

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 13:00 on 23 JUNE 2017, at MedRus 1, Penbryn.

Present: Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Chancellor (Chair, except for minute 101); Mrs Elizabeth France, Pro-Chancellor (Chair, for minute 101); Ms Gwerfyl Pierce Jones, Pro-Chancellor; Dr Timothy Brain, Treasurer; Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Ms Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer); Prof John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International) (except for minute 101); Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement) (except for minute 101); Prof Chris Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) (except for minute 101); Ms Anne Davies; Mrs Janet Davies; Mr Keith Evans (except for minute 110); Mr Richard John; Mr Ian MacEachern; Dr Emyr Roberts (except for minute 101); Dr Hazel Davey; Prof Neil Glasser; Dr Jenny Mathers; Ms Jackie Sayce; Mr Rhun Dafydd, UMCA President; and Ms Lauren Marks, Aberystwyth University Students' Union President.

In attendance: Mr Daniel Benham, Director of Finance; Mrs Kim Broom, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Ms Susan Chambers, Director of Human Resources (until minute 110); Mrs Lucy Hodson, Director of Planning (until minute 115); Mrs Esther Prytherch, Head of Communications; Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; Mr Bruce Wight, AberSU Union Development Officer-elect; Mr Gwion Llwyd Williams, AberSU Welsh Culture Officer and UMCA President-elect; and Ms Kath Williams, Non-academic Staff Member-elect.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr George Ashworth

101. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF COUNCIL

NOTED

1. The position of Chair of Council had been advertised widely between 02 and 18 May 2017. The Nominations Committee had met on 24 May to agree a shortlist of candidates, with those individuals interviewed on 16 June.
2. The Nominations Committee were unanimous in their recommendation that Dr Emyr Roberts be appointed as the next Chair of Council. Dr Roberts had since given assurances that he believed there to be no impediment to his appointment.

RESOLVED

3. That Dr Emyr Roberts be appointed as Chair of Council for an initial three-year period commencing on 01 January 2018.

102. PERSONAL MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

1. Welcome

The following were welcomed to the meeting as part of their induction process in advance of becoming members of Council:

1. Bruce Wight, SU Union Development Officer-elect;
2. Gwion Llwyd Williams, UMCA President-elect; and

3. Kath Williams, Non-academic staff member-elect.

2. Congratulations

1. Dr Emyr Roberts was congratulated on his appointment as the next Chair of Council.
2. Keith Evans had been elected as Ceredigion County Councillor for the ward of Llandysul at the local elections held on 04 May 2017.

3. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the deaths of:

1. Dr John Corton, Post-Doctoral Research Assistant at IBERS;
2. Dr Bernard Delagneau, former Lecturer in Marketing in the Department of Agricultural Economics;
3. Dorothy Evans, former secretary in the Department of European Languages;
4. Dr Michael Richard Lascelles Johnston, former Academic Tutor at IBERS;
5. Rosemary Law, former Administrative Officer in Computer Science;
6. The Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan, former First Minister of Wales and Honorary Fellow;
7. Prof Vernon Morgan; Honorary Fellow;
8. Emily Price, a third-year student;
9. Jacob Pugh Thomas, former porter in Llandinam and Llanbadarn; and
10. Professor David Wulstan, Emeritus Professor of Music and Honorary Professor in the Department of Modern Languages.

4. Quorum

1. In accordance with Ordinance 15, the quorum for meetings of Council is one half of the actual members of the governing body rounded up to the next whole number, provided that independent members are in a majority.
2. Given the number of apologies received, the independent members were not in a majority and the meeting was therefore not quorate. In accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the business transacted at the meeting would be advisory until such time as a quorum was available.

103. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Dr Timothy Brain, Prof Neil Glasser, and Mr Ian MacEachern declared conflicts of interest in relation to the business to be transacted during the meeting. While they would not be required to recuse from the relevant parts of the meetings, they would not contribute to those particular discussion and would abstain should a vote be required.

104. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meetings held on 07 and 26 April 2017 (COU1617-129).

ADVISED

That the minutes be confirmed as correct records.

105. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RECEIVED

A log setting out the progress made in taking forward decisions and actions agreed at the most recent Council meeting, and outstanding actions from previous meetings (COU1617-130).

NOTED

The update provided in the decisions log.

106. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011: Draft Compliance Notice

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement), incorporating a letter dated 09 June 2017 received by the Vice-Chancellor from the Welsh Language Commissioner (COU1617-132).

