



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Board Meeting 13 December 2023

This meeting was held online through Zoom.

Present: Chairperson (Mr P Farrell), Provost (Dr L Doyle), Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (Professor O Sheils), Professor K Ahmad, Ms A Bennett, Ms D Caden, Professor M Cunningham, Professor A Dignam, Ms T Doyle, Professor C O'Farrelly, Ms I Goggin, Dr N Hardiman, Professor D Jones, Dr M Kelly, Professor C Leahy, Ms R Mathews McKay, Mr L Molnárfi, Mr M Murtagh-White, Prof A Nolan, Professor J Walsh, Mr A White.

Apologies: Professor I Arnedillo Sánchez, Professor L Roe.

In attendance

(ex officio) Secretary to the College/Director of Governance (Ms V Butler), Interim Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (Ms L Ryan), Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation (Professor E Denny), Chief Operating Officer (Ms O Cunningham).

In attendance

Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer (Dr M Olmstead), Governance Manager (Ms S De Brunner)

SECTION A

The Chairperson welcomed Dr Olmstead to the meeting.

BD/23-24/090 Statements of Interest

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance the Board that no statements of potential conflicts of interest had been received.

This item was taken at this point in the meeting.

BD/23-24/091 Board Membership – Postgraduate Student

The Chair advised the Board that following an election, Mr Matt Murtagh-White had been nominated as the postgraduate student Board member.

Action/Decision

091.01 The Board noted and approved that, following an election process, Mr Matt Murtagh-White had been nominated as the postgraduate student Board member for the remainder of the 2023/24 academic year.

Mr Murtagh-White joined the meeting and introduced himself to the Board.

BD/23-24/092 New Members Declaration

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Matt Murtagh-White made the declaration in the language of his choice.

BD/23-24/093 Minutes of the meeting of 15 November 2023

The Board approved the draft minutes of the meeting of 15 November 2023.

BD/23-24/094 Matters Arising

There were no items was raised under matters arising.

BD/23-24/095 Critical Infrastructure Matters

(i) Strategic Capital Projects Dashboard

The Board noted the Strategic Capital Projects Dashboard as was circulated.

Professor Walsh joined the meeting at this point.

(ii) E3 Learning Foundry Capital Programme Update

Professor Gerard McHugh, E3 Programme Sponsor, Ms Edwina Hegarty, E3 Programme Manager, Mr Mike Clark, Director of Campus Infrastructure, Mr Stephen Grant, Director, Turner and Townsend, and Mr Paul Coote, Project Appraisal Manager, joined the meeting for this item.

Professor McHugh, as E3 Programme Sponsor, introduced the item via a presentation, dated 13 December 2023. He provided the Board with an overview of the project to date, delays to the timeline for completion and on-going discussions with the contractor in respect of the project.

In response to queries from a Board member, Professor McHugh clarified that any increase in costs incurred for the project, as a result of discussions with the contractor, would be difficult to meet and that the business plan and other avenues were being considered to determine any potential capacity in this regard.

Professor Cunningham joined the meeting at this point.

Responding to queries from a Board member in respect of compliance with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) framework, Mr Grant advised that every effort was being made to carefully review all claims made, with a view to trying to minimise potential additional costs for the project. Mr Clark advised that the preference is to continue to actively engage with the contractor to resolve any outstanding issues.

In response to queries from a Board member, Mr Grant advised that other bodies had had similar experiences in respect of capital projects, and the limited pool of Tier 1 building contractors in the country was noted.

In response to queries from a Board member, Professor McHugh clarified that, as with all large scale strategic capital projects, regular updates are presented to the Board and it was deemed timely to update the Board in respect of this project at this meeting, noting that a full proposal would be brought for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.

Professor McHugh, responding to comments from a Board member, clarified that a fully detailed and costed proposal, noting potential impacts on future projects and the University's finances, was being developed and would be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

In response to queries from a Board member, Professor McHugh clarified the proposed growth in the number of academic and professional staff, as set down in the business plan for the project.

Responding to a query from a Board member, Professor McHugh clarified that regular updates have been provided to the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and Ms Hegarty advised that discussions with the HEA are ongoing in respect of possible further financial support to help address some of the inflationary costs which have been observed.

The Chairperson closed the discussion by outlining that detailed documentation, which is to include the options considered, an impact assessment, costings and an overview of change orders in respect of the project, would be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

Action/Decision

095.01 The Board received the update from the E3 Capital Programme Sponsor dated 13 December 2023.

Professor McHugh, Ms Hegarty, Mr Clark, Mr Grant and Mr Coote left the meeting at this point.

BD/23-24/096 Any Other Urgent Business

There were no other items of urgent business.

Ms Bennett left the meeting at this point.

SECTION A.2

There were no items in this section for this meeting.

SECTION B

BD/23-24/097 Board Business

(i) Callover

The Board noted the callover updated to 15 November 2023. The Chairperson advised the Board that he had met with those Chairs of the Principal Committees who were available on 12 December 2023 and that he will meet separately with a Chair who could not attend. It was noted that the Chairs agreed to meet on a regular basis to monitor information flows and to provide inputs into the Board agendas, as appropriate.

(ii) Outcomes

The Board noted the Board outcomes from the meeting of 15 November 2023.

BD/23-24/098 University Council

The Board noted and approved the draft Acta of the meeting of 29 November 2023. In response to a query from a Board member the Secretary to the College/Director of Governance agreed to liaise with the Academic Secretary in respect of minute CL/23-24/044.

BD/23-24/099 Quality Committee

The Board noted and approved the draft minutes of the meeting of 19 October 2023 and Appendix A: Implementation plan for the Thematic Review of Student Mental Health Services.

BD/23-24/100 Risk and Committee

The Board noted and approved the draft minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2023.

In response to a query from a Board member, the Secretary to the College/ Director of Governance advised the Board that formal confirmation of the Ministerial nominees to the Board was expected imminently.

SECTION C

BD/23-24/101 Membership of Committees of Board – Postgraduate Members

The Board noted and approved the memorandum from the Registrar dated 4 December 2023.

BD/23-24/102 Prizes and Other Awards

(i) Establishment of the Dermot McAleese Medal and Prize

The Board noted and approved the memorandum from the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy dated 9 November 2023.

(ii) Establishment of the Irene P Walsh Prize for Excellence in Discourse Analysis

The Board noted and approved the memorandum from the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences dated 29 November 2023.

BD/23-24/103 Higher Degrees

The Board noted the Higher Degrees, approved by Council on 29 November 2023.

BD/23-24/104 Memorandum of Understanding with the Irish School of Ecumenics

The Board noted and approved the memorandum from the Registrar dated 12 December 2023.

SECTION D

In compliance with the Data Protection Acts this information is restricted.

Signed:

Date: