IT Sligo
An Institiúid Teicneolaíochta, Sligeach

Institute of Technology Sligo
Annual Report 2020/21

President's Foreword

The period under review 1st September 2020 – 30th August 2021

After an optimistic start to the Academic Year of 2020/21 making top 10 in the Sunday Times Good University Guide, plans to re-open our campus were quickly halted by the ongoing pandemic.

The planned induction to welcome students on-campus were cancelled just days in advance due to the second lockdown. While a limited return to campus was allowed, escalating Covid cases led to further restrictions to teaching for most of the academic year.

Nevertheless, an extraordinary scale of activity continued at speed across all aspects of institute business.

Most significantly, the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA) of GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo submitted a formal application to the Minister for Further & Higher Education, Simon Harris TD, for designation as a Technological University (TU) on Friday, the 21st of May 2021. This is a significant day for all CUA students, staff and stakeholders, and marks the culmination of several years' work. The proposed TU for the West and North-West will be one of the largest multi-campus universities across the island of Ireland.

The institute experienced a very successful year in online recruitment and saw a 31% increase in CAO applicants.

The developments of two major construction projects, E01 and Block L were granted full planning permission and contractors were appointed to begin work on the major multi-million-euro extensions that will enable us to increase scientific research, online learning and house an impressive tiered performance theatre in the new YAADA campus.

As the pandemic continued, the institute stepped forward to help in the fight against Covid again this year providing the Knocknarea Arena at no charge to the HSE as the mass vaccination centre for the region.

The Board of Directors of St Angela's College met on the 3rd February and has agreed, subject to approval by the Department and the HEA, to open formal negotiations regarding incorporation with IT Sligo in the context of IT Sligo becoming a partner within the TU. The reputations and impact of both institutes will become even stronger when incorporated into the new Technological University,

The institute was awarded two major awards, Athena Swan and Green Campus. These tackle two major issues in our society and the institute will lead the change by example for future generations.

While it was a very difficult academic year due to the ongoing pandemic, it ended as one of the most historic, with an increase in student numbers, growth across all departments, capital developments on a large scale and the pathway made towards the incorporation of St. Angela's and a new Technological University for the region.

Dr Brendan McCormack

President, Institute of Technology Sligo

Chairman's Message

This academic year proved a mixture of challenging obstacles and historic achievements.

After five decades of growth we have now reached a milestone in our history that will transform the educational, social, cultural and economic landscape of the region.

The submission of the formal application by the Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA) of GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo in May marked the dawn of a new Technological University for the Northern and Western Ireland and beyond. I would like to acknowledge the hard work, commitment and dedication of the IT Sligo community to reach this historic milestone.

The institute also made a significant growth in its physical campus with plans revealed for two major new capital builds. The new development in the north campus will be a cultural centre for Sligo that will give our students the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents in world class facilities.

The second development of E01 will be among other things, a centre of excellence for scientific research and accommodate our ambitious plans to exponentially grow our online course delivery.

All this and more has been achieved under very challenging circumstances with the ongoing pandemic to which our staff and students have worked through this crisis beyond all expectations.

We review a very historic year in this annual report and look forward to a very promising and exciting future ahead.
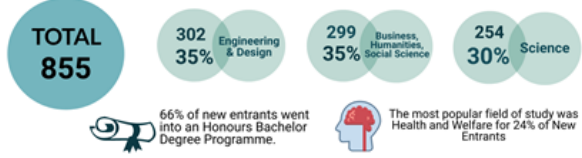
Mr Niall O'Donnellan

Chairman
Governing Body

Institute of Technology Sligo
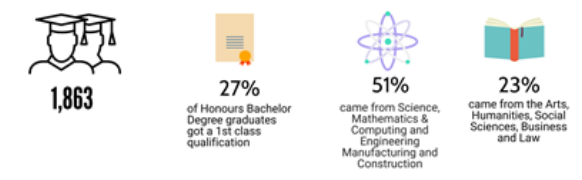
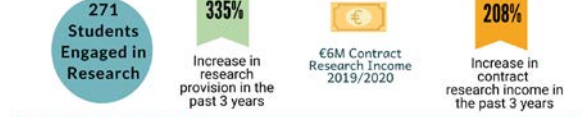**IT Sligo 2020/21**

Key Facts and Figures

NEW ENTRANTS

TOTAL 855

- 302 — 35% Engineering & Design
- 299 — 35% Business, Humanities, Social Science
- 254 — 30% Science

66% of new entrants went into an Honours Bachelor Degree Programme.

