



SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:30 on 20 SEPTEMBER 2022, in Main Hall, International Politics Building.

Voting members: Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Prof Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Dr 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) (until minute 12); Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Director of Welsh Language, Culture and External Engagement (for minute 12); Dr Otar Akanyeti; Dr Hazel Davey; Dr Sarah Davies; Prof Iain Donnison; Dr Rebecca Edwards; Dr Patrick Finney; Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of AU Branch of the CCC; Professor Mererid Hopwood; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Dr Ffion Jones; Mr Dafi Jones, UMCA President; Dr Alex Mangold; Ms Elizabeth Manners, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Dr Louise Marshall; Ms Jen Phipps; Dr Alexander Pitchford; Dr Heather Norris, Psychology; Ms Aisleen Sturrock, AberSU President; Prof Eleri Pryse; Prof Phillipp Schofield; Dr Lucy Trotter; and Prof Reyer Zwiggelaar, Head of the Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Dr Cathryn Charnell-White; Professor Simon Cox; Dr Andrew Davies; Professor Andrew Evans; Dr Thomas Jansen; Professor Jamie Medhurst; and Professor Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence and Impact.

In attendance: Mr Tim Davies, Director of Information Services; Dr Gethin Rhys, Faculty Registrar, FASS; Mr Jacob Webb, Head of Student Voice (Observer); Ms Emma Williams, Academic Registrar; and Ms Kath Williams, University Secretary.

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr Guy Baron; Professor Nigel Holt; Dr Sarah Higgins; Dr Samuel Raybone; and Dr Anoush Simon.

1. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. Welcome

1. The following were welcomed to their first meeting as Senate members:

1. Mr Jonathan Fry (Chair of AU Branch of the CCC)
2. Mr Dafi Jones, UMCA President;
3. Ms Aisleen (Ash) Sturrock, AberSU President;
4. Dr Otar Akanyeti, Computer Science;
5. Dr Lucy Trotter, Education;
6. Ms Jen Phipps, Law and Criminology;

7. Dr Alexander Pitchford, Mathematics;
 8. Professor Mererid Hopwood, Welsh and Celtic Studies
 9. Dr Gethin Rhys (interim clerk for Senate)
2. The following were also welcomed as non-voting observers from their respective academic departments:
1. Professor Jamie Medhurst, representing the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies;

2. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the deaths of:

1. Emeritus Professor Paul Avtar Singh Ghuman, School of Education;
2. Tony Curwen, Department of Information and Library Studies.

3. Senate Strategy Morning

1. Senate had held a successful Strategy Morning prior to the formal meeting. Copies of all presentations had been made available for future reference on SharePoint.
2. The Vice-Chancellor had delivered a detailed updated for members during the Strategy Day and would therefore not be presenting a further report to the formal Senate meeting.

4. Acting University Secretary and Governance Support.

RECEIVED

Report by University Secretary, Kath Williams (SEN2223-002)

NOTED

1. Ms Emma Williams, the University's Academic Registrar, would also be Acting Secretary from Friday 30 September 2022 pending the return of Dr Gwawr Taylor, following maternity leave. Governance committee management would be added to the duties of colleagues mainly in the Academic Registry, with support from the Planning Office, Finance and Vice-Chancellor's Office.

5. Senate Membership and updates to Ordinances (16 and 17)

RECEIVED

Report by University Secretary, Kath Williams (SEN2223-003)

NOTED:

1. Following the reorganisation and division of IBERS into two separate academic units (IBERS and Department of Life Sciences) from 1 August 2022, the membership arrangements had been reviewed. Professor Hazel Davey and

Professor Iain Donnison would continue to represent respectively, Life Sciences and IBERS as full voting members, for the current academic year. A new Head of Life Sciences, Professor Iain Barber, had also been appointed and would attend as non-voting Head of Department for the current academic year.

2. Following the relocation of the International English Centre to Global Marketing and Student Recruitment (GMSR) and re-designation from an academic Faculty, direct representation from the unit would cease from the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year. Validation of academic provision that may involve the International English Centre would be managed through the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and representation of those matters at Senate would be overseen either by the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor or Pro Vice-Chancellor for Learning, Teaching and Student Experience.
3. Senate's congratulations to Professor Qiang Shen on his election as Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

RESOLVED

4. To note the new arrangements for the International English Centre, and to thank John Morgan and Rachael Davey for their contribution to Senate as members of the International English Centre.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 (SEN2223-005).

RESOLVED

2. That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RECEIVED

1. 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 (SEN2223-006).
2. A report on Study Skills at Aberystwyth (SEN2122-021)

NOTED

3. The updates provided in the decisions log.
4. The report on Study Skills at Aberystwyth was received for information in response to Action 7.7. The provision of language support to students outside of the International English Centre would be reviewed over the course of the current academic year.

5. Sustainability Policy (actum 53) would be closed at the end of November 2022.

RESOLVED

6. To undertake a further review of language support for students outside of the International English Centre [**ACTION: Pro Vice-Chancellor LTSE**]

5. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN2223-007).

NOTED

1. The report detailed an instance since the last Senate meeting where matters had been approved by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Senate.
2. The matters approved by the Vice-Chancellor were minor amendments to the academic regulations for modular initial awards, for the following awards:
 1. MEng and MComp degrees, to bring the regulations into line with external accreditation requirements.
 2. BA Early Childhood Studies with Early Years Practitioner Status.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

7. RESEARCH MATTERS

1. Research Boost: Research Leave

RECEIVED

Report by Professor Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation (SEN2223-008).

