

Limerick Institute of Technology Agreed Minute

The HEA acknowledges and appreciates the work undertaken by LIT in preparing the Compact Documentation submission in the context of this the first cycle of Strategic Dialogue. The HEA commends LIT on the quality of their submission. Documented feedback on the draft compact has been conveyed to LIT. 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 LIT 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 LIT 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 9th December 2013. **The following issues are taken from the Strategic Dialogue Meeting held on the 9th December 2013. It is recognised that this does not represent a full minute of the meeting but focuses on issues of particular importance.**

Meeting Ireland's Human Capital Needs

The HEA noted the central importance of job creation for the Government and the important role Higher Education plays in that domain. LIT agreed and noted the range of efforts underway to support this objective. In particular, the important work which LIT is doing with regard to the regeneration of Limerick should be included in an Appendix to the compact, as should its full suite of commercialisation and knowledge targets.

Benchmarking

Institutional benchmarking should be used to inform the setting of targets in future iterations of the compact in order to further strengthen the performance of the Institute. In conducting a benchmarking exercise, it can be useful to look at the external reviewers selected by both institutions, the destination of graduates along with other means.

Participation, Equal Access and Lifelong Learning

Regarding equity of access, LIT's strong commitment in this area is noted.

Regional Cluster

LIT's perspective on cluster initiatives was noted. HEA pointed to the priority attached to progress on this theme and also referred to the forthcoming strategic dialogue meeting between the HEA and the Mid-West cluster. HEA further indicated that following the cluster meeting an agreed programme of initiatives, deliverables and timelines would be required. The two national objectives of joint academic planning and student pathways should be priority objectives for each cluster, focussing on outcomes in terms of student transitions, increased participation etc.