

## Minutes of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee Meeting held in hybrid format at PSI House on 21 August 2025

### Agenda Item A - Apologies

Name	Role	Present (Yes/No)
Ms Gráinne Power	Chair	Yes
Mr Peter Dennehy		No - Apologies
Ms Dorothy Donovan		Yes
Mr Mark Jordan		Yes
Ms Geraldine Crowley		No - Apologies
Dr Laura Sahm		Yes
Mr Richard Hammond S.C		Yes
<b>Members of PSI staff in attendance for part or all of the meeting included:</b>		
<i>Ms Joanne Kissane</i>	<i>Registrar and Chief Officer</i>	
<i>Mr Dan Burns</i>	<i>Head of Registration and Education</i>	
<i>Ms Ciara Dooley</i>	<i>Community Pharmacy Quality and Safety Manager</i>	
<i>Ms Louisa Hamra</i>	<i>Professional Standards Officer</i>	
<i>Ms Ruth Baily</i>	<i>Governance Executive</i>	
<i>The meeting commenced at 9 am.</i>		

**Colour code: Red—for decision; Green—for discussion; Blue—for information**

### Agenda Item B – Declaration of Interests

Issue
Declaration of interests by Committee members.
Information
The Chair invited Committee members to declare any conflicts of interest regarding the items scheduled for discussion. Dr. Laura Sahm declared that she would abstain from voting on Item E.1.
Decision Approved and/or Action Requested
The Chair accepted Dr. Sahm’s decision to abstain from voting on Item E.1

### Agenda Item C – Agreement on the meeting agenda

#### Issue

The meeting agenda had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

#### Information

No changes were proposed to the meeting agenda as circulated.

#### Decision Approved and/or Action Requested

None.

### Agenda Item D – Approval of Minutes – 12 June 2025 Meeting

#### Information

The Chair noted that the minutes of the meeting of 12 June 2025 would be deferred for approval at the meeting on 17 September.

### Agenda Item E – Evaluation Report: Application from ATU for accreditation of a Five-Year Fully Integrated Master's Degree Programme in Pharmacy\*

#### Issue

Evaluation Report: Application from ATU for accreditation of a Five-Year Fully Integrated Master's Degree Programme in Pharmacy\*

#### Information

The Committee considered the evaluation report on the outcome of a first-time application for accreditation of a five-year fully integrated Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) programme developed by the new Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Sligo. The Committee discussed the recommendation of the accreditation team, which recommends that Council grant recognition and approval for the proposed MPharm for a period of five years, subject to specified conditions being met.

The Committee considered and discussed the evaluation report and the response by ATU. The Committee discussed at length the recommendation made by the accreditation panel concerning the proposed programme start date and the feasibility of achieving this ambition by ATU. The Committee expressed concern that ATU is proceeding with student intake in September despite the Accreditation Panel's recommendation that consideration be given by ATU to the benefits of postponing the start date of the MPharm programme, either to later in Semester 1 in the 2025/26 academic year or to the 2026/27 academic year. During its deliberations, the Committee

was informed that ATU has been actively preparing for the programme's commencement since late 2024 and has a well-considered induction process planned for new students. The Committee was also advised that at both the reconvened accreditation visit in July and in its response to the report of the accreditation team, ATU provided assurance that all necessary arrangements were in place to commence the programme in September 2025. The Committee was advised that this matter, along with the other recommendations and conditions for recognition and approval, would be reviewed during the compliance visit scheduled in the second year of the programme. It was noted that ATU had met the accreditation standards, and the panel's overall recommendation of recognition and approval was not contingent on compliance with this specific recommendation. The Committee also noted that the compliance visit, forming part of the ongoing oversight process, is expected to take place in the first semester of year two.

The Committee, following discussion, agreed to recommend to Council at its meeting on Monday, 25 August, the approval of the recognition of the MPharm Programme at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), subject to the conditions in the assessment report.

#### Decision Approved and/or Action Requested

**Decision Approved:** The Committee recommended the approval of the recognition of the MPharm Programme at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), subject to the conditions specified in the evaluation report.

#### Agenda Item F.1 – Any other business

##### Issue

No other business was discussed.

##### Information

None.

#### Decision Approved and/or Action Requested

None.

The meeting concluded at 09.50 pm.

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