NOTED

1. The University Executive had approved a research boost paper, which included a new research leave scheme. The paper to Senate outlined the principles and procedures whereby awards would be made. The scheme would prioritise excellence in research, but would also include considerations of inclusivity.
2. The scheme leave scheme would be implemented on an interim basis during 2022/23, to be followed by a review. This review would include an equality impact assessment.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the principles and procedures for awarding research boost leave for session 2023-4 and beyond, subject to minor amendments.

4. To invite Senate members to submit any further comments on the research leave scheme to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) by the end of September 2022.
2. Dialogue Centre (for information)

RECEIVED

Report by (SEN2223-009)

NOTED

1. The development of a University Dialogue Centre was a key innovation in response to the HEFCW Research Wales Innovation Fund (RWIF). With five strands of activity, the Dialogue Centre would facilitate excellence in knowledge exchange, increasing the impact of the University's research and providing greater opportunities for innovation. Strategic oversight would be provided through a Management Board, reporting to University Executive.

RESOLVED

2. To welcome the development of the University Dialogue Centre and approve its governance structure.

8. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report by Research Impact Team (SEN2223-010)

NOTED

From April 2022, Open Access requirements for those in receipt of UKRI and Wellcome Trust grants included Rights Retention. A policy for those applying for UKRI and Wellcome Trust grants, including an opt-out mechanism, would be updated and made available on the University's website. An updated paper would be provided to the next meeting of the Research and Innovation Committee.

9. REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC BOARD

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick (SEN2223-011).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the main items discussed during the Academic Board meetings held on 13 July and 16 September 2022. The report was discussed by Senate members.
2. Dates of term for 2024/25 had been finalised. It was agreed to clarify that full-time postgraduate research students were required to be resident in Aberystwyth for 44 weeks a year unless engaged in approved fieldwork.
3. The Action Plan for the Quality Enhancement Review had been published following approval by the Vice-Chancellor and the President of the Students' Union.

4. The Students' Union had confirmed its satisfaction with the University response to SU Annual Submission.
5. A minor amendment to the Regulation of Unacceptable Academic Practice had been approved, to warn students of the consequences of collusion. It was agreed that further clarification should be provided to distinguish between the dissemination of research and the sharing of assessed work. This would need publication by the Students' Union and academic departments.
6. The Degree Outcome statement for 2021 had indicated a small increase in the number of first class honours. Work would continue to ensure that students' effort and achievement were recognised across all departments, while also addressing UUK and HEFCW concerns about general sector trends.

RESOLVED

7. To review guidance on approved fieldwork in relation to the residency requirements of postgraduate research students. **[ACTION: Academic Registrar]**
8. To undertake a publicity campaign to highlight the risks of collusion. **[ACTION: Academic Registrar / Students' Union]**
9. To publish guidance on the distinction between the dissemination of research and the sharing of assessed work. **[ACTION: Academic Registrar]**

10. REPORT FROM THE COLLABORATIVE PROVISION BOARD

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Judith Shepherd (SEN2223-012).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the main items discussed during the Collaborative Provision Board meeting held on 07 July 2020. The report was discussed by Senate members.

11. WELSH-MEDIUM ACADEMIC SUB-STRATEGY

RECEIVED

Report by Professor Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SEN2223-013)

NOTED

1. The Sub-Strategy had been developed in consultation with students and staff, the Aberystwyth Branch of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, and external partners, with employability as a key priority. It would promote the sustainability of in-depth provision, allied to a commitment to recruiting and welcoming students with lower linguistic confidence. The University's sub-strategy would be aligned with current Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol priorities. The sub-strategy would also be presented to the September meeting of Council.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the Welsh-Medium Academic Sub-Strategy and to refer to Council.
[ACTION: University Secretary]

12. WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUB-STRATEGY 2019-2023: PROGRESS REPORT 2021-22 AND ACTIONS FOR 2022-23.

RECEIVED

Report by Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Director of Welsh Language, Culture and External Engagement and Dylan Hughes, Welsh Language Services Manager (SEN2223-014)

NOTED

1. The progress made against the actions and indicators during 2021/22, and the proposed actions for 2022/23, with a focus on re-establishing activities and opportunities which had been disrupted by the pandemic. There would be particular emphasis on increasing the number of high quality Welsh-medium research outputs for the next REF, to be considered further by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) and the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences).

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Report from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (SEN2223-015);
2. Research Grants (SEN2223-016)
3. Summary Corporate Risk Register (SEN2021-017) and;
4. Quality Enhancement Review: Final Report Response and Action Plan (SEN2223-018)

NOTED

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

14. COMMITTEE MINUTES

RECEIVED

A report comprising the following (SEN2223-019):

1. Research and Innovation Committee (24 June 2022);
2. Academic Board (13 July 2022 and 16 September 2022);
3. Collaborative Provision (07 July 2022) and;
4. Council (07 July 2022)

NOTED

5. The reports received from the committees.

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

NOTED

Senate's best wishes and thanks to Kath Williams, who would be leaving her post as Acting Secretary at the end of September, to take up a new role at Glasgow University.