NOTED

1. The letter and draft compliance notice concern the legal framework for imposing duties on organisations to comply with statutory standards relating to the Welsh language. The consultation period in relation to the Compliance Notice issued to Aberystwyth University (AU) would end on 04 August 2017, with the final Notice expected by the end of September 2017.
2. The University's response to the consultation would need to consider the practicalities and the associated costs of the new duties being introduced. In this context, members queried whether the University was making best use of existing technology, including memory bank translation.

ADVISED

3. That the University Executive prepare a response to the draft Compliance Notice and, following consultation with members of the Welsh Language Strategy Committee and Dr Emyr Roberts, and that the Chair of Council approve the final response on behalf of the governing body (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement)).
4. That the current use of memory bank translation at AU be reviewed to ensure that the best possible use is made of the technology (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement)).

2. Consultation on Procedures for handling Complaints against Institutions

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary, incorporating HEFCW circular W17/12HE on 'Consultation on procedures for handling complaints against institutions' (COU1617-133).

NOTED

1. On 09 June 2017, HEFCW had issued a consultation circular seeking views on the funding council's procedures for handling complaints against institutions. The deadline to submit responses to the consultation was 21 July.

ADVISED

2. That the University Executive prepare a response to the circular, to be considered and approved by the Chair of Council on behalf of the governing body (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

107. HEALTH AND SAFETY MOMENT

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer) (COU1617-173).

NOTED

1. Following the tragic fire at the 24-storey residential Grenfell Tower in London on 14 June 2017, the Department for Communities and Local Governments had requested that checks be undertaken on similar buildings which also use cladding. Universities UK had issued similar advice.
2. The report set out the early considerations as a result of the Grenfell Tower fire, the fire safety measures in place at AU, and the specifications relating to the current work to install external cladding on the Cledwyn Bridge building.
3. A Student Accommodation Charter and a Forum were being established by Aberystwyth University Students' Union (AberSU). These are intended to improve interaction with local landlords to ensure that students have suitable accommodation, which meet the requirements in terms of fire safety.

108. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor (COU1617-134).

NOTED

1. The Vice-Chancellor and the University Secretary had met with the Right Honourable The Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, as Chancellor-elect, in London on 21 June 2017; and with Ben Lake MP the following day. Arrangements were now being made for Ben Lake MP to visit the University.
2. The results of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) had been announced the previous day. While AU had not participated in the exercise, the University would draw on the outcome to inform its future participation.
3. A shortlist had been agreed for the appointment of an Interim Director of Finance. Candidates would be interviewed on 29 June 2017.

109. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

RECEIVED

1. Report by the Vice-Chancellor (COU1617-135); and

2. Report by the University Secretary incorporating documents including: proposed terms of reference for the SIP Council Oversight Group; an update on key processes by the Vice-Chancellor; and the minutes of the SIP Council Oversight Group held on 19 June 2017 (COU1617-170).

NOTED

3. At the Special Meeting of Council on 26 April 2017, members had agreed a Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP) for AU. As part of the Change Efficiencies strand of the SIP, annual recurrent savings of £6m will be realised in 2017–18, with a further £5.4m realised in 2018–19.
4. Informal discussions had since been held with the three recognised Trade Unions. The Vice-Chancellor had kept the Chair of Council fully informed as these discussions progressed and an update had been provided to the Finance and Strategy Committee (FSC) on 24 May 2017.
5. The University Executive were now working with the Trade Unions on a potential collective agreement. While such an agreement would ensure that the required recurrent savings would be realised in full by the end of the 2018–19 academic year, more time would be taken to develop business cases for restructuring the University to ensure that the Trade Unions have appropriate input.
6. Any collective agreement would need to be approved by local Trade Union members by ballot. However, in accordance with collective bargaining provisions, legal advice was that the outcome would almost certainly be binding on all members of staff regardless of Trade Union affiliation. Should the collective agreement not be approved, the University Executive would press ahead immediately with implementing the business cases which were in the process of being developed.

ADVISED

7. That the conclusion of negotiations with the Trade Unions be encouraged to enable required ballots to be held by mid-July 2017 (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).
8. That steps are taken to maximise the recurrent savings which can be realised by means of Voluntary Severance (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).
9. That Council be kept informed of developments over the coming months, with a conference call arranged over the summer if required (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
10. That the proposed terms of reference for the SIP Council Oversight Group be approved (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
11. That Pro-Chancellor Gwerfyl Pierce Jones, and Keith Evans, be appointed as members to the SIP Council Oversight Group (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

110. MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT TRANSFORMATION

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Finance (COU1617-136).

