

CUA NEWSLETTER

**WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

CONNACHT-ULSTER
ALLIANCE 

ISSUE 5



Content

1. [Outcome of panel visit imminent](#)
2. [CUA awarded €4.2m from TU Transformation Fund](#)
3. [Higher Education Institutions jointly launch the #UnmuteConsent Campaign](#)
4. [CUA EduCampus Forum](#)
5. [Podcast: GMIT's Dr Phillip White explores two areas of research with some startling findings](#)

Outcome of panel visit imminent



L to R: Paul Hannigan, President of LYIT, Dr Brendan McCormack, President of IT Sligo, Dr Martin Cronin, Chair of the Connacht-Ulster Alliance, Dr Seán Duffy, CUA Executive Project Lead and Dr Orla Flynn, President of GMT.

The **CUA TU application** was reviewed by an International Advisory Panel during an online visit which took place from 16 – 23 July. The panel's report was presented to HEA Board on 7 September. The report was then sent to the Minister for Further and Higher Education and an announcement is due towards the end of September/ beginning of October.

The CUA's Joint Governing Body Sub-committee engaged Deloitte to develop a **Risk Register** focusing on the TU amalgamation process. The draft Register has been presented by Deloitte to Working Group 1 and Working Group 4 (WG4). It is currently being reviewed by WG4 and will shortly be circulated to the wider groups. It is intended to be a dynamic document which will be updated on a periodic basis.

Work is continuing on the **TU Naming & Branding** Project in conjunction with brand experts McCann Dublin. A presentation focusing on a shortlist of names will be made to the Joint Governing Body Sub-committee this month (Sept).

The CUA Governing Bodies have nominated members to form a **TU Presidential Search** Committee. The committee met in July and agreed to

develop a tender to engage the services of a Professional Recruitment Company to assist in the TU President search.

CUA awarded €4.2m from TU Transformation Fund



The HEA announced funding, under TUTF, of €25.67m to higher education institutions to support them in their progression towards Technological University status and in post-establishment development; the CUA received €4.22m for the next year.

The funding will support the implementation of recommendations set out in the Technological University Research Network (TURN) group's report "*Connectedness & Collaboration enabled by Connectivity*", published in October 2019. The report makes a series of 12 recommendations for outcomes that will provide TUs with a solid foundation for their development. These centre upon three thematic areas:

- (i) investment in integrated multi-campus digital infrastructure

- (ii) investment in research capacity
- (iii) realignment of the policy framework and funding for TUs including an expansion of institutional autonomy.

Higher Education Institutions jointly launch the #UnmuteConsent Campaign



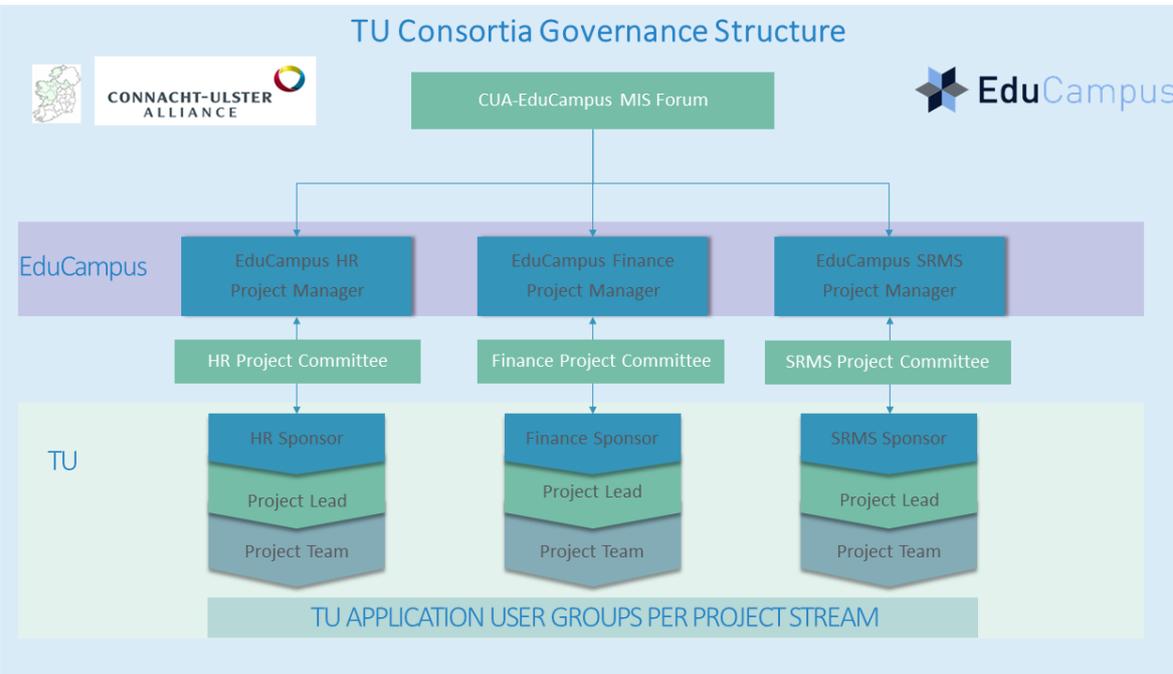
Sexual violence and harassment is a problem on higher education campuses and is under-reported. All higher education institutions are currently implementing a wide range of measures within the National Consent Framework. To help drive awareness and encourage conversation on consent the Higher Education Institutions, their representative bodies IUA and THEA, the HEA, and USI launched the #unmuteconsent campaign which seeks to mobilise the student community to make a difference, by speaking out, by enhancing their own knowledge about consent, and ultimately, by challenging

and changing behaviours.

The campaign was informed by findings from the Union of Students in Ireland and the Active* Consent Sexual Experiences Survey (2020). This research is alongside significant work by the HEA, HEIs, Union of Students in Ireland and other specialist bodies to research this area further and to inform students on the subject of consent.

#UnmuteConsent was launched this week across all HEIs campuses including the three institutes in the CUA. The website www.unmuteconsent.ie highlights the support, resources and training available in each university and Institute of Technology.

CUA EduCampus Forum



The CUA EduCampus Forum oversees the strategic systems alignment activities. Membership is drawn from representatives from EduCampus and

equal representation from the three CUA partner institutes and Project Management Team. Key responsibilities are allocated as follows:

- a) Undertake Business Process Alignment to achieve policy, business and systems process alignment (CUA);
- b) Capture agreed requirements to enable alignment (CUA)
- c) Lead and facilitate design of strategic alignment activities (EduCampus)
- d) Facilitate Solution Review activities ahead of scope and planning (EduCampus)
- e) Manage all commercial supplier engagements (EduCampus)

Due to the complexities, significant workload and challenging timelines involved in the MIS Integration project, a pragmatic, three phase approach has been adopted:

Phase One – Day One Ready – completion of all essential tasks to ensure we are legally and statutory compliant . Work has already commenced on this phase and all activities are included in our Designation Day Implementation Plan which WG4 closely monitor and make decisions in a timely manner to ensure achievement of key deliverables. Examples of activities underway are policy harmonisation , procurement process for appointment of International Recruitment Agency for Presidential Search, development of draft Code of Governance for the new Governing Body and the recruitment of project teams for the HR and Finance and Student Records.

Phase Two – Business Process Alignment – This phase will commence with a forensic examination of our existing business process , we will align to existing best practice across the CUA or replace with best practice drawn from elsewhere .

Phase Three – Systems Integration – Fully integrate our main MIS Systems – Finance (Agresso), Core (HR) and Student Records (Banner), and associated

systems of Student Credentials and the Library.

All of this work is being overseen by the CUA EduCampus Forum who have completed similar projects with all other TU Consortia and signaled an expected timeline of between 18 months to 2 years to complete all phases, depending on the systems and existing level of alignment.

Podcast: GMIT's Dr Phillip White explores two areas of research with some startling findings



In this special Thought Leaders Podcast, GMIT's Dr Phillip White, explores two areas of research with some startling findings:

1. Levels of Heavy Metals in Hair associated with Autism Symptoms among Juveniles
2. Rapid Analysis of cocaine on Bank notes using Mass Spectrometry.

This research was presented by Dr White at the CUA Research Symposium in 2020.

Listen to the interview through the [link here](#).

[Listen to the Podcast here](#)



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If you want to know more about the CUA please contact the [project team here](#) or email: info@cualliance.ie

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