The most popular field of study was Health and Welfare for 24% of New Entrants

ENROLMENTS

TOTAL 12,071

- 46%
- 54%
- <1%

Study Mode
- Full-Time 27%
- Part-Time 33%
- Remote / Online 40%

Level
- Undergraduate 89%
- Postgraduate 11%

GRADUATES

1,863

- 27% of Honours Bachelor Degree graduates got a 1st class qualification
- 51% came from Science, Mathematics & Computing and Engineering Manufacturing and Construction
- 23% came from the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business and Law

RESEARCH

- 271 Students Engaged in Research
- 335% Increase in research provision in the past 3 years
- €6M Contract Research Income 2019/2020
- 208% Increase in contract research income in the past 3 years

PARTICIPATION

- 13% Full-Time — 2020/2021 Mature New Undergraduate Entrants
- 17% Full-Time — 2014/2015 Mature New Undergraduate Entrants
- 1005 Springboard
- 73% Part-Time — 2020/21 Flexible Learners
- 31% Part-Time — 2014/15 Flexible Learners

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

1026 International Students from **60** Countries

- 43% EU
- 38% ASIA
- 9% NORTH AMERICA
- 10% REST OF WORLD

- Full Time (21%)
- Online (62%)
- Part Time (17%)

FINANCES

State grants account for 37% of total income with Fees accounting for a further 30%

Total Income of €74.3m in 2019/20 with expenditure of €39.8m on pay costs

STAFFING

- 706 Total Staff
- 55% Academic Staff — +25% over the last 4 years
- 45% Support Staff — +29%
- Academic Staff 48% / 52%
- 38 No. Research and specialist staff

2. Enabling the Vision

Planning permitted for new builds

Planning permission has been approved for two major developments at IT Sligo. The project will include a complete rebuild of J Block, turning the single floor 1970's building into a modern four storey complex that will enhance the modern state-of-the-art campus which has seen significant development over recent years. Artist impression of Block J, replacing the single storey with a four-storey modern complex. The project is part-funded through Project Ireland 2040 and will help support additional new places for students at IT Sligo in line with the Institutes ambitious plans to increase student numbers to 10,000 by 2022. The announcement also significantly boosts the Institutes plans to become a Technological University in partnership with GMIT and LYIT next year. The second greenlight came for the rebuild of Block L in the Institutes north campus. Block K which is situated beside Block L is now complete and ready for returning students. These blocks will facilitate the consolidation on campus of the recently established Yeats Academy of Arts, Design and Architecture and form a North-Campus Creative Hub in IT Sligo. Block L will include a tiered seated theatre which will become a cultural beacon for the northwest region.

CUA Allocation

The Connacht Ulster Alliance (CUA) of GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo submitted a formal application to the Minister for Further & Higher Education, Simon Harris TD, for designation as a Technological University (TU) on Friday, the 21st of May 2021. This was a significant day for all CUA students, staff and stakeholders, and marks the culmination of several years' work. The proposed TU for the West and North-West will be one of the largest multi-campus universities across the island of Ireland. The new TU will bring together almost 600 academic programmes to a current CUA student population of 20,000 students across eight campuses. In addition to undergraduate and postgraduate courses, it will offer upskilling and employee education and support enterprises, especially SMEs, through collaborative research and enabling technology transfer. It will also build economic, cultural and social prosperity across a unique geographical region which has dispersed rural population and significant urban centres. It is hoped the new TU will be legally established in early 2022.

