

## **Institute of Technology Tallaght Agreed Minute**

The HEA acknowledges and appreciates the work undertaken by IT Tallaght in preparing the Compact Documentation submission in the context of this the first cycle of Strategic Dialogue. Documented feedback on the draft compact has been conveyed to IT Tallaght. This feedback has been informed by an extensive HEA exercise of evaluation of the submission, including analysis by an external panel set up to provide an independent assessment of the overall performance of the institution, against the backdrop of its mission.

HEA recognises that this is the first year of strategic dialogue and this is a developmental process. In year 2, HEA will have regard to the agreed outcomes of the dialogue process this year, including not only specific objectives and indicators proposed, but also any feedback to institutions regarding the overall composition of the compact. Institutions are expected to have regard to this feedback and to demonstrate that they have incorporated it into their processes for next year's cycle.

Subject to the above the HEA and IT Tallaght agree that the mission, planned profile and targets, as now set out in the accompanying Compact, are consistent with the national objectives set for the higher education system and are appropriate to the place of IT Tallaght within the system. This agreement takes full cognisance of the written responses to HEA feedback and of the strategic dialogue meeting which took place on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. **The following issues are taken from the Strategic Dialogue Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. It is recognised that this does not represent a full minute of the meeting but focuses on issues of particular importance.**

### **Regional Cluster & Dublin Institutes Consolidation**

HEA notes the scale and priority of the IT Tallaght strategic objective of institutional consolidation with the other Dublin Institutes, moving towards TU designation. HEA also notes the related work across the three Institutes of shared academic planning and shared approaches to student pathways. This work should significantly improve student outcomes in terms of improved coherence and quality of provision along with smoother transitions to higher education and improved student entry on pathways from further education, for the consolidated institution.

### **Meeting Ireland's Human Capital Needs**

HEA notes the work being done with Synergy Global and through the Synergy centre with 5 High Potential Start-Ups and a further 3 in the pipeline. In addition, the ongoing work of IT Tallaght in integrating real world business problems of its industry partners into student project work, is noted. The integration of the Institute into the employer community of its hinterland, with the President of IT Tallaght assuming the presidency of the local Chamber as an example, was noted. The plans of the consolidating institutes to adopt a joint approach to addressing the needs of employers in the Dublin region were noted.

### **Participation, Equal Access and Lifelong Learning**

HEA queried the institution's position in respect of its stated intention to improve outcomes for Access students and in respect of its approach to retention. IT Tallaght noted that they had extensive work underway in this area and had a well developed retention strategy

**High Quality, Internationally Competitive Research and Innovation**

HEA notes that a joint graduate school will be developed as part of the institution consolidation plans of the three institutes which should deliver on the doctoral framework requirements. IT Tallaght is focused on leveraging past state investment in research infrastructure; is reorienting its main research focus towards the prioritised areas; and is also strongly involved in the knowledge exchange part of the spectrum.

**Enhanced Internationalisation**

HEA notes that IT Tallaght has adopted a stretch target for Non-EU international students and notes the preparatory work, ongoing over recent years, that will contribute to realising this target. HEA also notes the risk based approach to this development being taken by the institute with quality assurance at its core.