



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

17 June 2021

Mr Simon Harris, TD
Minister for Further and Higher Education Research Innovation and Science
Department of Further and Higher Education Research Innovation and Science
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

RE: Connacht Ulster Alliance Technological University Consortium Application

Dear Minister

I am writing in response to your request dated 27 May to nominate at least three persons with a special interest, expertise and/or knowledge of matters relating to higher education. All nominees have expertise at an international level in standards, practices and quality assurance in higher education and are suitable if required for appointment by you to an advisory panel under Section 31(3) of the 2018 Act.

The nominees in summary include:

- Fiona Crozier (Ms), Former Head of International, QAA, UK.
- Mary Ellen Petrisko (Dr), Former President of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission in Alameda, California.
- Andrée Sursock (Dr), Former Senior Advisor at the European University Association (EUA).
- Bert van der Zwaan (Professor), Emeritus Professor of Biogeology and former Rector Magnificus (Vice Chancellor) of Utrecht University.

I attach more detailed biographies for your information.

Yours sincerely

Dr Pádraig Walsh
Chief Executive Officer

cc Frances-Mary Long, Private Secretary

Quality and Qualifications Ireland

Technological University Advisory Panel Nominations

Background

The profiles below are all associated with quality assurance at the level of their respective national system of higher education for countries that have overseen significant change to the configuration of national higher education institutions in many European countries and the US. All nominations have a strong background in the quality assurance of national and international systems and national and international representative bodies, European networks and other European and international bodies. All nominations are familiar with the Irish system.

[Ms Fiona Crozier](#)

Ms Fiona Crozier has worked in higher education for over 25 years. Her experience in quality assurance spans funding councils, universities and agencies and, over the last 17 years, she has worked both nationally and internationally in the field. Her experience incorporates the development, implementation and operationalisation of internal and external QA methods, training of peer reviewers and acting as a chair and reviewer on reviews of agencies and institutions in the UK, Ireland, Denmark and Finland as well as internationally for the European Quality Assurance Association (ENQA) and the International Quality Assurance Association for Higher Education (INQAAHE). She was Vice-President of the ENQA Board from 2009-2013.

She has been involved in many international projects, including an OECD advisory team to the Ministry of Education in Chile and a current EU-funded capacity building project in the ASEAN region. Her most recent post was as Head of International at the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education UK (QAA) and she is currently working as an independent consultant.

[Dr Mary Ellen Petrisko](#)

Dr Mary Ellen Petrisko is immediate past President of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission in Alameda, California, an institutional accreditor working to assure the quality of tertiary education in the U.S.

Dr Petrisko's extensive experience in academic leadership spans a variety of institutions across the United States and internationally. She has also worked as Vice President at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in Philadelphia, PA; Deputy Secretary of Higher Education for the State of Maryland; Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Maryland University College; and Academic Vice President of the Tai Sophia Institute (now the Maryland University for Integrative Health). She has also worked in higher education as a teacher of philosophy in the Netherlands and in the US and holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Boston University.

In addition to current work as a higher education consultant, Dr Petrisko serves on US Department of Education's National Advisory Council on Institutional Quality and Integrity, as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Academy for the Love of Learning in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and as a member of advisory boards of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Credential Engine, a registry of educational programs offered throughout the U.S., centred in Washington, D.C.

[Dr Andrée Sursock](#)

Dr Andrée Sursock is Senior Adviser at the European University Association where she is involved in a range of activities on the topics of governance, learning and teaching and quality assurance. She serves on a number of boards of universities and quality assurance agencies and advises governments on quality assurance procedures.

As Deputy Secretary General at EUA (2001 and 2009), she was responsible for developing EUA's quality assurance policy positions and activities. She holds a first degree in philosophy from the University Panthéon Sorbonne (France) and a PhD in social-cultural anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley (USA). Before joining EUA, she was Director of Development at the Centre for Higher Education Research and Information of the Open University, (UK), taught at a variety of institutions in the USA, and held an administrative post at Stanford University.

[Professor Bert van der Zwaan](#)

Professor Bert van der Zwaan is presently chair of the Board of Trustees of NUFFIC, the Dutch organization for internationalisation in education, and chair of the National Dutch Research Agenda. He is the Former Rector of Utrecht University from 2011-2018 and emeritus professor of Biogeology at Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

Trained as a palaeontologist, his main research interest involved the impact of climate change on the extinction of marine faunas. Early in his career, he initiated many interdisciplinary research programs and later was director of the Darwin Center for Biogeology. Through this work he became interested in the (regional) impact of universities on innovation. He has been lead-PI and CEO of Climate KIC, one of the first Knowledge and Innovation Communities of the EU, dealing with adaptation to climate change. He became dean of the Faculty of Geosciences in 2006 and was Rector Magnificus (Vice Chancellor) of Utrecht University from 2010-2018. He recently stepped down as president of the European League of Research Universities (LERU). Bert van der Zwaan has held numerous positions inside and outside of the academia, and (co-)authored many research papers, including more recently on Higher Education. He is the author of the book, "Higher Education in 2040" (2017). In 2018 he was knighted by King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands for his many services to (inter)-national Higher Education.

Professor van der Zwaan has recently participated in the QQI Cinnte institutional review process.