NOTED

1. In advance of the formal meeting, Council members had received a presentation from Dartlet, the professional marketing consultancy engaged by the University, on their findings. Bob Kerwin, the interim marketing expert engaged by AU, had also delivered

a presentation outlining how Dartlet's recommendations could be implemented. Copies of both presentations would be made available via SharePoint (COU1617-174 and COU1617-175).

2. The University Executive would now be developing a Recruitment and Marketing Strategy (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International)). A recruitment process was also underway to appoint a Director of Recruitment and Marketing.

111. DIRECTOR OF PLANNING'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Planning (COU1617-137).

NOTED

The report provided updates on recent developments, including: undergraduate applications for 2017 entry; teaching quality, student satisfaction and employability indicators; the results of the Complete University Guide 2018 league table; external factors, including the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, and the University's application for a Fee and Access Plan 2018–19; and a proposed timetable for developing the University's 2017–22 Strategic Plan.

112. VARIATION TO FEE AND ACCESS PLAN FOR 2017–18

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Planning (COU1617-171).

NOTED

1. The University had submitted its application for a Fee and Access Plan for 2017–18 during April 2016. Prior to this plan coming into effect from September 2017, HEFCW had asked AU to confirm any variations which the University would like to make to the Plan. The report proposed minor amendments to the Plan.

ADVISED

2. That the proposed amendments to the Fee and Access Plan for 2017–18 be approved (**ACTION:** Director of Planning).

113. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Finance (COU1617-138).

NOTED

1. The report provided updates on recent developments, including: the forecast outturn for the 2016–17 academic year, including implications in relation to income and expenditure, the balance sheet, financial health indicators, and assets; the proposed budget for 2017–18; and the financial aspects of the SIP.
2. Current forecasts for the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AIEC) projected an overspend. The budget available for this capital project was fixed, and steps were being taken to remain within that budget.

114. BUDGET FOR 2017–18, AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS FOR OUTYEARS TO 2021

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Finance; and Assistant Director of Finance Mark Godsell (COU1617-139).

NOTED

1. The proposed budget for 2017–18 – the first year of the SIP, which had been approved by Council on 26 April 2017 – was based on zero-growth in student numbers, and on the recurrent savings which would need to be achieved during the forthcoming academic year as per the SIP.
2. The draft budget had been considered by FSC on 24 May 2017 where members had recommended that the appendix on capital funding priorities be revised without prioritisation between projects. The expenditure proposed for 2017–18, should therefore provide for future capital spending to be set out by means of the un-hypothecated amount which is forecast to be available, alongside a list of those priority capital projects which the Council has previously identified

ADVISED

3. That the proposed budget for 2017–18 be approved, subject to page 13 being replaced by page 9 of the Director of Finance's Report to Council (**ACTION:** Assistant Director of Finance).

115. CODE OF PRACTICE: ETHICAL EMPLOYMENT IN SUPPLY CHAINS

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer), incorporating the Welsh Government publication 'Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains' (COU1617-140).

NOTED

1. At a recent Universities Wales meeting the importance of demonstrating positive progress towards living wage accreditation in all institutions was stressed, especially in the context of achieving the anticipated implementation of the full Diamond package. Welsh Universities were therefore encouraged to sign-up to the Code of Practice, which includes a commitment to "Consider paying all staff the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage as a minimum".

ADVISED

2. That AU signs up to the Code of Practice, undertakes an assessment to identify the commitments with which the institution already comply, and develops an action plan detailing the further steps required to comply with remaining commitments (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer)).

116. ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY MAURITIUS

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International); Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer); and the Director of Finance (COU1617-141).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the development of the original business plan for the venture; reviewed the current performance of the branch campus, and AU's working relationship with BCL. Three options for the future had been identified, as set out in the report, along with the associated implications of each.
2. The report had been considered by FSC on 24 May 2017, where members had recommended a course of action to the governing body.

ADVISED

3. That a notice be issued as set out in the report (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer)).
4. That the Vice-Chancellor present a further report to the governing body at its away day on 04 October 2017 on future options for the branch campus (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).
5. That a sub-group consisting of: the Treasurer, Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer), Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International), Ian MacEachern, Director of Finance, and Director of IBL; be established to advise the development of the Vice-Chancellor's report to Council (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International)).

117. TRAWSGOED FARM LEASE

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Estates Development (COU1617-142).

