



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Following the launch of SETU's Strategic Plan Connecting for Impact in May 2023, the University's President and Executive Team are now focussed on delivering the actions (numbered in the text below) specified in the plan and advancing towards the University's strategic priorities. The Strategy Office advises the University's Governing Body three times yearly on progress with regard to Strategic Plan implementation, as well as issuing an end-of-year annual progress report. It is the intention of the office to publish updates on the Strategic Planning section of the SETU website as well as to issue regular updates in this newsletter.

In support of the South East as a region known for innovation and innovative industry, SETU continues to build capacity in research off a strong base. **Capacity building** funding has been secured through the TU-RISE fund (Strategic Plan Action 1.5) and a range of initiatives including staff sabbatical schemes, for instance, are taking place as part of the workplan. A new **VP Research, Innovation and Impact** has been appointed to drive this element in the Plan.

While SETU remains at the heart of the South East as a Learning Region, and remains the leading provider of higher education to students in the region (SP 4.1), we continue to seek to expand our portfolio. We recently were approved to deliver **Veterinary Medicine** and a new **Masters of Pharmacy** at the University (SP 4.1). SETU continues to enhance its capability as an accessible organisation with strong recruitment from National Access Plan target groups (including students with disabilities) (SP 4.4, 4.6).

Our involvement with N-TUTORR supports our advances in teaching and learning and the evolution of our curriculum (SP 5.1, 5.2) We plan a review of our programme portfolio in the coming year and will develop mechanisms to embed key values in the curriculum, including those relating to sustainability (SP 5.2). A new **Associate VP for Sustainability** will be the focal point of this element in that action. Significant progress has been made in the last year in international partnerships, especially with regard to our European University alliance, EU-CONEXUS, and in transnational education with our two colleges in China (SP 8.1, 8.4, 8.5) TSAF (SP 10).



Title

To stay updated with the latest news from South East Technological University, be sure to visit www.setu.ie/news



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

SETU's ambitions require some reshaping of the organisation. Our **merger programme** continues with greater alignment of systems, processes, structures across all campuses (SP 14.3, 14.4). We have appointed a new **VP People, Culture and EDI** and a senior **Change Professional** who are supporting the wider change programme associated with our transformation (SP 10.1, 10.6).

Organisational restructuring is underway, new Faculties have been created, and some professional units are already established and are developing (SP 10.3). We continue to support staff in their professional development. We launched a **recognition scheme** for staff (SP 10.7) to acknowledge the contributions of staff members to the University. Our EDI plans have been published and are progressing, including plans to be designated a University of Sanctuary (SP 12.1-12.7). a new unit, **CORDA**, has been established in support of data-informed decision-making across the university (SP 14.5).

Our Strategic Plan recognises the need for significant capital development across the University's campuses. Our **Corporate Services** building on the Carlow campus has recently opened (SP 13.1.2) and we acquired the site in Waterford for the **University-Enterprise Quarter** (SP 13.1.1). Funding applications have been submitted for a new **Wexford Campus** and for the first building on the UEQ (SP 13.1.1, 13.1.5, 13.1.6). A business case has been submitted for new **student accommodation** (SP 13.2) and tenders for our **PPP** buildings (in Engineering and in Science) are at final evaluation stage (SP 13.1.3-4).

New sub-strategies to be published this year will give substance to some key objectives and these include our Research and Innovation Strategy, our Global Engagement Strategy, our Apprenticeship Strategy, and our Lifelong Learning Strategy. While there have been challenges in executing all the scheduled actions in the Strategic Plan, the above represent a significant achievement for Year 1.





CHANGE MANAGEMENT UPDATES

The first in the new **Change Network Programme** series took place recently with great attendance and a host of new members. SETU VP Corporate Governance and University Secretary Elaine Sheridan was our first speaker along with team members Sarah Morrissey and Susan Green . The programme provides an informal opportunity for staff to find out more about areas of University activities and to contribute their experiences to inform decision making. Elaine and the team brought a relevancy of Corporate Governance to the group and we extend our thanks for their participation.

'Think Tanks #2' will be held around the university throughout November and December. The first Think Tanks gathered many ideas and suggestions from staff across the university on the topic of communication and decision making in SETU. Those ideas have been developed into concepts some of which have been piloted or implemented. I look forward to presenting these at Think Tank 2 for further feedback and to develop further ideas together. We encourage you to attend if possible as we are making a difference and it's a chance to have your say.

Roadshow - as part of our organisational design we aim to bring a roadshow to each campus marking a significant milestone in our development as we see a visual representation of the structures and services of our university. The new academic and PMSS structures will be presented along with an accompanying suite of posters which signpost the services across SETU.

CI-HE Ireland Network - Continuous Improvement in Higher Education Ireland . This is a grass roots network which currently includes representation from UCD, Trinity College, TU Dublin, UCC and SETU. Continuous improvement is the blanket term used to describe a range of methodologies and frameworks such as LEAN, Six Sigma, Design Thinking, Change Management, Process design, Service design, etc., the list is extensive. The first webinar of the network will present 3 case studies of continuous improvement in higher education including one from SETU. If you are interested in getting involved with the network, or attending the webinar please reach out directly lynne.whelan@SETU.ie.

Our Change Management Programme continues to support a range of units across the University, bringing together teams into workshops and applying our 4-stage process to develop new strategies, build shared understanding and develop creative solutions for operational activities.





SETU NEWS & UPDATES

Academic Affairs

The following academic regulations have been approved by Academic Council and are effective from 1 September 2024. These consist of the Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes 2024-2025 and three associated system-specific Regulations.

- Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes 2024-2025
- External Examining Regulations – ADF System
- External Examining Regulations – SAM System
- Work Placement of Learners Regulations – ADF System

The regulations can be found on the [Policies and Documents Downloads](#) webpage and on the [Quality Assurance](#) webpage.

A webinar for staff on the above regulations will be held in the coming weeks.

PMSS Excellence Awards 2024

Congratulations to the nominees and awardees of SETU's inaugural PMSS Excellence Awards, which took place on 27 September at the SETU Arena in Waterford. The awards celebrate the exceptional contributions of our Professional, Managerial, and Support Staff (PMSS) who embody SETU's core values of excellence, inclusivity, and innovation.

Special recognition goes to this year's recipients, including four individual awardees (Mary Boylan, Angela Collins, Kim Harte and Roisín Shanahan) and one team award (Centre for Technology-Enhanced Learning (CTEL)). Your commitment to SETU and the wider community is truly inspiring, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of you for your outstanding achievements.





SETU NEWS & UPDATES

QQI Institutional Review

On 7 October, SETU was visited by an expert peer review group of Irish and international experts as part of the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) institutional review. The week-long site visit followed an extensive period of reflection on quality assurance by SETU students and staff. This process was led by an institutional self-evaluation steering group with representatives from all campuses, including students and staff. Over the past academic year, seven working groups met periodically to assess progress and plans across several key themes:

1. SETU's Quality Framework
2. Academic delivery
3. Academic administration and information systems
4. Our learner experience
5. Research and innovation
6. Our people
7. Our engagement - national and international

The outcomes of these working groups were captured in SETU's [first institutional self-evaluation report \(ISER\)](#), the main document for the review team in assessing SETU's progress. The [institutional profile](#), containing key facts and figures, accompanied the ISER.

More than 170 students, staff members, and external stakeholders met the review team across 28 sessions held on the Kilkenny Road and Cork Road campuses. Dr Paul O'Leary, Head of Quality Promotion, and his team managed the planning and coordination of the visit and overall review process.

The review process will culminate in a report that includes recommendations and commendations for the university. Those meeting with the review team were invited to attend the oral report on the Kilkenny Road campus.





SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

Climate and Biodiversity Week 2024

SETU, in collaboration with partners across the region, hosted a suite of events this month to focus attention on climate and biodiversity. From circular economy initiatives including a Junk Koture Design Exhibition, clothing swap and repair workshops to biodiversity events like the installation of teaching flower beds, a screening of the movie 'wilding' and an early childhood forest school, to a focus on energy use, active travel, changing weather patterns and climate adaptation, the schedule included something for everyone. A number of guest speakers and staff and student engagement events challenged participants on embedding sustainability in higher education and centralising the SDGs and our EU-CONEXUS team considered how we can work together to make the SE a greener, healthier, and more attractive place in which to live, learn, play, and do business.

SETU joins SDSN Ireland

SETU has become a member of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Ireland, an all-island network which connects to almost 2,000 member institutions around the world, supporting capacity building for the local implementation of SDGs in higher education. To learn more please visit [here](#).

Education for Sustainable Development

In September SETU staff who participated in the first joint rollout of the National Forum Sustainability Digital Badge were presented with their certificates. In addition, Sulitest, a tool to allow students and staff to self-assess what they know about the world's social, economic and environmental sustainability challenges was launched.

SETU Biodiversity and Sustainability Regional Forum

A meeting of the SETU Biodiversity and Sustainability regional forum took place in West Campus in September with fascinating insights from Mr. John Geraghty on the role of regenerative agricultural practices in the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and a tour of the many nature restoration projects at Carriganore 'living lab'.



At SETU, we are dedicated to shaping a sustainable future in all our activities, from education and research to operations and campus development.



SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

NTA Smarter Travel Mark

SETU has been awarded the NTA Smarter Travel Mark at Silver level acknowledging the university's support for active and sustainable travel on the commute and beyond. With thousands of students and staff travelling to our campuses every day the award is a recognition of SETU's commitment to changing attitudes and behaviours regarding active travel and in encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport.



GreenTech HQ

SETU has signed a memorandum of understanding with GreenTech HQ in Enniscorthy highlighting both organisations' commitment to sustainability, innovation, business, and community engagement and supporting the green transition in the South East.

SETU Climate Action Roadmap

The SETU Climate Action Roadmap, which details how the University plans to meet decarbonisation and energy efficiency targets, towards net zero by 2050, has been updated and is available [here](#).

Thank You

Huge thanks to the SETU estates teams for supporting meadowgrass and wildflower projects across our campuses this summer.



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IN PICTURES: SETU GLOBAL 2024



Chinese Embassy



France



Indonesia



India



China



Vietnam



Sri Lanka



USA

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