

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 15:45 on 30 SEPTEMBER 2020, via Zoom.

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) (from minute 7.3); 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; Dr Hazel Davey; Mr Prysor Davies; Dr Sarah Davies; Prof Iain Donnison; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Patrick Finney; Dr Sarah Higgins; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Mr Penri James, Chair of AU Branch of the CCC; Dr Ffion Jones; Mr Morgan Lewis, UMCA President; Mr Chris Loftus; Dr Alex Mangold; Prof Robert Meyrick; Mr John Morgan; Mr David Moyle; Mr Nathaniel Pidcock, AberSU President; Prof Eleri Pryse; Prof Phillipp Schofield; Ms Chloe Wilkinson-Silk, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Dr Victoria Wright; Dr Sarah Wydall and Prof Reyer Zwigelaar, Head of the Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Prof Simon Cox; Prof Andrew Evans; Prof Nigel Holt; Dr Thomas Jansen; Prof Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence and Impact; and Dr Anoush Simon.

In attendance: Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; and Ms Emma Williams, Academic Registrar.

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr Andrew Davies.

1. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the deaths of:

1. Professor Peter Thomas, formerly of the Department of History and Welsh History; and
2. Dr David Wilman, former Reader in Agricultural Sciences.

2. Senate Strategy Afternoon

1. Senate had held a successful Strategy Afternoon using the Zoom online platform 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.

3. Covid-19

In advance of the formal Senate meeting, the Vice-Chancellor had briefed members on the University's on-going response to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the intention to restart in-person teaching within the coming days.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meetings held on 24 June 2020 (SEN2021-003).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, subject to minor typographical amendments (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

4. 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 (SEN2021-004).

NOTED

The updates provided in the decisions log.

5. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN2021-005).

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:
 1. Revisions to the Student Charter to ensure full alignment with HEFCW's guidance;
 2. Revisions to the Fitness to Practice Procedure, as recommended by the Academic Board at its meeting on 16 September 2020; and
 3. Revisions to the Student Disciplinary Procedure, as recommended by the Academic Board at its meeting on 16 September 2020.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

7. REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC BOARD

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick (SEN2021-006).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the main items discussed during the Academic Board meetings held on 10 July and 16 September 2020. The report was discussed by Senate members.
2. Degree Regulations and Conventions

NOTED

1. At its meeting on 10 July 2020, the Academic Board had recommended that Senate approve the inclusion of the MProf degree as a possible exit qualification for students registered for the DProf. This provision had not been made when the DProf programme had originally been approved due to the limited time available to set up the scheme.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the inclusion of the MProf degree as a possible exit qualification for students registered for the DProf (**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick).
3. Covid-10: Attendance Monitoring Arrangements
Information Services was developing an automated system which would alert staff when students hit relevant absence thresholds. Integration of Microsoft Teams with the University's existing attendance monitoring system was also being investigated.

8. REPORT FROM THE COLLABORATIVE PROVISION BOARD

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Judith Shepherd (SEN2021-015).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the main items discussed during the Collaborative Provision Board meeting held on 06 July and 18 September 2020. The report was discussed by Senate members.
2. Terms of Reference

NOTED

1. At its meeting on 18 September 2020, the Collaborative Provision Board had recommended that Senate agree minor revisions to the Board's terms of reference. The proposed revisions were set out in the Deputy Registrar's report.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the revised terms of reference (**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar Judith Shepherd).
3. Brickfields Partner Performance Evaluation Report

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Registrar Sarah Jones (SEN2021-007).

NOTED

1. The current five-year Franchise Agreement signed between the University and Brickfields Asia College was due to expire in December 2020. To ensure a partner's ongoing suitability, a Partner Performance Evaluation (PEE) is conducted prior to the expiration of a Memorandum of Agreement, to inform consideration of any renewal.
2. The PPE report generated with respect to Brickfields Asia College was appended to the Assistant Registrar's report. Based on this report, the Collaborative Provision board at its meeting on 06 July 2020 had recommended that the University not look to renew its Franchise Agreement. This had subsequently been endorsed by the University Executive on 14 July 2020.
3. The University had since advised its partner of the outcome, and was now progressing into the teach-out phase.

9. REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

1. Ethics Procedures across the University

At its meeting on 09 July 2020, the University Research Ethics Committee had discussed how the University could facilitate consideration of wider ethical questions of relevance to the institution. Funding had been secured to recruit an Integrity Officer to lead on the development of relevant policies and procedures.

10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Report from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (SEN2021-008);
2. Academic Prizes awarded during 2019–20 (SEN2021-009);
3. Research Grants (SEN2021-010) and;
4. Summary Corporate Risk Register (SEN2021-011).

NOTED

5. Academic Prizes awarded during 2019–20

An update was requested on the David Trotter Memorial Prize – further information would be sought and reported as a matter arising at the next meeting (**ACTION:** Faculty Registrar for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences).

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

11. COMMITTEE MINUTES

RECEIVED

A report comprising the following (SEN2021-012):

1. Academic Board (10 July; and 16 September 2020);
2. Collaborative Provision Board (06 July and 18 September 2020) and;
3. University Research Ethics Committee (09 July 2020)

NOTED

4. The reports received from the committees.

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

1. Honorary Awards

The University had been unable to hold any graduation ceremonies during July 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Those who were due to be recognised with Honorary Awards of the University this year would therefore be conferred during graduation 2021. However, this meant that the University would not be inviting any new nominations for conferral in 2021. The next nomination round would therefore be held during autumn 2021.