St Angela's College

After being granted to formally begin negotiations to incorporate St Angela's into IT Sligo in February, the two institutes and the Ursuline Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April. While not yet formally approved by the Minister of Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, we are working towards an objective whereby St. Angela's College will be incorporated into IT Sligo, in the first instance, and subsequently become one of nine campuses recognised under the new TU. This is an important milestone bringing together the two highly reputable higher education institutions in Sligo, which will serve to further enhance the provision of higher education across the region. It also progresses our plans to become part of the new Technological University, not only contributing to the TU but strengthening future developments between both institutions.

Green Campus Award

IT Sligo was awarded the Green Flag from An Taisce on the 28th of May. This is a great achievement by the sustainability team led by Fiona Britton, Frances Lucy and Declan Feeney. The collaboration across the institute to ensure our success on the submission for this award was paramount in its success. In particular we acknowledge the work from students and staff members of the Green Campus Committee over the past two years. An Taisce assessment panel noted in particular the strong sense of collaboration and engagement right across campus.

Athena Swan

IT Sligo was awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze Award from Advance HE in March 2021. This coveted award recognises extensive work undertaken in recent years to advance gender equality for staff and students in third-level colleges.

This award is a significant recognition of our commitment to advancing the careers of women and trans staff and students in academia and research, professional and support roles in our institution. Higher Education institutions have a responsibility in creating a fairer and more diverse communities on campus and into the wider society. Achieving this award is a great honour but is in no means the end of this journey. We have many more

milestones to reach along the road of achieving a culture of equality, inclusion and diversity in our Institute.

€1m for Expansion of Electrical Trade

Minster Simon Harris announced in April 2021 a €20m allocation for the expansion of apprenticeship capacity across both the further and higher education sector in 2021. The HEA confirmed that IT Sligo will get an allocation of €1,032,000 for expansion in the Electrical trade. This will involve equipment investment, refurbishment of facilities and increased staffing to provide training to 9 extra blocks of electrical apprentices per year (144 apprentices).

3. Our Students

Our students are at the heart of everything we do. Many of them have achieved notable successes at national and international level. Here, we highlight a selection of those accolades.

Induction 2020

Planned on-campus inductions were cancelled nationwide by the Department of Further & Higher Education on the bases of public health guidelines. All activities were moved online in short notice to ensure students could have a good understanding of the institutes remote learning and on-campus activities. Virtual tours, talks and information sessions were delivered to over 800 students virtually.

ICI Award

IT Sligo's Priyanka Ganguly was awarded the joint 'ICI (The Institute of Chemistry) Postgraduate Award 2020'. This award is a recognition of the excellent research work carried out by Priyanka at IT Sligo. Her research produced a number of high impact papers including ACS Energy Lett, Applied Catalysis B, Env Sci. Nano. The ICI award is given to PhD students in any Chemistry discipline working in an Irish Higher Education Institution. They must have demonstrated excellence in research through publications and also have demonstrated a commitment to supporting and promoting Chemistry.

Awards for Design Students

Yeats Academy of Arts, Design and Architecture Interior Architecture and Design student Jasmine Lee was shortlisted in the Disruptive Design Awards international competition. Her conceptual collage titled 'A Hymn to Freedom and Rebellion', created as part of her 3rd year Studio design was a contender in the Disruptive Illustration category. Fine Art student Fumi Masaki was awarded the prestigious 'Ballinglen Arts Foundation Residency Prize'. The foundation is located in Ballycastle, County Mayo and affords artists the

opportunity to live in and engage with the unique landscape and coastline of North County Mayo.

A Record 1,800 Graduates Conferred Online

IT Sligo held a very unique conferring ceremony for the class of 2020. For the first time in its 50 year history the Institute held graduation online spread over two days. The 50th anniversary also marks the highest number of graduates conferred with over 1,800 students receiving their parchments virtually form their homes. The Institutes received many messages from graduates from around the country and further afield. One such student is Sligo native Seamus Bannon who shared a photo of his conferring from his new home in Michigan in the USA. Seamus graduated with a BA(hons) in Sociology & Politics, Political Science and Government.

