



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Board Meeting 8 May 2024

This meeting was hosted online through Zoom

Present: Chairperson (Mr P Farrell), Provost (Dr L Doyle), Professor I Arnedillo Sánchez, Ms A Bennett, Ms D Caden, Professor M Cunningham, Professor A Dignam, Ms T Doyle, Dr N Hardiman, Professor D Jones, Dr M Kelly, Professor C Leahy, Ms R Mathews McKay, Mr L Molnárfi, Ms O Muldoon, Mr M Murtagh-White, Prof A Nolan, Professor C O'Farrelly, Dr D Thornhill, Professor J Walsh, Mr A White.

Apologies: Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer (Professor O Sheils), Professor K Ahmad, Ms I Goggin, Ms L Roe.

In attendance

(ex officio) Secretary to the College/Director of Governance (Ms V Butler), Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (Ms L Ryan), Bursar/Director of Strategic Innovation (Professor E Denny), Chief Operating Officer (Ms O Cunningham).

In attendance

Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer (Dr M Olmstead), Governance Manager (Ms S De Brunner).

SECTION A

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for making themselves available to discuss this important matter.

BD/23-24/198 Statements of Interest

The Secretary to the College/Director of Governance advised the Board that there was a potential conflict of interest for Mr Molnárfi and also for the Provost with respect of the item of business to be discussed. She recommended, and it was agreed, that both Mr Molnárfi and the Provost, while remaining in the meeting for the item, would have no part in the decision.

BD/23-24/199 Urgent Item of Business – Statement to be issued

The Senior Dean, Professor Eoin O'Sullivan and the Dean of Students, Professor Richie Porter joined the meeting for this item.

The Chairperson introduced the item noting the sensitive situation which the University had been in over the recent days. The Provost, at the invitation of the Chairperson, provided the Board with an update in respect of the encampment on Fellows' Square which had been established on the evening of Friday, 3 May 2024. She noted the importance of upholding academic freedom and acknowledged the difficulties experienced by many in respect of the ongoing situation in Gaza. The Provost expressed her thanks for the engagement and good communication between staff and students and also thanked all of those who had worked to ensure that a safe environment was maintained. She advised the Board that following discussions, an agreement had been reached, noting that the University planned to release a formal statement on the matter, following the approval of Board, and that the encampment was due to cease.

The statement for release was tabled and the Board members were extended some time to review it.

Several Board members welcomed the statement and commended the engagement between the University and the protestors.

Following comments from Board members, the distinction between governance and management was discussed and it was agreed that a lessons learnt exercise will be conducted at the appropriate time and brought to a future meeting of the Board.

Action/Decision

199.01 The Board noted and approved the Statement to be issued by the University.

Professors O'Sullivan and Porter left the meeting at this point.

BD/23-24/200 Any Other Urgent Business

There were no other items of urgent business.

Signed:

Date: