

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:00 on 22 JUNE 2022, via Zoom.

Voting members: Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Prof Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Prof Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Prof Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange, and Innovation); Prof Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences); Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience); Dr Cathryn Charnell-White; Prof Hazel Davey; Mr Prysor Davies; Prof Sarah Davies; Prof Iain Donnison; Ms Mared Edwards, UMCA President; Dr Rebecca Edwards; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Gabor Gelleri, Mr Penri James, Chair of AU Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Dr Thomas Jansen; Dr Alex Mangold; Dr Louise Marshall; Mr John Morgan; Mr David Moyle; Dr Heather Norris; Ms Sabina O'Donoghue, AberSU President; Prof Eleri Pryse; and Prof Phillipp Schofield.

Non-voting members: Prof Simon Cox; Dr Andrew Davies; Prof Andrew Evans; Prof Nigel Holt; Prof Emyr Lewis; Prof Helen Roberts; Dr Anoush Simon; and Prof Andrew Thomas.

In attendance: Mr Tim Davies, Director of Information Services; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Ms Emma Williams, Academic Registrar and Ms Kath Williams, University Secretary.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Prof Simon Banham; Guy Baron; Dr Patrick Finney; Ms Rachael Davey; Dr Sarah Higgins; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Ms Elizabeth Manners, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Prof Robert Meyrick; Dr Sarah Wydall, and Prof Reyer Zwiggelaar.

44. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. Welcome

Dr Jamie Medhurst who was attending instead of Professor Simon Banham.

2. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the deaths of:

1. Professor Ken Walters FRS, former Professor in the Department of Mathematics and the Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences.
2. Dr Brian Davies, a former lecturer in biochemistry.
3. Emeritus Professor Mike Pearson, Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies.
4. Tun Arshad, Fellow, passed away age 93 years 14 June 2022.

45. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared in relation to the business to be transacted during the meeting.

46. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 (SEN2122-064).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

47. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RECEIVED

A log setting out the progress made in taking forward decisions and actions agreed at the most recent Senate meeting, and outstanding actions from previous meetings (SEN2122-065).

NOTED

The updates provided in the decisions log.

48. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report but the Vice-Chancellor wished to note her congratulations to Professors Iain Donnison, Rhys Jones, Colin McInnes and Dr Eryn White who had all been elected as Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales.

49. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor (SEN2122-066).

NOTED

1. The report consisted of three key parts: a highlight report; a planning and student enrolment report; and a communications report.
2. Some of the detail regarding recruitment was highlighted, in particular the reliance on international students. Members' attention was also drawn to the detail concerning budget-setting for next financial year.
3. It was noted that the Complete University Guide league table data outlined would be revised and re-issued to reflect the full REF data.

50. ACADEMIC BOARD

1. Report from the Academic Board

RECEIVED

Report by Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (Assurance and Enhancement), in relation to the Academic Board meeting held 8 June 2022 (SEN2122-067).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the main items discussed during the Academic Board meeting held on 8 June 2022.
 2. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Learning, Teaching and the Student Experience and the University Registrar and all staff teams for their contribution to securing an excellent QER result.
 3. Approval was sought from Senate for an amendment to the DProf degree regulations to cover the award of an MRes or other Master's degree for those who did not complete the professional doctorate.
 4. With regard to dates of term for 2024-2025, it was recommended that the session dates be approved with a five-week third term, allowing for one week of teaching, one week of revision and three weeks for examinations and assessments in semester 2 (proposed dates below).
2. AberSU Annual Report to Senate

RECEIVED

Report by Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (Assurance and Enhancement) (SEN2122-068).

NOTED

1. The SU President summarised the AberSU Annual Report; noting the positive relationship with the graduate school and postgraduate students during the year highlighting in particular the interest in PG student welcome and induction.
 2. Issues regarding the consistency of approaches and implementation of policies across departments were also highlighted from the report.
 3. The report also highlighted some challenges regarding the Academic Reps system and the importance and value of collaboration with the SU in nominating and electing student representatives.
 4. Matters concerning the diversification of the curriculum were also highlighted in particular support for the decolonisation of curriculum content.
3. OIA Annual report for calendar year ending 2021

RECEIVED

Report by Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (Assurance and Enhancement) (SEN2122-069).

NOTED

1. The OIA had published its Annual Statements to higher education providers for the calendar year ending 31 December 2021. All Annual Statements for 2021 were noted to be available at <https://statements.oiahe.org.uk>. The AU report was attached for the attention of Senate.

2. There had been a very small increase in the number of complaints forwarded to OIA and it was noted that there was also an increased workload burden associated with responding to the issues referred.

4. Teaching Excellence Framework

RECEIVED

Verbal report by Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning, Teaching and the Student Experience

NOTED

1. Members were advised of a proposal by the OfS to cease collaboration with the QAA as the designated quality body in England, along with further proposals regarding amendments to the TEF and in particular the recommendation to require institutions to meet all the published benchmarks to achieve TEF Gold. Current Welsh Government advice was to disengage from the TEF exercise for the forthcoming round, which the majority of Welsh institutions were proposing to follow. This recommendation was also presented to Senate for consideration and approval.

RESOLVED

2. To note all Academic Board reports and the update regarding TEF as outlined.
3. By unanimous agreement, to approve the minor amendment to the DProf regulations and to update the regulation accordingly as follows: *A candidate who has successfully completed Part One but does not wish to continue or is unsuccessful in their candidature for the DProf, will be eligible for the award of an MProf, MRes or other Master's award forming Part One of their programme of study* [**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar].
4. By unanimous agreement, to approve the dates of term as proposed for 2024-2025 and to publish the dates accordingly [**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar].
5. By unanimous agreement, to accept the recommendation as outlined in the verbal report regarding disengagement with the TEF [**ACTION:** Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning, Teaching and the Student Experience].

51. COLLABORATIVE PROVISION BOARD

1. Report from Collaborative Provision Board

RECEIVED

Report by Sarah Jones, Assistant Registrar – Academic Partnerships (SEN2122-070).

52. GOVERNANCE MATTERS:

1. Outcome of review of Governance Documents

RECEIVED

Report by Kath Williams, University Secretary (SEN2122-071)

NOTED

1. Members were invited to note the governing documents included in the report, comprising Ordinances, Standing Orders of Council, Statute and Charters. Specifically, members were invited to recommend for approval the proposed revisions to Ordinance 21 Academic Units. These amendments reflected the proposal to reconfigure IBERS as two new units comprising an academic department and research institute. The proposal was accepted and recommended by approval at Senate in March 2022, and formally approved at Council in May 2022.

RESOLVED

2. By unanimous agreement, to approve the proposed changes to Ordinance 21, subject to the removal of the word *Department* before Life Sciences [**ACTION:** University Secretary].
2. Outcome of committee self-effectiveness questionnaires

RECEIVED

Report by Kath Williams, University Secretary (SEN2122-072).

NOTED

1. Between 27 April and 20 May 2022, Senate members were invited to complete a questionnaire to provide constructive feedback on the academic governing body's operation during the current academic year. The feedback received would be discussed in further detail. However, on the basis of the feedback received, members were requested to consider scheduling all meetings in person from the next academic year.

RESOLVED

2. To note the report as outlined and to approve the proposal to schedule in-person meetings of Senate throughout the next academic year [**ACTION:** University Secretary].

53. SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

RECEIVED

Report by Professor Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dewi Day, Environment and Sustainability Advisor (SEN2122-073).

NOTED

1. Senate were asked to endorse the Policy Statement, originally approved in 2020, subject to any suggested improvements or revisions. Following this, the Policy Statement would be forwarded to Council as appropriate
2. Members queried the use of the word 'protect' in the opening bullet point, implying statutory duty, which the University did not have. It was suggested that 'minimising harm' to the environment may be more appropriate.

3. The policy did not include the ambition to be carbon neutral and could be considered.
4. It was agreed that the policy would be helpful alongside an action plan which was expected in the future. It was also noted that references to external (national and international policies) could be helpfully cross-referenced in the policy document.

RESOLVED

5. To note the policy as noted and agree to consider the point raised [**ACTION:** Executive Lead for Sustainability and Environment].
6. To bring a revised policy and action plan to a future meeting of Senate [**ACTION:** Executive Lead for Sustainability and Environment].

54. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Report from the *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol* (SEN2122-074);
2. Research Grants (SEN2122-075);
3. Summary Corporate Risk Register (SEN2122-076) and

NOTED

4. The contents of the other reports presented for information.

55. COMMITTEE MINUTES

RECEIVED

1. A report comprising the following minutes (SEN2122-077):
 1. Academic Board (08 June 2022);
 2. Recruitment and Marketing Board (18 May 2022);

NOTED

- 2.1. Members were referred to the section regarding Widening Participation noting that this agenda was likely to gain further momentum with the creation of the Council for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER) and displacement of HEFCW as the regulatory and funding body in Wales.
- 2.2. The institution had been urged to formally engage with the issue and the data regarding WP in more detail and the report of the paper outlined in the minutes reflected the response to this. The report was commended to Senate as a source of information and knowledge vital to the institution's standing in the new external regulatory environment. Members' attention was also drawn to the actions appended to the report.

- 2.3. An amendment was also reported to Senate to the Recruitment and Marketing Board minutes 5.3 and 5.i under RESOLVED: the scheme code G110 to be amended to G100.

RESOLVED

- i To note the report and actions as outlined with regard to the Widening Participation data.
 - ii. To amend the scheme codes in the minutes as outlined above [**ACTION:** Assistant Registrar].
3. Collaborative Provision Board (25 May 2022); and
 4. Council (12 May 2022).

NOTED

5. The reports received from the committees.

56. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, MEETING REVIEW, AND FUTURE BUSINESS

NOTED

1. Members were asked to consider items for the September Senate Away Day and to let the University Secretary know by the end of graduation of discussion items that would be of interest. Currently, the items being considered included student wellbeing and research time. Members also noted that a discussion around the institutional response to sustainability and environmental issues would be timely.
2. Penri James was thanked at the end of his term as Chair of the Aberystwyth Branch of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
3. Sabina O'Donoghue was also thanked for her contribution as SU President.
4. Simon Banham's term as Head of TFTS was also coming to an end as was his term on Senate and he was also thanked for his contribution.
5. Kath Williams was also thanked for her contribution as Interim University Secretary.