4. Learning & Teaching

Institute of Technology Sligo enjoys a leadership position in technology-enhanced learning. It strives to create an innovative and inspiring teaching and learning environment, backed by the support of continuous professional development for the Institute's staff. Here, we profile some of the new developments which have enhanced the Institute's Sligo learning and teaching offering during the period under review.

GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE
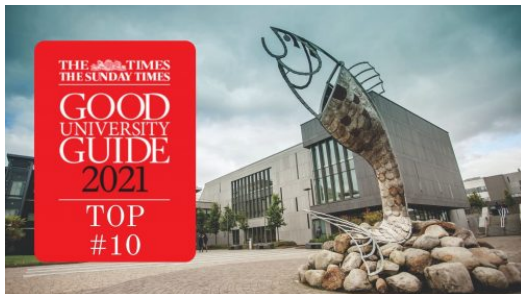
IT Sligo made the top 10 ranking in the Good University Guide 2021. We retained our ranking of number 1 for student to staff ratio, we remain 3rd for investment in our campus facility and was ranked number 1 for flexible learning students.

Covid-19

While some students returned to campus in September 2020 after a prolonged remote learning experience, the majority of teaching remained off campus.

Student's services and support were delivered remotely and additional supports were added to assist students with their studies through the pandemic.

The institute has been very conscious of the issues with student isolation associated with social distancing during lockdown. To help reduce student isolation and improve mental health, students have been offered free online Yoga and Arts classes through Healthy Campus Office. A weekly comedy show has also been organised to lift student moral. Students from Business & Social Sciences held an art competition to raise money for youth mental health charity Jigsaw. Green Campus are also raising money for Jigsaw with a "Get Your Knit On" campaign aimed at students to reduce energy bills by wearing a jumper and reducing your thermostat by 1 degree.

12 Nominated for Teaching Hero Awards
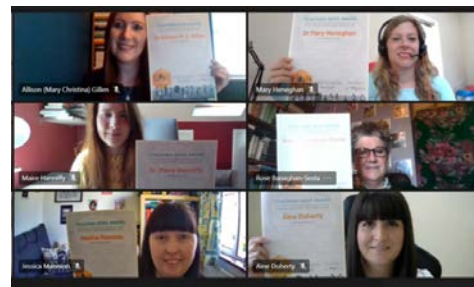
An unprecedented twelve of our lecturers received Teacher Heroes Award in April. Lecturers are nominated by students for going beyond the call of duty and their ability to engage students in their studies. The awardees are: • Áine Doherty • Akinlolu Akande • Caroline McNulty • David Doyle • Allison M. C. Gillen • Máire Hanniffy • Jessica Mannion Page 15 of 22 President's Report to the Governing Body President's Report to the Governing Body • Joan Morrison • Mary Heneghan • Owen Kenny • Rose Banaghan-Sesta •

Prehistoric Site Discovered Border by IT Sligo lecturer

Dr Marion Dowd (Lecturer School of Science) , an archaeologist and local resident, was marking the easing of Covid-19 restrictions with her son Fiachra (12), when they spotted hundreds of pieces of chert, a rock used to make stone tools, on the shores of the lake.

Dr Dowd said the lake's water level had dropped markedly due to a prolonged dry spell and had revealed a knapping floor, a place where people would have sat and shaped stone into tools more than 4,000 years ago.

"Basically, families sat at this location thousands of years ago enjoying the lake just as were doing in 2020," she said.

The tools are believed to have been used for gutting and cleaning fish, woodwork, basket making and preparing food.

Debut Novel for Lecturer

IT Sligo's Writing & Literature lecturer, Una Mannion has released her debut novel "A Crooked Tree", published by Faber & Faber to rave reviews.

BA Honours Joint Majors in Law and Business

The Department of Social Sciences was successful in its panel validation process in securing a BA Honours Joint Majors in Law and Business. The team was led by Dr Breda McTaggart, Lorraine Murphy and Ruth Walsh. They were joined on this exciting endeavour by Esther Quinn, Dr Leonard Taylor, John Weir, and Deirdre McCaffrey. This award was supported by business academics who provided the business component of the award. The team are delighted to bring this new contemporary programme to IT Sligo. It adds to the developing Arts Joint Major suite in the Department of Social Sciences.

