Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh

Atlantic Technological University

Minutes of the 41st ATU Governing Body Meeting Held on Monday 30th March 2026 at 10am at the Sligo 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 John Bartlett – in person	JB
Dr Martin Robinson – in person	MR
Emil Kindl – in person	EK
Joe Cunningham – in person	JC
John Daffy – in person	JD
Kathya Rouse – online	KR
Naomi Walsh – online	NW
Regina Daly – in person	RD
Seamus Hughes – in person	SH

In attendance:

Jim Fennell (Secretary) – in person	JF
Carol Geraghty (Recording Secretary) – in person	CG
Shane O'Connor – in person – items 5.3, 9 & 10	SO'C
Brid Prendergast – online – items 5.1 & 5.2	BP
Edel O'Connor – online – items 5.1 & 5.2	EO'C
Elizabeth McCabe – online - items 5.1 & 5.2	EMcC
Rod Toner – online – item 5.4.1	RT
Jacqueline McCormack – online – item 5.4	JMcC

Apologies: Professor Rachel Ashworth, Joseph Sweeney, Thomas Gallagher, Dr Brian De Souza, Joanne Grehan

At the request of MMcN, JC chaired the meeting.

GB 41.01 Declaration of Conflicts of Interests

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

GB 41.02 Approval of Governing Body Minutes

GB 41.02.1 Minutes of 16th February 2026

Decision: The minutes of 16th February 2026 were approved on the proposal of JD and seconded by JB.

GB 41.03 Matters Arising & Correspondence

GB 41.03.1 Governing Body Log of Actions

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

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

GB 41.04 Items for Approval

GB 41.04.1 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
Programme Manager NW DEPTH	Letterkenny Campus	[redacted]				Dr Ruth Benson
Faculty Operations Manager (Design, Education & Social Science)	Any ATU Campus					Kyle Griffiths-Maher
Head of School of Veterinary, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences	Any ATU Campus					Dr. Ian O'Connor
Head of School of Creative Industries	Any ATU Campus					Dr. Fiona Crowe
Faculty of Business Operations Manager	Any ATU Campus					Éilis O'Regan
Faculty of Engineering and Computing Operations Manager	Any ATU Campus					Catherine Kennedy
Faculty of Science and Health Operations Manager	Any ATU Campus					Karen Cunningham

Post	Location on Job Advert	Location	Contract Type & Term	Grade	Basis for Appointment	Recommended Candidate
Project Manager – Enabling Technology Cluster for SME's	Letterkenny Campus	[redacted]				Dr. Simon Stephens
Academic Governance and Compliance Manager	Any ATU Campus					Ann Marie Kelly
Head of Department of Social Sciences	Sligo Campus					Richeal Burns
Head of Student Health & Wellbeing	Any ATU Campus					Máire Kelly
Head of Department of Electronic, Software & Advanced Manufacturing Engineering	Galway City Campus					Eamon Walsh

A member queried the difference between the Grades of SLII and SLII (analogous) which seem to be used for virtually identical positions. The President clarified that SLII is the normal grade of a Head of an academic department and can be used in a project management context when the project involves students, programmes of study and other academic activities.

Decision: These posts were approved on the proposal of CM and seconded by SH.

[redacted]

GB 41.05.2 Appointment of Members to the Second Academic Council

At the 16th February Governing Body meeting approval was given to hold an election to fill vacant seats on the Second Academic Council. The following have been elected:

Constituency	Name
Faculty of Business	Phelim Murnion
Faculty of Business	Patrick Brennan
Faculty of Business	Conor McTiernan
Faculty of Business (Reserve)	Jonathan O'Rourke
Faculty of Education, Design and Social Science	John-Paul McGauran

All seats for elected staff on Academic Council have been filled.

Decision: On the proposal of JD and seconded by MR, Phelim Murnion, Patrick Brennan, Conor McTiernan & John-Paul McGauran were approved as members of the second Academic Council until 15 February 2029.

The nominee of the Registrar and Chief Academic Officer from the Library is Michaela Campbell. Claire McCaul had been nominated as a Student Representative in February, she has now been replaced by Joseph Sweeney. A list of Academic Council members is included as Appendix A.

Decision: On the proposal of JB and seconded by EK, Michaela Campbell and Joseph Sweeney were approved as members of the second Academic Council until 15 February 2029.

GB 41.04.3 Request for Delegated Authority

Following a brief discussion, 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.

The purpose of this delegation resolution is to facilitate the smooth running of the University until the Governing Body meets on 11th May 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 11th May 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 MR and seconded by DF.

GB 41.05 Committee & Subcommittee Reports

GB 41.05.1 Report from FSC Meeting of 23rd February 2026

The report from the FSC meeting of 23rd February was circulated with meeting papers. CM commended the work of the Finance team in preparing the budget.

GB 41.05.1.1 Finance Outturn 2025

BP presented the Finance Outturn 2025.

