

Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting – 11 January 2023

- Present:** David Holohan (Chairperson), David Smith (President), Dr Fionnuala Anderson, Cllr. Michael Clark, Turlough Conway*, Dr Cormac Deane, Cllr. Anne Ferris*, Eoin Hicks Smyth, Maeve McConnon, Crow Mullan, Caitriona Murphy*, Peter O'Brien*, Eva Perez
- Apologies:** Ben Harper
- Absent without Apology:** Cllr. Una Power, Punitha Sinnapan
- In Attendance:** Bernard Mullarkey, Elizabeth Stunell

*Attendance via MS Teams

This meeting took place in the Boardroom, Roisin Hogan House, IADT, with remote attendance being facilitated via MS Teams Platform – IADT Governing Body Group. Attendance for the meeting was monitored throughout the meeting by the Secretary to the Governing Body, and the Recording Secretary to the Governing Body. The meeting commenced at 12.00 pm, and concluded at 1.30 pm.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as circulated.

Proposed: Maeve McConnon
Seconded: Fionnuala Anderson

2. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were reported regarding items for discussion on the agenda for this meeting.

3. Adoption of Minutes of the Meeting of 14th December 2022 (including for Publication)

The Minutes of the Meeting of 14th December 2022 were approved (including approval for publication).

Proposed: Caitriona Murphy
Seconded: Dr Fionnuala Anderson

4. Matters Arising

- **Digital Media Building** – construction works on the new Digital Media Building have commenced on campus. This was welcomed by the Governing Body.

5. Correspondence

- **Standards in Public Office Returns** – correspondence has been received from the Standards in Public Office Commission. Members of the Governing Body were reminded that they are obliged to complete and return their Statements of Interest forms to the Standards in Public Office no later than 31st January and that they are also required to provide a copy of this return to IADT.

6. Briefing on the HEA Act 2022 - Presentation by the Secretary/Financial Controller

It was noted that the HEA Act was commenced on 10th November 2022. Although the Act does not make significant changes to the day-to-day operation of the Institute, there are a number of provisions – particularly in the area of Governance’ that will impact on the Institute. The Secretary/Financial Controller gave a presentation to the Governing Body outlining the key changes contained within the HEA Act and their implications for IADT. Key points from the presentation were noted as follows:

- Significant powers of intervention have been vested in the CEO of the HEA, to directly manage under-performing Higher Education Institutions.
- The Act standardises the compositions of Governing Bodies across the Technological and University sectors. In addition, HEIs, subject to the Act, will be required to form a new Governing Body by November 2023, irrespective of how recently the Governing Body had been appointed.
- The structure of the Governing Body has been amended significantly with an increase in the number of staff and student members of the Governing Body.
- The new Governing Body will consist of 19 members, including an independent Chairperson who will be appointed by the Governing Body. An overview of the revised structure of the Governing Body was provided.
- In order to meet gender-representation guidelines, at least 40% of the Governing Body must be female, and at least 40% must be male. The changes introduced to the gender representation requirements for the Governing Body, allows for a number of Governing Body members to choose not to declare a gender designation. This was welcomed by the Governing Body.
- Provisions for returning members of the existing Governing Body were also noted.
- The maximum term of future Governing bodies will be four years.
- A THEA Working Group has been established to develop a process for the formation of new Governing Bodies adhering to the provisions of the Act. The Secretary/Financial Controller is representing IADT on this Working Group.
- Procedures for the appointment of a new Governing Body must be approved by the Governing Body and subsequently be approved by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Draft procedures for consideration by the Governing Body are being developed by the THEA Working Group and will be presented to the Governing Body for adoption shortly.
- It was agreed that a sub-committee of the Governing Body will be formed to review the legislation and to determine a process for the appointment of the next Governing Body of IADT.

A resolution was placed before the Governing Body as follows:

The Governing Body resolves to establish a Sub-Committee of the Governing Body – the Governing Body Reform Committee – to develop procedures for the formation of a new Governing Body for IADT in accordance with the provisions of the HEA Act 2022. These procedures will be recommended to the Governing Body for approval. The Membership

of the Committee shall comprise the Chairperson, Maeve McConnon, Dr Fionnuala Anderson, Cllr Anne Ferris and Cllr Peter O'Brien. (02/2023)

It was agreed that Resolution 02/2023 would be added to the Agenda for the meeting, and Resolution 02/2023 was approved by the Governing Body.

Proposed: Chairperson
Seconded: Caitriona Murphy

(Cllr Michael Clark joined the meeting at 12.25)

7. Revision of Governing Body Standing Orders 2023

Following the commencement of the HEA Act 2022, a number of provisions within the Standing Orders for Governing Body were amended and revised Standing Orders were presented to the Governing Body for adoption. The Secretary/Financial Controller circulated a document highlighting the amendments to the Standing Orders, which was noted by the Governing Body.

Resolution:

7.1 The Governing Body Approves the IADT Governing Body Standing Orders 2023 (01/2023)

It was noted that the frequency of meetings of the Governing Body has been reduced, however provisions are in place within the Standing Orders to convene an emergency meeting should the need arise. The Governing Body noted the provisions for remote attendance which have been set out in the Standing Orders. However, members of the Governing Body agreed that members should make their best effort to attend meetings in person where possible.

Resolution 01/2023 was approved by the Governing Body with the following amendment:

In section 4, (Decision Making) after the words *"The Governing Body may delegate"* replace the words *"such of its functions as it considers"* with *"such functions as may be"*.

(In the Standing orders, the line *"The Governing Body may delegate such of its functions as it considers appropriate to the President"*

To be replaced with:
"The Governing Body may delegate such of its functions as may be appropriate to the President"

Proposed: Crow Mullan
Seconded: Dr Fionnuala Anderson

(Eoin Hicks Smith joined the meeting at 13.05)

8. Initial Consultation on IADT Strategy Development – Presentation from Mazars

The Chairperson welcomed Dera McLoughlin and Dr Graham Love from Mazars to the meeting. Dera McLoughlin gave a presentation to the Governing Body outlining the consultation process for the development of IADT's next Strategic Plan. An overview of the proposed timeline was also provided. It is intended to complete the consultation phase in

the early part of the year, allowing the summer period to complete work on the Strategic plan document. The need to ensure that the 'Student Experience' is a key pillar within the next Strategic Plan was highlighted. In addition, actions and attainable goals focusing on sustainability and climate action will need to feature prominently in the next Strategic Plan. The Governing Body thanked Dera McLoughlin and Dr Graham Love for their presentation. Consultation sessions with key stakeholders will now be put in place, with a consultation session with the Governing Body being scheduled at an early stage in this process.

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

- Revisions to the membership of Governing Bodies brought about by the HEA Act 2022 were noted. The revised membership provides for an additional staff member and additional Student member.
- Changes to the required Gender profile of the Governing Body was welcomed as it provides for a number of members to choose not to declare a gender designation.

The next meeting of the Governing Body will take place on 8th March 2023.

Signed: _____
David Holohan

Date: _____