New Master's

The Department of Social Sciences was successful in securing approval for their Professional Master of Education (Post Primary). This was the results of several years' work. The team were led by Head of Department Breda McTaggart and Maureen Haran and joined by a committed team of academics from across the campus; Anna Fewer-Hamiton, Aoife Cooney, Sinead Barrins, Dr Suzanne Colleary, Dr Byran Coyne, Paul Ferry. They

were also joined on this journey by postprimary teaching colleagues Carol Gardiner, and John Kennedy (Coláiste Cholmcille Ballyshannon). The team will begin the application process to the Teaching Council in the near future.

Prof Lucy Appointed to EPA

Appointment to the EPA Advisory Committee Prof. Frances Lucy has been appointed to the EPA Advisory Committee for a term of three years. This is a ministerial appointment by Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Advisory Committee has a wide range of advisory functions under the EPA Act, including making recommendations to the EPA, or the Minister, relating to the functions of the EPA. Prof Frances Lucy has been reappointed to the Audit and Risk Committee of Inland Fisheries Ireland for a term of three years.

Research Award

Laura Keaver announced as Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute Research

Dietitian of the year at their annual research symposium held virtually on the 4th March 2021. Laura Keaver has been shortlisted for the Alpro Foundation Award for best paper for "Plant- and Animal-Based Diet Quality and Mortality Among US Adults: A Cohort Study" which was published in the British Journal of Nutrition in September 2020.

## 5. Research, Development & Innovation

Institute of Technology Sligo has a strong research base and there is a growing number of staff actively engaging in research across many fields. To meet the ambitious objective of becoming a technological university, we have continued to expand on research, development and Innovation and have become even more involved in engaging and supporting Industries.

Major Grant Success in Science research Funding

Major Grant Success in Science research Funding for Professor Pillai Professor Suresh Pillai has been successful in a Science Foundation Ireland- EPSRC application which has been recommended for funding, It is a collaborative project with Universities of Glasgow, Herriot-Watt, IT SLIGO and the Tyndall Institute . The overall value of the project is 1.48M pounds (sterling) and 500k euro is allocated to IT SLIGO and the Tyndall Institute with 260,000 euro to

IT Sligo in funding. IT Sligo are the leading Irish organisation in this project. This is an innovation project in the area of nanotechnology and smart textiles. The project is aiming to develop the next generation of ultra-high performance human wearable textile called TENG (triboelectric nano-generators) which are capable of meeting the ever-growing energy demands of wearable and medical sensors. This will avoid the need for cumbersome battery power packs

Research Paper Features in World's Top Publication
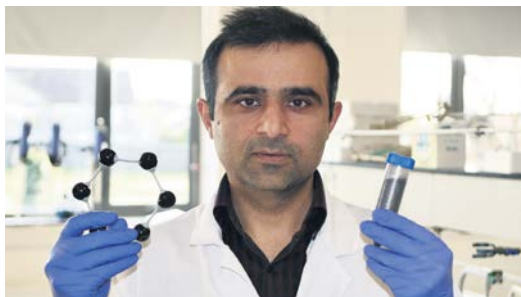
Dr Umar Khan whose research paper on "Low Cost, High Performance Ultrafiltration Membranes from Glass Fiber-PTFE Graphene Composites", which he co-authored, has been accepted for publication in Scientific Reports. This is one of the most prestigious journals in the world and few submissions make the cut. This is not the first time Dr Khan has been recognised for his work. Last year Umar was named Highly Cited Researchers, according to the Highly Cited Researchers 2019 list from the Web of Science Group ranking in the top 1% by citations for their field and year of publication, demonstrating significant research influence among their peers.

6. Partnership & External Engagement

Active engagement with the world outside our campus is fundamental to the success of the institution. Such engagement supports the development of contemporary teaching and learning and assists in the cultural and economic development of Sligo.

Covid-19 set new demands on external engagement which was met head on by staff and students.

