

Mr Simon Harris, T.D.,
Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science,
Leeson Lane,
Dublin, D02 TR60.

15th December 2020

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd December in respect of the application made on behalf of the Athlone Institute of Technology and Limerick Institute of Technology under Section 29 of the Technological Universities Act, 2018.

This third technological university application is another important step in the development of Irish higher education. The HEA is ready to assist the Department with the technological university application process and I now provide our nominations for your consideration, as members of an advisory panel to assess this application for designation.

These nominations are put forward in line with the legislative requirement that panel members should have 'a special interest or expertise in, or knowledge of, matters relating to higher education, at least two of whom shall have expertise at an international level in standards and practice in higher education'. Our nominees include those with experience, national or international in:

- Successful operation of universities with a technological mission, particularly in areas of:
 - Teaching and learning and student experience;
 - Research, innovation, knowledge transfer;
 - Financial and HR management.
- Representing a group or groups that have close connections with higher education (e.g. as employers, or project partners, students).
- Planning and implementation of higher education and other institutional consolidation processes.

In compiling this list, the HEA consulted with QQI and had regard to possible conflicts of interest – both real and perceived and sought to maintain an appropriate gender balance (at least 40% women and 40% men).

HEA nominations for consideration as members of the advisory panel are:

- Jean-Pierre Finance (Professor)
- Tim McTiernan (Dr)
- Sara Owen (Professor)
- Lesley Yellowlees (Professor)

Further details on these nominees, including a short biography, is provided below.

We look forward to working with you in 2021 and the coming years to implement the reforms set out.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Wall', written in a cursive style.

Dr Alan Wall,
Chief Executive.

Appendix 1 – HEA nominations for consideration as members of an advisory panel to consider applications for designation under Section 29 of the Technological Universities Act 2018.

Jean-Pierre Finance (Professor)

Professor Jean-Pierre Finance was President of Henri Poincaré University, Nancy-1, France from 1994 to 1999 and for a second term from 2004 to 2011. It was a university of Science, Technology and Health. For two years (2007-2008), he was President of the CPU (Conference of French University Presidents). During 2010, he was president of the cluster of the 4 universities in Lorraine Region, called PRES of the University of Lorraine, and actively participated in the project to merge these 4 universities into a single Lorraine University created on 1 January 2012. Following its establishment, Professor Finance held the role of Provisional Administrator of the University. He was representative for the CPU and IRD (French Institut of Research for the development) for European Union in Brussels from 2012 to 2016. Jean-Pierre was a Board member of the EUA from 2009 to 2013. He currently chairs the EUA Expert Group on Open Science, and a member of the Magna Charta Observatory Council as well as a member of the French Office for Scientific Integrity. From 2010 to 2018, he was President of the French Bibliometric Agency (ABES) and of the French consortium HEI et recherche (Couperin), which is devoted to the acquisition of scientific publications. Since 2011, he has also been President of the agency dedicated to managing the French National Research and higher Education Network (NREN) called Renater. He is also a member of several external university evaluation panels. Further to his Maths studies, Professor Finance opted for informatics, which specialised in programming language semantics and formal methods of specification and program development and in software engineering. He obtained his PhD in 1974 and his "Doctorat d'État" in 1979. Associate Professor in 1972, he became full professor in computer science at Henri Poincaré University, Nancy-1 in 1980. From 1985 to 1994, he was at the head of the Computer Science Research Centre of Nancy, so-called CRIN, which was a joint laboratory of the 3 Nancy Universities and CNRS. From 1985 to 1993 he acted as advisor to the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research on computer science. From 1985 to 1993, he was an advisor to the Ministry of Higher Education and Research in Computer Science. In 2000-2001 he was the advisor for research at the cabinet of the French Minister for Education (Jack Lang).

Tim McTiernan (Dr)

Tim McTiernan is a visiting scholar in the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University, Ontario, and immediate past President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). He was formerly the Assistant Vice President, Government, Institutional and Community Relations, at the University of Toronto. He joined the University of Toronto in June 2006 as Assistant Vice-President, Research and Executive Director of the Innovations Group. Previously, he was Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Operating Officer for the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation. He has also served as President of Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology in North Bay, Ontario, and worked for the Yukon government as Deputy Minister, Cabinet Secretary and Chief Negotiator for Land Claims, Self-Government and Devolution.

Dr McTiernan has published on policy related to innovation, conservation, sustainable development, and post-secondary education. He is a frequent conference presenter and panellist and serves on a number of boards. He previously served on the founding board of MaRS Innovation, on the board of BioDiscovery Toronto, chaired the Committee of the Presidents of the Ontario Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology, and was co-Chair of the College-University Consortium Council established by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Dr McTiernan earned a BA (Mod) in Psychology and Philosophy from Trinity College (Dublin) and a MA and PhD in Psychology from the University of British Columbia.

Sara Owen (Professor)

Executive Dean, School of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University. As Executive Dean, Professor Owen's responsibilities include: providing academic leadership to the School of Social Sciences; delivering the School Academic Plan aligned to the University's Strategy; leading on a range of School-specific and cross-University strategic initiatives; and playing a role in the corporate leadership of NTU through active membership of the University Executive Team. Prior to joining NTU, Professor Owen was Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the University of South Wales. She previously held various roles at the University of Lincoln (Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of the College of Social Sciences, Dean, Professor) and the University of Nottingham (Reader, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer). Professor Owen originally trained as a general nurse at Guy's Hospital, London and as a mental health nurse at the Royal Bethlem and Maudsley Hospitals. She was a Senior Charge Nurse on an acute psychiatric unit before moving into education.

Professor Owen's PhD was a pluralist evaluation of services for women with long-term mental health problems, awarded by the Division on Psychiatry at the University of Nottingham. Professor Owen's research has focused on women, gender, mental health, social care and health workforce, and evaluations of education and training.

Lesley Yellowlees (Professor)

Professor Yellowlees completed both her BSc in Chemical Physics and her PhD in Inorganic Electrochemistry at the University of Edinburgh. After completing research positions in Brisbane, Australia and Glasgow she returned to an academic position in Edinburgh in 1986 and gained a personal chair in Inorganic Electrochemistry in 2005. Her current research interests are inorganic electrochemistry and spectroelectrochemistry, epr spectroscopy, synthesis and characterisation of potential solar energy dyes, utilisation of CO₂, public engagement of science and promoting women in science. Lesley completed five years as Head of the School of Chemistry at Edinburgh and Director of EaStCHEM (the joint research school of the universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews) in 2010. She then became Vice Principal and Head of the College of Science and Engineering at Edinburgh retiring from that position in 2017.

Professor Yellowlees has worked with the Royal Society of Chemistry for many years, chairing their Science and Technology Board, sitting on the Publishing Board, working with the Scottish Education section and chairing the editorial Board of Chemistry World. She became their first woman President in July 2012. She was awarded an MBE in 2005 for services to science and a CBE in 2014 for services to chemistry. She was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2012 and an Honorary FRSC in 2016. She has honorary degrees from Aberdeen, Bristol, Edinburgh Napier, Heriot-Watt, Huddersfield, Queen's Belfast, St Andrews, The Open and Strathclyde Universities.