

Mr Richard Bruton, T.D.,
Minister for Education and Skills,
Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

04 May 2018

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 03 May in respect of the application made on behalf of the Dublin Institute of Technology, IT Blanchardstown and IT Tallaght under Section 29 of the Technological Universities Act, 2018.

The arrival of the first technological university application under the new legislation marks an important milestone in the development of Irish higher education. I am grateful to you, Minister Mitchell O'Connor and the Department of Education and Skills for making this possible.

The published Technological Universities Act, 2018 now brings certainty to the designation process, a clear necessity for those institutes taking a strategic decision to pursue technological university status. The HEA stands ready to assist your Department with the technological university application process as needed.

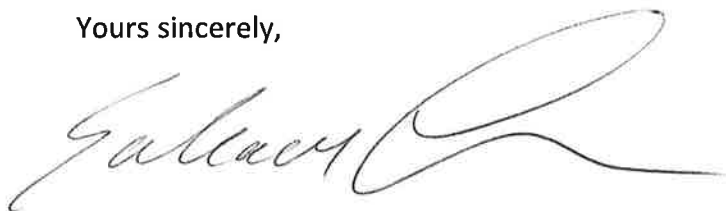
I attach our nominations for your consideration as members of an advisory panel to consider applications for designation. These nominations are put forward in line with the legislative requirement that panel members should have 'a special interest or expertise in, or knowledge of, matters relating to 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 also 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).

I continue to look forward to working with you in 2018, and the coming years, to implement the reforms set out and to deliver on Ireland's ambition for its education system to be the best in Europe by 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Love', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dr Graham Love,
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.

Catherine Harper (Professor)

Professor Catherine Harper is Deputy Vice-Chancellor at University of Chichester. Her chief responsibilities at Deputy Vice-Chancellor include the development, promotion and championship of the distinctiveness, quality and profile of the University, and overall academic leadership and active management of the University and its academic departments, staff and resources. She also has responsibility for quality and standards, academic provision, student experience, and the effective management of learning and teaching. As Deputy Vice-Chancellor she deputises for the Vice-Chancellor, is the University's Prevent Lead, the Senior Institutional Contact for both HEFCE and Senior QAA, as well as Authorising Officer for the University's Tier 2/4/5 licenses, and has been Institutional Lead for the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Year 2 submission, submitted in January 2017. Catherine's career has been as a researcher, practitioner and academic in the Creative and Cultural Industries, and as a Professor of Textiles she continues to advocate for interdisciplinary work between creative and technology subjects. Catherine is especially committed to the advancement of Women in STEM and STE[A]M (Science, Technology, Engineering [Arts] and Maths) subjects; she has experience of leading on the University of Portsmouth's successful Athena Swan Bronze Award.. Professor Harper is a Fellow of the RSA and has served as a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Peer Review College, and was a peer reviewer for both the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Excellence in Research Australia 2015 (Australia's REF).

Debra Humphris (Professor)

Professor Debra Humphris is currently the Vice-Chancellor, University of Brighton. She was previously Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education & Student Experience) at the University of Southampton in September 2008. Within her portfolio she provides strategic leadership for the education offer and student experience across the University and at all levels, as well as widening participation, recruitment and admissions and employer engagement. Outside of the University Debra chairs the Employment and Skills Board for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, the Partnership has been successful in becoming one of the first Local Enterprise Partnerships named by the Coalition Government. As Professor of Health Care Development, Debra has worked closely with a wide range of public and independent sector organisations to shape and redesign service in relation to policy drivers, to evolve workforce development and support education innovation. Debra's recent research activity focused on redesigning services in relation to the needs of people with long term conditions. Originally recruited to the University from the Department of Health in 2000, Debra has led its major development of interprofessional learning in health and social care, the New Generation Project. This education innovation was undertaken in partnership with the University of Portsmouth and is widely acknowledged as a global leader. Following this she was responsible for the development and leadership of the Health Care Innovation Unit. Originally qualifying as a Registered Nurse, Professor Humphris spent 20 years in the NHS including Senior Research Fellow at the South Thames Regional Health Authority, and at St George's Hospital Medical School. She achieved her PhD in 1999, which considered the implementation of policy into clinical practice.

Andrée Sursock (Dr)

Dr Andrée Sursock is Senior Adviser at the European University Association (EUA). She is involved in a range of projects on the topic of quality assurance in higher education and recently completed the EUA's Trends 2015 report, focusing on learning and teaching developments in Europe. 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.

Tim McTiernan (Professor)

Professor Tim McTiernan is a former President and Vice-Chancellor at 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. Professor 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. Professor Tim 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.

Nancy L. Zimpher (Dr.)

Dr. Zimpher was the 12th (and first female) Chancellor of the State University of New York (2009-2017). During this time she developed and led a diverse set of initiatives that transformed the system from a loose constellation of 64 campuses into a focused, cohesive whole, implementing new policies that expand college access and affordability; improve degree completion; promote diversity; ensure equity; support world-class teaching, research, and innovation; and much more. With nearly 463,000 students and 64 colleges and universities, SUNY is the nation's largest comprehensive system of higher education. She is active in many state and national education organisations, and is a recognized leader in the areas of teacher preparation, urban education, and university-community engagement. She currently serves as chair of the Board of Governors of the New York Academy of Sciences and the National Association of System Heads. Prior to SUNY, Dr. Zimpher served as president of the University of Cincinnati, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and executive dean of the Professional Colleges and dean of the College of Education at The Ohio State University. She has authored or co-authored numerous books, monographs, and academic journal articles on teacher education, urban education, academic leadership, and school/university partnerships. She holds a bachelor's degree in English Education and Speech, a master's degree in English Literature, and a Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Higher Education Administration, all from The Ohio State University.