Mass Vaccination Centre @IT Sligo

In late 2020 IT Sligo donated the use of Knocknarea Arena as a mass vaccination centre for the region. The facility was identified by the HSE as the ideal location and building to enable a safe delivery of the largest rollout of vaccines in history.

Sligo Hospital Partnership

Partnership with Sligo Hospital IT Sligo hosted the Sligo University Hospital Research and Education Foundation annual conference as a virtual conference on November 27th. The IT provided the virtual platform for the conference, supported by the IT Services team. There were three IT Sligo speakers at the conference, including Brendan McCormack giving the closing speech. The conference was the most successful ever such conference, with over 1,000 people participating, and featuring speakers such as Dr. Mike Ryan from WHO and Prof. Luke O'Neill from TCD. Una Parsons provided a report on the ways in which IT Sligo was able to provide

practical support in responding to the pandemic.

Science Festival

IT Sligo's first virtual science festival came to a close having informed, educated and entertained over 5,500 viewers. Under Covid-19 restrictions, the entire festival was moved online with over 60 events taking place through webinars, workshops and webcam talks. This years festival supported by Science Foundation Ireland kicked off with the annual Science Fair in sponsored by AbbVie. Throughout the week, participants were treated to over 60 events including, December 2020 Page 12 of 25 President's Report to the Governing Body - E&D input 1st December 2020 President's Report to the Governing Body workshops, science shows and talks from some important people in the science world who have become household names during the pandemic. Among those speaking at the festival was the World Health Organisation's Emergencies Chief and Sligo native, Dr Michael Ryan, Prof Luke O'Neill, Trinity College Dublin and Prof Adrian Hill, Director of the Jenner Institute at Oxford University.

Sligo Tidy Town Award

IT Sligo has been awarded the Sligo Tidy Town Award for Educational Campus. Congratulations to our incredible Estates team who always keep our campus grounds looking so well throughout the year. Sligo Tidy Town said of IT Sligo: "We were very impressed by the landscaped campus with some excellent walks around the copper river. IT Sligo are also well advanced in preparing for a

submission for the green flag. Like SUH this will be an important part of the STT submission when IT Sligo achieves this designation. We are also delighted with progress to University status as part of the Connaught Ulster Alliance. Unfortunately, the restrictions last year did not allow us to celebrate IT Sligo's 50th birthday. Well done to IT Sligo estates staff and contractors who maintain this wonderful resource in Sligo Town."

City Campus

IT Sligo in partnership with Sligo County Council was successful in a joint €28.68m bid to establish a "City Campus" as a new cultural quarter between North Bridge Street and the Quays. The development will include a new Library facility as a cultural, technology, creative and enterprise resource for the region. This will be the first such partnership in Ireland between a local authority and higher education in the development of a library facility for the broader community.

Sligo Engineering Fair

The Virtual Sligo Engineering Fair took place between over the weekend of 27th/28th February with extended workshops for primary schools taking place on Mon/Tues of national engineer's week. • In total there were 37 sessions over the Fair weekend with 4 additional sessions then taking place on Mon/Tues of engineer's week. • The sessions were delivered by 12 STEM providers. • Initial figures show an engagement of 1,741 persons, including 180 National School students. • Geographically, attendees at the fair came from counties all across Ireland with highlighted attendance from

Sligo, Mayo, Dublin, Donegal, Leitrim and Kildare followed by all other counties with nominal numbers.

Engineering & Technology Expo 2021

The virtual Engineering and Technology Expo was held on the 29th of April with approximately 1000 visitors. Below is some of the initial statistics: • Total booth views: 4814 visits to booths from a currently estimated 1000+ attendees. • Total video views: 674 • Total document views: 903 • Average dwell time for attendees: 1 hour 22 mins • Auditorium talks total attendance: 284

7. Economic, Social & Cultural Development

The role of Institute of Technology Sligo is to positively influence the economic and social growth of the northern and western regions and plays its part in enriching its cultural heritage.

50th Art Installations

To mark achievement of all those graduating this year, a special piece of artwork by the late Fred Conlon has been generously donated by his wife Kathleen and is now dedicated to all those graduating from IT Sligo in 2020 the year of the Institutes 50th Anniversary. Assistant Registrar Dr Aodhmar Cadogan (pictured) accepted the piece on behalf of the Institute from Kathleen Conlon the widow of the late Fred Conlon.

