix B of the Interim Code of Governance - "*The consideration of and, where it considers appropriate, the approval of the Strategic Development Plan submitted by the President as provided for in Section 18(4) and (5) of the Technological Universities Act 2018*".

#### GB 42.04.1.1 Capital Projects Summary

HMcG gave an overview of capital projects & advised that a review of master plans for all campuses is planned. The Capital Development team were commended for the work ongoing and planned. In response to a question about the recently published student accommodation strategy wherein student accommodation for Sligo and Letterkenny is in Phase 3, the meeting was advised that it is expected that there will be little delay between the commencement of the different phases, and Phase 3 will commence a matter of months after Phases 1 & 2.

#### GB 42.04.1.2 Equipment: PPP Buildings Library Letterkenny & STEM Building Galway

SDS recommended approval for the expenditure of [redacted] for the fit out of two new buildings at the Donegal – Letterkenny campus and Galway City – Dublin Rd campus; these are being delivered under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. This expenditure is included in the 2026 budget which was approved in March.

**Decision**: On the proposal of MMcN and seconded by KR approval was granted for the expenditure of up to [redacted] for the fit out of PPP buildings at the Donegal – Letterkenny campus and Galway City – Dublin Rd campus

### GB 42.04.1.3 Update to SDSC TOR

The SDSC TOR were updated to clarify functions to state that, in addition to advising on the development of capital projects, capital and master-planning and capital budgets, it is a function of the SDS to "… *make recommendations to the Governing Body for the approval* ….."

**Decision**: The update to the SDSC TOR was approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by CM.

### GB 42.04.2 Report from FSC meeting of 30th April 2026

The report from the FSC meeting of 30th April 2026 was provided for information.

### GB 42.04.2.1 Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Project

[redacted]

### GB 42.04.2.2 Transfer to Capital Development Reserves - Equipment: PPP Buildings Library Letterkenny & STEM Building Galway

FSC recommended the approval of the transfer to Capital Development Reserves of [redacted] for the fit out of two new buildings at the Donegal - Letterkenny campus and Galway City – Dublin Rd campus; these are being delivered under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

**Decision**: On the proposal of MMcN and seconded by JC approval was given for the transfer to Capital Development Reserves of [redacted] for the fit out of PPP buildings at the Donegal - Letterkenny campus and Galway City – Dublin Rd campus

## GB 42.05 Matters Arising & Correspondence

### GB 42.05.1 Governing Body Log of Actions

The Governing Body Log of Actions was circulated to members prior to the meeting. JF summarised "propose closed" items. The following changes were requested:

- Action 206 – change to amber
- Action 236 – to remain open until a new external member is appointed to GB.

**Decision:** On the proposal of JB and seconded by CM all actions listed as "propose closed" be closed, subject to the inclusion of the changes above.

### GB 42.05.1.1 Action 127 - Procedure for Handling Student Complaints

The updated Student Complaints Policy and new Student Complaints Procedure were noted.

### GB 42.05.1.2 Action 177 – Address Actions from the IPA Report Recommendations

At the August 2025 GB strategy meeting actions were assigned to address the recommendations in the IPA report. A summary showing how these actions have been addressed was circulated for information. The presentation from Student Representatives, which has been a regular agenda item during the 25/26 academic year to address Recommendation 7, was successful and informative; a similar regular update from academic & research staff was suggested.

### GB 42.05.2 Correspondence with the Public Accounts Committee

Correspondence received from the PAC and the University's response were circulated for information. This related to a write-off in the 23/24 financial statements. SOC advised the meeting that this was discussed at the PAC on 7th May and further information was requested. When received, the correspondence from the PAC and the University's response will be circulated to GB members.

**Action**:Circulate 2nd PAC correspondence and the University's response to GB members for information.

### GB 42.05.3 Correspondence with the Oireachtas Committee on Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Correspondence received from the Oireachtas Committee on Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the University's response were circulated for information. The correspondence related to a request for an outline of the structures and procedures in place within the University for addressing cases of sexual violence and harassment.