GB 41.05.1.2 Transfer to Capital Development Reserves - Future Living Lab

The Capital Development team sought approval for additional project costs of up to €628,165, and a matching capital development reserves allocation for the Future Living Labs project on the Dublin Road, Galway campus.

Decision: The following was approved on the proposal of JD and seconded by MMcN:

- Additional costs of €628,165 for the Future Living Labs project
- Transfer to Capital Development Reserves of €628,165 for the Future Living Labs project

GB 41.05.2 Report from FSC Meeting of 20th March 2026

The report from the FSC meeting of 23rd February was circulated in advance of the meeting.

GB 41.05.2.1 Budget 2026 & Financial Projections 25/26, 26/27 & 27/28

EMcC and EO'C presented the Budget 2026 and financial projections 25/26, 26/27 & 27/08. CM advised the meeting that FSC reviewed the assumptions underlying the budget in detail and considers them to be conservative, no concerns were raised about the current financial position of the University. The FSC noted that there could be financial risks associated with the operation of the Veterinary programme and related activities which warrants ongoing review. Financial Projections for three years are a requirement of the budget report to HEA.

Decision: The budget 2026 & Financial Projections 25/26, 26/27 & 27/28 were approved on the proposal of SH and seconded by JD.

Action: Funding source for senior management posts to be included in future staff appointment reports.

Action: Rank budget assumptions by risk rating: high, medium, low.

GB 41.05.2.2 Capital Budget 2026

BP presented the Capital Budget 2026. The clarity of the information presented was commended. JC thanked the finance team for their work and FSC for their detailed review of the University's budgets.

Decision: The 2026 capital budget was approved on the proposal of JB and seconded by MMcN.

Action: Agenda item for next GB meeting - Summary of Capital Projects.

GB 41.05.2.3 Sligo Leitrim ITS Regional Development Projects DAC

Approval was requested for the transfer of the University's shares in the Sligo Leitrim ITS Regional Development Projects DAC to Sligo County Council. To support this decision the following information was circulated:

- Letter from DFHERIS confirming approval to transfer shares.
- Letter from Enterprise Ireland (grant award authority) consenting to the transfer.
- Confirmation from the Board of the Sligo Leitrim ITS Regional Development Projects DAC confirming that the University has been discharged from a legacy loan commitment made by IT Sligo.
- Auditors report giving the share valuation.

Decision: The transfer of all 34 ordinary shares held in Sligo Leitrim ITS Regional Development Projects DAC to Sligo County Council at a nominal value of €1 per share (€34 in total) was approved on the proposal of JD and seconded by JB.

Action: Complete share transfer.

GB 41.05.2.4 Employment Control Framework

The Employment Control Framework was circulated for information.

GB 41.05.3 Report from ARC Meeting of 10th March 2026

SO'C presented the report from the 10th March ARC meeting.

GB 41.05.3.1 IPA External Evaluation

An update on the progress of implementation of the recommendations from the IPA report was presented. The majority of recommendations have been completed or are substantially progressed. The remaining actions relate primarily to embedding improvements in governance practices, including reporting, strategic agenda planning and ongoing Governing Body development. Overall, the implementation programme is progressing as expected and continues to strengthen the University's governance framework.

GB 41.05.3.2 Amendment to 2023/2024 Charities Return

The original 2023/2024 Charities Return was submitted in June 2025 using draft financial statements in order to meet the statutory filing deadline. Following completion of the external audit by the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG), the Annual Financial Statements were certified in December 2025. The return must now be amended to align with the audited Financial Statements prior to submission to the Charities Regulator. The amendments are limited to financial alignment updates and do not give rise to any governance, control or compliance concerns.

In response to a query, JF advised that, as detailed in the Log of Actions circulated with papers for the February GB meeting, the University's Officers Liability Policy has been reviewed by our Insurance agent; the current policy covers any potential liability for GB members with respect to being a Chairty Trustee.

Decision: The amended Charities Annual Return 2023/2024 was approved on the proposal of CM and seconded by JD.

GB 41.05.3.3 Report on C&AG Management Letter for year ended 31 Aug 2024

SO'C provided information on the findings from the C&AG audit of the University's Financial Statements for the year ended 31st August 2024. Progress on addressing these findings is monitored by ARC.

Action: Report on progress of high rated findings to be provided in ARC report to GB.

GB 41.05.3.4 Disclosure of Anti-Fraud Policy Allegation Investigation Cost

The final cost associated with the external forensic review commissioned under the University's Anti-Fraud Policy was provided.

GB 41.5.4 Report from EDI Subcommittee Meeting of 9th March 2026

JMcC presented the report from the EDI Subcommittee Meeting of 9th March 2026:

GB 41.5.4.1 Gender Pay Gap Report 2025

RT presented the Gender Pay Gap Report 2025; he advised the meeting that a gender pay gap does not show pay discrimination but could relate to the unequal representation of one gender across the University or in certain cohorts of staff within the University. The increase in the median gender pay gap for Part Time staff was discussed. A detailed analysis of this data is planned.