NOTED

1. On 20 April 2015, Council had established a sub-group to scrutinise the due diligence undertaken for the heads of terms and longer-term lease for land at Trawsgoed, and bring forward a recommendation for approval by Council.
2. Discussions with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) had now reached a point where the University was in a position to seek approval for a longer-term lease. The proposed lease had been considered by the sub-group who were content to recommend that it be approved by Council.

ADVISED

3. That the University enter into the long-term lease for the land at Trawsgoed (**ACTION:** Director of Estates Development).

118. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS ASSETS

RECEIVED

A report by the Director of Estates Development; and the Space Utilisation Manager (COU1617-143).

NOTED

1. The report set out the valuations received with respect to those land and building assets which had been identified as surplus to future strategic requirement. The

income from the sale of the assets in question would be reinvested by the University in new and / or refurbished assets.

2. An earlier iteration of the report had been considered by FSC on 24 May 2017, where members had recommended that the proposed disposals be approved by Council.

ADVISED

3. That the proposed disposals be approved, with a comprehensive marketing strategy developed to maximise income from the sale of each asset (**ACTION:** Director of Estates Development).

119. ABERYSTWYTH INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE CAMPUS

RECEIVED

Report by the AIEC Project Director (COU1617-144).

NOTED

1. On 07 April 2017, Council had been informed that, in order to obtain the required planning permission for the development, the Local Planning Authority was requesting that the University enter into a Section 106 agreement under the Town and Council Planning Act 1990.
2. Further negotiations with the Highways and Local Planning authorities had resulted in the production of a draft Section 106 agreement. This had been scrutinised by the sub-group established by Council for this purpose, and a recommendation made that the governing body enter into the proposed agreement.
3. The University's legal advisers had separately confirmed that the Charity Commission's consent would not be required for AU to enter into the proposed agreement, which would involve the 'disposal' of some land to widen the C1010 road at Gogerddan.

ADVISED

4. That the University enter into the Section 106 and Dedication agreements, subject to negotiation with the Farmers' Union of Wales (**ACTION:** Director of Estates Development; and AIEC Project Director).

120. VETERINARY TRAINING

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) (COU1617-145).

NOTED

1. Over recent months, AU had been in discussions with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) on the potential to deliver veterinary training at AU by means of a collaborative model. These discussions had included a positive meeting in London on 02 May 2017 between AU's Chair of Council, Vice-Chancellor, and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research); and the RVC's Chair of Council and other senior representatives.
2. The project was now being progressed by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International), given the collaborative nature of the proposed venture. A business plan would be developed which, once approved, would enable a

Memorandum of Agreement to be signed. Discussions with the RVC on this business plan would commence on 30 June 2017.

RESOLVED

3. That proposals to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Royal Veterinary College be endorsed in principle, and that the requisite academic approval processes should commence (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International)).

121. RADIO SPECTRUM INNOVATION, EXPERIMENTATION AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE PROJECT PROPOSAL

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) (COU1617-146).

NOTED

1. The report proposed a Research Centre project which had been developed with QinetiQ and representatives of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership. The Centre – which could be primarily funded using European funding – would build capacity in spectrum innovation, and further develop relationships between researchers and business across this sector.
2. The Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) had recently provided approval to proceed to application, thereby acknowledging the potential for the Centre to drive significant job creation, including administrative, research and technical staff to support the maintenance and running of the Centre.

ADVISED

3. That a business plan be developed for the proposed Research Centre, to be reviewed by the University Executive prior to submission to WEFO (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)).

122. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

1. Size and Composition of Council

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1617-147).

NOTED

1. During a meeting on 23 May 2017, as requested by Council, the Charter Committee had revisited its previous discussions on the future size and shape of Council. Members had reached a unanimous understanding at that meeting and was now recommending a Council of 18 members.
2. The report set out how the reduction in the Council's membership could be achieved. These proposals had been considered by Senate on 14 June 2017, where members had endorsed the proposed approach.
3. The reduction in the size of Council could be phased over the coming academic year as and when suitable opportunities arise (for example, when individuals reach the end of their terms of office on the governing body).

ADVISED

4. That the proposed revisions to the size and composition of Council be approved, with steps taken to transition to the new model from 01 August 2017 onwards (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

2. Ordinances

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1617-148).

NOTED

1. On 23 May 2017, the Charter Committee had considered revisions to the University's Ordinances following a review undertaken by the University Secretary of current provisions. A number of revisions were being proposed, as set out in the report. Those revisions relating to academic matters had been presented to the Senate on 14 June 2017, where members had endorsed the proposed amendments.