## GB 42.06 Items for Approval

### GB 42.06.1 Staff Appointments

The following staff appointment were presented for approval:

| Post | Location | Contract Type & Term | Grade | Basis for Appointment | Funding Source | Recommended Candidate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Head of Department of Computing | Sligo | [redacted] | | | Core | Kevin Payton |
| Head of Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering | Galway | | | | Core | James Kennedy |
| Secondment TUA-Secretary/Financial Controller grade | TUA Office, Dublin | | | | Non-Core | Gearoid Hodgins |
| Head of Department of Engineering Apprenticeships | Galway | | | | Core | Michael Keaney |

OF provided details of the recommended candidate for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) post – Amanda Mooney. The terms of appointment and salary for this post are in line with those approved by DFHERIS.

**Decision**: The appointments above, including the appointment of the recommended candidate for the CFO post, were approved on the proposal of JC and seconded by KR.

### GB 42.06.2 Schedule of Governing Body Meetings 2026-2027

The schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2026 and all of 2027 was considered. The meeting was advised that an additional meeting is proposed for the end of November each year to meet the OCAG deadline for submission of Financial Statements within 3 months of the year end (31st Aug). As a result of the date of Easter the March 2027 meeting will be one week earlier than usual.

**Decision**: The dates for Governing Body meetings for the remainder of 2026 and all of 2027 were approved on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by CM.

**Action**: Finalise meeting locations – consider representation of smaller campuses and holding an earlier meeting at the Donegal - Killybegs campus

## GB 42.08 Report from Registrar & Chief Academic Officer and Academic Council

### GB 42.08.1 Annual Quality Report to QQI

BB presented the Annual Quality Report for the 2024-2025 reporting period. This is submitted to QQI. From 2027 onwards this report will come to GB at an earlier date.

**Decision**: On the proposal of JC and seconded by KR the Annual Quality Report for the 2024-2025 reporting period was approved.

**Action**: In future the Annual Quality Report is to be brought to GB for approval prior to submission to QQI.

### GB 42.08.2 Academic Council Meeting Minutes

BB provided a summary of the minutes of the 27th February Academic Council meeting.

## GB 42.09 President's Report

### GB 42.09.1 President's Update to Governing Body

OF summarised the report circulated in advance of the meeting. Since the reprot was published the University has received confirmation that the University's Advance HE accreditation has been renewed; ATU is currently the only third level institution in Ireland to hold this accreditation.

### GB 42.09.2 SLT Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 24th March SLT meeting were circulated for information.

In response to a question, JF & OF clarified that governance issues referenced in section 6.2 relate to the SLT plan to put in place a structure to ensure its own oversight of projects. Further information was requested on mobile phone spend referenced in section 10.

**Action**: Provide report on mobile phone spend.

## GB 42.07 Strategy

### GB 42.07.1 Presentation from Dean of Faculty of Engineering & Computing

GH made a presentation detailing work done to date to establish the faculty of Engineering & Computing, an overview of the faculty including student profiles and programmes provided, information about research & innovation, industry engagement and key milestones and the faculty's strategy and vision and how these are aligned with the University's Strategic Plan. The work of the Dean and faculty staff was acknowledged by GB members.

## GB 42.10 Report from Student Representatives

TG advised that students have voted in favour of the Student Union referendum to merge and form one ATU Students' Union. The work on the SU merger will continue in the coming months. TG's term of office as Galway SU President ends in May & this was his last GB meeting. Members wished TG the best for the future and thanked him for his engagement with GB and for his contribution to the progress made on the SU merger during the 25/26 academic year.

## GB 42.11 Corporate Governance

### GB 42.11.1 Review of Governance Policies

### GB 42.11.2 Review of Terms of Reference for GB Committees & Subcommittees

### GB 42.11.3 Review of Membership of GB Committees & Subcommittees

The above documents were circulated for information.

## GB 42.12 AOB

### GB 42.12.1 Schedule of Agenda Items

The schedule of agenda items was provided for information. This is a live document and is subject to change as required.

## Other AOB

### GB 42.12.2 Sligo Leitrim ITS Regional Development Projects DAC

**Decision**: Approval was granted for the President & Secretary to GB to sign the Share Transfer Form to transfer shares in the Sligo Leitrim ITS Regional Development Projects DAC to Sligo County Council on the proposal of MMcN and seconded by KR.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 19th June 2026 at the Connemara campus and via TEAMS.

Maura McNally S.C.

Signed: ______________________ Date: 19/06/2026

Chairperson