Action: Report explaining increase in median % for part time staff to be submitted to GB when analysis is complete.

GB 41.5.4.2 Staff Profile by Gender Report 2024

The Staff Profile by Gender Report 2024 was provided for information. This report provides for benchmarking analysis based on sectoral data published by the HEA.

GB 41.5.4.3.1 EDI Steering Group Annual Report Dec 2025

The EDI Steering Group Annual Report Dec 2025 was provided for information.

GB 41.5.4.3.2 EDI Team Periodic Report March 2026

The EDI Team Periodic Report March 2026 was provided for information.

GB 41.5.4.4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy V 1.1

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy has been reviewed by the EDI team and the EDI Subcommittee, no changes were proposed.

Decision: V1.1 of the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy was approved on the proposal of RD and seconded by EK.

GB 41.5.4.5 Public Sector Duty – Overview of ATU plans

The Section 42(2) Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Implementation Plan February 2026 was circulated for information. This shows the implementation plan to move the University from awareness of its obligation to structured implementation.

GB 41.5.4.6 Race & Ethnic Equality Action Plan

JMcC introduced the Race & Ethnic Equality Action Plan and the themes arising from the development of the plan. The meeting thanked the EDI team for their work.

Decision: The Race & Ethnic Equality Action Plan was approved on the proposal of EK and seconded by RD.

GB 41.5.4.7 Appointment of Chair of EDI Subcommittee

Professor Rachel Ashworth was proposed as chair of the EDI Subcommittee.

Decision: On the proposal of MMcN and seconded by OF, RA was appointed as chair of the EDI Subcommittee.

GB 41.06 President's Report

GB 41.06.1 President's Update to Governing Body

OF summarised the report circulated in advance of the meeting and advised the meeting that the National Student Accommodation Strategy was published on 24th March 2026

National_Student_Accommodation_Strategy_2026-2035.pdf

Governing Body congratulates Dr Suresh Pillai on his election as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy.

Action: Provide a copy of the National Student Accommodation Strategy to GB members.

GB 41.06.2 SLT Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January, February and 10th March SLT meetings were circulated for information.

GB 41.07 Report from Registrar & Chief Academic Officer & Academic Council

GB 41.07.1 Academic Council Meeting Minutes

Mintes of the 28th November 2025 Academic Council Meeting were circulated for information.

GB 41.07 Report from Student Representatives

EK presented details of SU officers elected for the 2026/27 academic year, an update on the SU merger and information about a student accommodation survey completed at the Sligo campus. The GB Student Representatives thanked OF and University staff for their support of the SU merger and members commended the student representatives for their work on the merger.

There was a discussion about student accommodation; members were reminded of the timeline for the publication of the National Student Accommodation Strategy – higher education institutes were asked to provide information two years ago, the strategy was published last week. The meeting was advised of many challenges with student accommodation across the region, and it is unclear as to whether the new strategy will be effective in addressing these challenges.

Action: Letter from GB supporting the initiative and work undertake by the Students union on the student accommodation survey completed at the Sligo campus

GB 41.09 Corporate Governance

GB 41.09.1 Results from GB Skills Matrix Survey

SO'C presented a summary of the results from the Skills Matrix Survey. This survey was completed to respond to a recommendation from the IPA report in 2025.

Action: .

GB 41.09.2 Development Plan for GB & its Committees & Subcommittees

SO'C presented the development plan for GB & its Committees & Subcommittees.

Decision: On the proposal of CM and seconded by JD the Development Plan for GB & its Committees & Subcommittees was approved.

GB 41.10 AOB

GB 41.10.1 10.1. Strategy – Recurring Agenda Item from May 2026

JF advised that the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Computing will be the presenter for the SLT Presentation agenda item at the May GB meeting.

GB 41.10.2 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.

Other AOB

GB 41.10.3 Bank Account Closure

Decision: On the proposal of JD and seconded by CM the closure of the St Angelas AIB current account was approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th May 2026 at the Galway City – Dublin Rd campus and on TEAMS.

Signed: Joe Cunningham ____________________ Date: 11/05/26

Chairperson

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	Dr Sean Duignan
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: I (v) Librarian	Michaela Campbell
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 Brónagh 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 Note 1
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	Joseph Sweeney
Student representatives	Jesus Quaye-Saya
Student representatives	Charlene Grehan
Student representatives	Mallikharjuna Sakhamuri
Student representatives	Gemma Haverty
PMSS staff (elected)	Gemma Lyons
PMSS staff (elected)	Catherine O'Reilly
PMSS staff (elected)	Niamh Plunkett

Membership	Name
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 Sintejudeanu
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	Phelim Murnion
Faculty of Business	Patrick Brennan
Faculty of Business	Conor McTiernan
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	John-Paul McGauran
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 OConnell
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Rosemary Smyth
Faculty of Science and Health	Dr Stephen Daly
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 Fiona Crowe appointed to post of Head of School of Creative Industries at 30th March 2026 GB meeting.