Creative Showcase

Creativity, hard work and commitment have been celebrated at the Institute of Technology Sligo (IT Sligo) as the Creative Showcase successfully completes its second year as an online exhibition.

The Yeats Academy of Arts, Design and Architecture (YAADA) launched a digital yearbook with the work of over 80 students across an array of creativity, including writing, fine art, architecture, performing arts and design.

The flagship department for IT Sligo has seen growing student numbers as its reputation as a leader in the creative arts builds on the national and global stage.

8. Organisation & Governance

The Governing Body of Institute of Technology Sligo consists of a Chairman, seventeen Ordinary Members and the President of the Institute. The primary role of the Governing Body is to manage and control the affairs and all property of the Institute. It provides Strategic direction, leadership, decision-making, and appoints Governing Body committees and delegate powers to such committees, while retaining ultimate accountability for such matters. As outlined in the Code of Governance for Institute of Technology Sligo there are 50 Reserved Functions of Governing Body which must be exercised only by resolution of the Governing Body.

Governing Body for the Academic Year 2020–21

The Governing Body of Institute of Technology Sligo in place at the start of the year was appointed by the Minister for Education on Skills for a five year term from 1st April 2020. This was replaced by a Governing Body appointed for a five year term or TU designation is achieved by the CUA. The Chairperson was appointed by the Minister for a five year term from 1st September 2016. The two student representatives are appointed for a period of one year.

Governing Body Membership & Meetings Attended

The Governing Body met on thirteen occasions during the 2020-21 year. Below is a list of members and the number of meetings attended during the year.

Member	Role/ Nominated By / Rep Body	No. of Meetings attended	
Cllr. Mary Bohan	MSLETB	12/13	
Mr. Geoffrey Browne	DETB	12/13	
Mr. Paraic Casey	HSE	12/13	
Ms. Mary Dolan Mc Loughlin	SIPTU	7/13	
Cllr Richard Finn	MSLETB	4/13	
Ms Beatrice Flavin	ITS- Acad Staff	13/13	
Mr. Ciaran Hayes	Local Community Dev C'ee	4/5	**Retired from GB 31.12.2020**
Dr. Mick Henry	Env. Protection Agency	12/13	
Ms Martina Kelly	ITS- Non-Acad Staff	13/13	
Mr. Seamus Kilgannon	MSLETB	11/13	
Ms. Mary Madden	MSLETB	12/13	
Dr. Brian McCann	ITS- Acad Staff	13/13	
Dr. Brendan Mc Cormack	President	13/13	
Mr. Felim Mc Neela	Sligo Chamber	12/13	
Mr. Niall O' Donnellan	Chairperson	13/13	
Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady	MSLETB	7/13	
Mr Jason Quinn	Student Rep	10/13	**Reappointed 22.12.2020**
Ms Nicola Foster McDaid	Student Rep	3/8	**Appointed 22.12.20**
Ms Sarah Searson	Arts Council	6/8	**Appointed 22.12.20**

Secretary to Governing Body

Michael Henehan, Secretarial, Governance and Compliance Manager is the Secretary to the Governing Body.

Review of Governing Body Performance

The Governing Body commissioned an external review of the operation of the Governing Body and the Audit & Risk Committee during the 2018/19 academic year with the assistance of the Institute of Public Administration (IPA). The review took place during February / March 2019 and the final report was approved by Governing Body at their meeting in June 2019. The next external review will take place during the term of the current Governing Body which commenced in April 2020.

An internal self-assessment was completed in February 2021 following an online survey of members in December 2020.

Public Spending Code

The Chairperson of the Institute's Governing Body confirms that Institute of Technology Sligo adheres to the relevant aspects of the Public Spending Code and that the Governing Body has ensured robust and effective systems and procedures are in place in Institute of Technology Sligo to ensure compliance with the relevant principles, requirements and guidelines of the Public Spending Code.

