

## Governing Authority Election 2025: Candidate Profile – Professional Support



Dr Richard Manton  
Sustainability Office

### Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

I am the Director of Sustainability at University of Galway, which I am proud to say is Ireland's leading university for sustainability and a Sustainable Development Goals Ambassador. I have worked and studied at the University for a total of 12 years, having previously held roles in the School of Engineering, School of Geography, Archaeology & Irish Studies and School of Political Science & Sociology.

I am passionate about quality, sustainability and wellbeing in the higher education sector. Before taking up my current position, I was the Registrar at Engineers Ireland, where I spent seven years working on engineering education and practice, including visiting university campuses around Ireland and internationally.

I was also a Non-Executive Director at Bus Éireann for five years, providing oversight and strategic direction to our national bus company, and I continue to advise CIÉ Group on sustainability. I am acutely aware of the transport challenges faced by University staff and students, and the need for improved public transport connectivity.

I am a strong believer in lifelong learning. I am a Chartered Engineer and Fellow with a BE in civil engineering, MA in financial management, PhD in sustainable transportation and a professional diploma in digital transformation management.

### Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

The following are my priorities should I be elected to Údarás na hOllscoile:

#### 1. Sustainability and climate action

In the midst of the climate and biodiversity emergency, I will use my voice on Údarás to drive sustainability and climate action at the highest level of the University. Not only is it incumbent on us to meet climate targets, this is a major opportunity for our University to build our reputation as a climate champion and attract students and funding on that basis. I will



advocate for the sustainability value of the University, achieving Net Zero and supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. I will challenge barriers to progress and celebrate successes.

## 2. Staff health and wellbeing

As a representative of professional support staff (including support and technical staff) on Údarás, I will promote the physical, mental and social health and wellbeing of staff of the University. All members of our community deserve a safe, healthy and happy workplace. I will support initiatives that improve health and wellbeing and will challenge any systems, procedures and practices that compromise staff health and wellbeing.

## 3. Making our campuses better places to work, study and visit

While our transport challenges are largely beyond the control of the University, I will use my voice on Údarás to support the strategic planning and capital decisions required to facilitate the Connemara Greenway, Cross-City Link (bus priority on University Road), Clifden Railway Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge and Nun's Island regeneration. We have a beautiful main campus nestled alongside the River Corrib with regional campuses and research sites in world-renowned landscapes. I will also advocate policies and projects that improve the accessibility of our campuses and the enhancement of the natural environment.

Seo a leanas na tosaíochtaí a bheidh agam má thoghtar chun Údarás na hOllscoile mé:

### 1. Inbhuanaitheacht agus gníomhú ar son na haeráide

Agus géarchéim aeráide agus bhithéagsúlachta ag bagairt ar an saol mór, bainfidh mé leas as mo ghlór ar an Údarás leis an inbhuanaitheacht agus an gníomhú ar son na haeráide a bhrú chun cinn ag an leibhéal is airde san Ollscoil. Ní hamháin go bhfuil sé de dhualgas orainn go léir ár spriocanna aeráide a bhaint amach, ach tá deis ollmhór le tapú ag an Ollscoil cur leis an gclú atá uirthi cheana mar chrann taca aeráide agus, ar an gcaoi sin, idir mhic léinn agus mhaoiniú a mhealladh isteach. Labhróidh mé amach ar son luach inbhuanaitheachta na hOllscoile, an Neodracht a bhaint amach agus tacú leis na Spriocanna Forbartha Inbhuanaithe. Cuirfidh mé in aghaidh a bhfuil á choinneáil siar muid agus déanfaidh mé ceiliúradh ar a n-éiríonn linn a bhaint amach.

### 2. Sláinte agus folláine na foirne

Mar an t-ionadaí do bhaill foirne tacaíochta gairmiúla (baill foirne tacaíochta agus theicniúla ina measc) ar an Údarás, cuirfidh mé sláinte agus folláine fhisiceach, mheabhrach agus shóisialta fhoireann na hOllscoile chun cinn. Tá ionad oibre sábháilte, sláintiúil agus sona tuillte ag gach duine againn. Tacóidh mé le tionscnaimh a fheabhsaíonn sláinte agus folláine agus ceisteoidh mé córas, nós imeachta nó cleachtas ar bith a chuireann sláinte agus folláine na foirne i mbaol.

3. Na campais a dhéanamh níos fearr do bhaill foirne, do mhic léinn agus do chuairoteoirí araon Cé gur beag neart atá ag an Ollscoil dul i ngleic leis na fadhbanna iompair i ndáiríre, bainfidh mé leas as mo ghlór ar an Údarás mar sin féin le tacú leis na cinntí pleanála straitéisí agus caipitil a theastaíonn le héascaíocht a dhéanamh ar Ghlasbhealach Chonamara, ar an Nasc Traschathrach (tosaíocht do bhusanna ar Bhóthar na hOllscoile), ar Dhroichead Iarnróid an Chlocháin do Choisithe agus Rothaithe agus ar athghiniúint Oileán Altanach. Is álainn an príomhchampas atá againn neadaithe ar bhruach Abhainn na Gaillimhe, gan trácht ar na campais réigiúnacha agus láithreáin taighde atá againn in áiteanna a bhfuil clú domhanda orthu. Labhróidh mé amach ar son beartais agus tionscadail a fheabhsóidh inrochtaineacht na gcampas agus an timpeallacht nádúrtha araon.



## **Candidate Outline of Relevant Competencies / Cur síos an Iarrthóra ar Inniúlachtaí Ábhartha**

The following are my relevant competencies for a position on Údarás:

### **1. Governance, strategy and risk**

I was a member of the Board of Bus Éireann for five years, responsible for independent oversight and strategic direction of the national bus company with €500 million revenue and 2,800 staff. I gained expertise in governance, compliance and strategy for State bodies. I was a member of the Sustainability Committee, Commercial & Innovation Committee, Remuneration Committee and Safety & Accessibility Committee. At Engineers Ireland, I was responsible for the boards which oversaw Ethics & Disciplinary, Accreditation, Membership & Qualifications, and I was the institution's Chief Risk Officer.

### **2. Executive management and finance**

As Director of Sustainability at the University, I have established a new Sustainability Office to implement our ambitious sustainability strategy. This includes managing extensive engagement through the Community University Sustainability Partnership and its working groups. At Engineers Ireland, I was responsible for several staff teams and associated budgets across membership, accreditation, professional titles and sectoral engagement. I hold a first-class honours Master's degree in financial management.

### **3. Higher education**

I have spent most of my career working in different areas of the higher education sector. This includes my current position in professional services, the accreditation of engineering education (Ireland and international), teaching modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and research at postgraduate and postdoctoral levels. I am a strong advocate for higher education, serving as a member of the Royal Irish Academy Engineering & Computer Sciences Committee and the Engineers Ireland West Region.

### **4. Digital technology**

I am particularly interested in digital technology (its benefits and limitations) and the digital transformation of systems and processes. I recently completed a professional diploma in digital transformation management.