



Mr. Jim Moore
Governing Body Chair
Waterford Institute of Technology

11 February 2022

Dear Chairpersons,

I acknowledge receipt of the letter of 3 February made jointly on behalf of Institute of Technology Carlow and Waterford Institute of Technology and the representations therein made under section 34(4)(c) Technological Universities Act 2018 confirming acceptance of my proposed decision as communicated to you on 2 February in relation to the institutions joint application made under section 29 of the 2018 Act seeking the making of an order under section 36 of the Act for TU establishment.

In this context I am pleased to hereby notify you in accordance with section 35(4)(d) of the 2018 Act that my final decision in accordance with that provision is to grant the applicant institutions' joint application.

There are a number of legislative and administrative issues arising from my decision to be completed and my officials will be in contact with you in this regard. These include the forwarding to the Department of the name proposed by the institutions in the English and Irish languages for the new technological university. Together with the appointed day to be agreed for the establishment of the TU these requirements are necessary for the drafting of the order to be made under section 36 of the Act and which draft order, in turn, requires the approval by resolution of each House of the Oireachtas.



In relation to the appointment of a first president of the TU, the applicant institutes should immediately proceed to initiate a process by way of open competition for the identification of a suitable candidate or candidates such that I can consider making a designation to the post in accordance with the provisions of section 56 of the Act.

In relation to the appointment of a first governing body my Department has undertaken an open public process inviting applications for the posts of chairperson and two ordinary members to the first governing body and I will shortly assess candidates advanced through that process for appointment. My Department is also progressing the appointment of the third ordinary member on the first governing body, which post is required to be nominated in accordance with procedures of the relevant education and training boards as process prescribed under section 56 of the Act.

In a related context I would respectfully request that consideration be given in this important pre-establishment phase of the new TU to finding a mechanism to ensure that an academic staff representative, a non-academic staff and a student union representative are included in an appropriate capacity such as would facilitate their attendance at meetings of the first governing body from its inception in order to ensure continued integration, partnership, and collegiality are maintained such as ensured the delivery of the new TU in the first instance. The First Schedule of the 2018 Act may provide an appropriate mechanism for consideration in this regard, or alternatively, the approach adopted by TU Dublin might be usefully borne in mind. It is my intention to reiterate this request to the incoming president designate in due course.

In assessing the applicant institute's application I also had occasion to consult the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland (QQI) and wish to highlight a matter they drew to my attention as follows:

While the procedures for quality assurance and for access, transfer and progression established by the institutes, and approved by QQI, continue in effect for the new technological university on establishment day, under section 61 of the Technological



Universities Act (2018), QQI notes, from the applicant institutes' response to the conditions, that the proposed Transitional Arrangements Committee will "make recommendations to the first Academic Council on how to proceed in respect of harmonisation of policies and procedures across the two former institutions."

As has been the case for those technological universities that have already been established to date and in accordance with section 30(1A)(e) of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Act (2012, as amended), proposals for harmonised procedures for quality assurance and access, transfer and progression will stand to be submitted to QQI for approval, in anticipation of a subsequent review of their effectiveness under section 34 of the 2012 Act.

Finally, all that remains for me to do at this juncture is to express my warmest congratulations to you as chairs, the respective governing bodies, presidents, staff and students of IT Carlow and Waterford IT and wider regional stakeholders at driving on over many years to arrive today at what is a truly historic moment for higher education in the South East and nationally.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Harris T.D.

Minister of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science.