The Institute had no infrastructure projects in excess of €30M. In relation to projects less than €30M, the Institute is following the guidelines and all projects were tendered for by open, verifiable and audited competitions.

Audit & Risk Committee of Governing Body

There were eight meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee held during the 2020-21 year. The Audit & Risk Committee membership and number of meetings attended by each Member is listed below:

Name	Role	Meetings Attended
Mr. Paraic Casey (Chair)	Member of GB	8/8
Councillor Mary Bohan	Member of GB	5/8
Mr. Felim McNeela	Member of GB	8/8
Aisling McCabe	External Member	8/8
Peter McCarrick (app 24.02.21)	External Member	2/2

Governing Body Fees and Expenses

Members of the Governing Body are not eligible for fees in their capacity as Governing Body members. Members may be eligible for expenses for travelling to Governing Body meetings

and for fees and expenses where they preside on interview boards. In the 2020-21 year, the following fees and expenses were paid to members.

Governing Body Member	Expenses	Interview Fee	Total paid
	€	€	€
Cllr Mary Bohan		14,400.00	14,400.00
Mr Geoffrey Browne	213.84	17,400.00	17,613.84
Mr Seamus Kilgannon		1,800.00	1,800.00
Mr Niall O'Donnellan	163.20		163.20
Total	**377.04**	**33,600.00**	**33,977.04**

Members of Academic Council & Committees 2020 – 21

Academic Council	
Brendan McCormack(Chairperson) Ex-officio	Jacqueline McCormack Ex-officio
Michele Glacken (Secretary)Ex-officio	Jerry Bird Ex-officio
Ailish Breen	John Bartlett Ex-officio
Aine Mitchell	John Kelleher Ex-Officio
Allison Gillen	Karin White
Angela Bartlett	Keelan Kennoy (Vice President IT SSU Education20/21)
Anne Marie Frizzell	Keith Hopper
Aodhmar Cadogan Ex-officio	Laura Keaver
Bernadette Donohoe	Leigh-Ann Sweeney
Breda McTaggart Ex-Officio	Lisa Cronin
Brian McCann	Maire Hanniffy
Carmel Moran	Maire, Moran Ex-Officio
Catherine McGuinn	Mairead McCann
Catherine O'Reilly	Neville Clenaghan Ex-Officio
Chris O'Malley Ex-officio	Niamh Plunkett Ex-Officio
Colm Davey	Noel Walsh
Daire Martin (Student Union President 2021/22)	Owen Kenny
David Mulligan Ex-Officio	Padraig McGarry Ex-Officio

David Roberts	Paul Ferry
Deirdre Greaney	Roisin McGlone
Edwenia O'Malley	Suresh Pillai
Eileen Curley	Susan Leonard
Emma Britton	Thomas Smyth Ex-Officio
Emmet O'Doherty Ex-Officio	Trevor McSharry Ex-Officio
Frances Lucy Ex-Officio	Una Parsons Ex-officio
Gavin Clinch	Xavier Velay Ex-Officio
Geraldine Dowling	
Gerry Hegarty Ex-officio	

Institute of Technology Sligo - Executive Management

Dr Brendan McCormack PhD	President
Michele Glacken	Vice President Academic Affairs & Registrar
Ms Elizabeth McCabe	Vice President Finance & Corporate Services
Dr Jeremy Bird	Head of Faculty of Science
Dr Michael Barrett	Head of Faculty of Business & Social Sciences
Ms Una Parsons	Head of Faculty of Engineering & Design
Prof Jacqueline McCormack	Vice President of Online Development.
Dr Chris O'Malley	Vice President of Research, Innovation & Engagement

Financial Statements

The Governing Body are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements. The Governing Body considers the financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2020 to be a true and fair view of the Institute's financial performance and its financial position at the end of the year. The Governing Body is responsible for approving the financial statements and these were approved by the Governing Body on 16th June 2021.

The financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2020 were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General with their final audit report dated 29th June 2021.

A full detailed copy of accounts can be found through our website:

https://www.itsligo.ie/about-it-sligo/publications/