

5 December 2014

Professor Brian Norton,
President,
Dublin Institute of Technology,
Rathdown House,
Grangegorman,
Dublin 7.

Dear President,

I refer to the plan submitted on 2nd May on behalf of the TU4Dublin consortium and my recent letter of 13th October.

The role of the HEA in Stage 3 of the process for the development of technological universities has been to manage the process on behalf of the Minister for Education and Skills. The process has now concluded and attached is the report of the expert panel which forms the decision at this stage.

The panel have made a number of observations and recommendations in their report. These are set out in the Appendix to this letter. These observations and recommendations constitute an essential outcome from Phase 3 of the TU process. They will be matters to be specifically reviewed at Stage 4 of the process.

I would also like you to note that any expectation that might be taken from the panel report that additional finance will be given to the consortium to enable it proceed, needs to be tempered against the backdrop of likely available public finances and higher education funding policies. You should also be aware that, in relation to the issue of staff whose expertise/qualifications can be considered professionally equivalent to PhD level, the HEA plans to consider this further and set out the appropriate requirements for applicant institutions.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge that the institutions in the consortium have invested a lot of time, resources and energy into developing your plan. The shared agenda of all concerned is that any technological university created meets the highest quality standards.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Boland,
Chief Executive.

2 Enclosures - Recommendations for Follow up and Expert Panel report

Recommendations for follow-up

1. In relation to mission and governance,
 - The consortium should carry out further reflection on the particularly distinctive role and mission of the proposed new TU and how systems of governance and management can best deliver on this mission.
2. In relation to the staffing profile outline in the plan,:
 - The consortium should have regard to the proportion of staff who can demonstrate a sustained level of research activity, in addition to holding level 10 qualifications or the professional equivalent.
 - The consortium should have regard to the resource implications of recruiting staff with the appropriate qualifications to reach the TU criteria.
3. In relation to the financial information in the plan, the HEA considers that:
 - The consortium should have regard to the sources of non-exchequer income, provision for co-funding from industry, and sources of research funding.
 - The consortium should have regard to the value of ongoing risk analysis of costings and ongoing development and updating of the underpinning financial plan.
4. In relation to the student number projections in the plan, the HEA considers that:
 - The consortium should have regard to the importance of stress testing and sensitivity analysis on student number projections.



5 December 2014

Dr. Mary Meaney,
President,
Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown,
Blanchardstown Road North,
Dublin 15.

Dear President,

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Mr. Thomas Stone,
President,
Institute of Technology, Tallaght
Dublin 14.

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