ADVISED

2. That the proposed revisions to the Ordinances be approved (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

3. Standing Orders

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1617-149).

NOTED

1. As part of the most recent review of their terms of reference, the Charter Committee and the Health and Safety Committee had proposed revisions to their terms of reference. The proposed revisions were set out in the report.

ADVISED

2. That the proposed revisions to the terms of reference be approved (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

4. Appointments to sub-committees

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1617-150).

NOTED

1. On 10 March 2017, the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) had requested that a further Council member be appointed to serve on the committee. This could be achieved without revising the committee's terms of reference. However, further consultation with the Chair of Council and Vice-Chancellor had suggested that cross-representation between ARC and FSC membership would be required.
2. Cross-representation between ARC and FSC is permitted by HEFCW as long as it is restricted to the one member, and is "the subject of an explicit, recorded

resolution, which sets out the rationale for such a decision". The chairs of ARC or FSC cannot serve on both committees, and the Chair of Council cannot serve on ARC.

3. The matter had been considered by the Nominations Committee between 22 and 26 May 2017, and members agreed to recommend the appointment of Ian MacEachern. This appointment would ensure that there is a suitable balance of skills amongst ARC members.

ADVISED

4. That Ian MacEachern be appointed to serve on ARC for a three-year term commencing on 01 August 2017 (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

123. REAPPOINTMENT OF INSTITUTE DIRECTORS

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor (COU1617-151).

NOTED

1. The initial terms of both Prof Neill Glasser and Prof Qiang Shen as Institute Directors would expire on 31 July 2017. In accordance with Ordinance 24, both were eligible for reappointment for a further term of four years each.
2. Having consulted both individuals, the Vice-Chancellor was recommending their reappointment to Council.

ADVISED

3. That Prof Neil Glasser and Prof Qiang Shen as Institute Directors for four years from 01 August 2017 (**ACTION:** Director of Human Resources).

124. DONATIONS ACCEPTANCE POLICY

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of DARO; the University Secretary (COU1617-152).

NOTED

1. As part of work to comply with the CUC Higher Education Code of Governance 2014, the content of the University's current Gift Policy – which appears as an appendix to the Financial Procedures – had been reviewed. A number of revisions had been proposed to this policy, drawing on best practice in the sector, and it was proposed that the appendix to the Financial Procedures be deleted and replaced by a stand-alone Donations Acceptance Policy.
2. The proposed Donations Acceptance Policy had been considered by FSC on 24 May 2017, and by ARC on 14 June, where members had recommended that it be approved by Council.

ADVISED

3. That the proposed policy be approved (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

125. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Director of Finance Eiddig Morgan (FSC1617-098).

NOTED

1. A number of minor amendments were being proposed to the Financial Regulations as part of an annual operational review to ensure that the document provides clear and robust guidance on financial controls within the University. A copy with the proposed revisions highlighted using tracked changes had been made available via SharePoint (COU1617-167).
2. The proposed revisions had been considered by FSC on 24 May 2017, and by ARC on 14 June, where members had recommended that it be approved by Council.

ADVISED

3. That the proposed revisions be approved (**ACTION:** Interim Assistant Director of Finance).

126. ACQUISITION OF ABER-BANGOR LTD

RECEIVED

Report by the Contracts and Operations Manager (COU1617-154).

NOTED

1. Under the auspices of the Strategic Alliance between the AU and Bangor University, a joint company had been established in 2014 as a vehicle for the conduct of the universities consultancy business. Both institutions hold one share each in the company.
2. Following a review between the Research and Enterprise teams, Bangor University had agreed to withdraw from the company through the sale of its share.

ADVISED

3. That Aberystwyth University purchase Bangor University's share in Aber-Bangor Ltd at the value set out in the report, in order to become the sole owner of the company (**ACTION:** Contracts and Operations Manager).

127. QUALITY ASSURANCE: ANNUAL STATEMENT TO COUNCIL

RECEIVED

Report from the Academic Board (COU1617-155).

NOTED

1. The new Quality Assurance Framework for Wales includes a greater emphasis on the role of governing bodies to provide assurance on quality and standards. The report set out a proposed process by which a Quality Assurance Statement would be prepared each autumn, for consideration by the Academic Board, the Senate, and ultimately the Council.
2. The report had been considered by Senate on 14 June 2017 where members had emphasised the importance of Council members being fully engaged with these new requirements. Senate had also questioned what training could be provided to Council

in this respect, and the number of independent members on Council with direct and recent experience of Higher Education. This would be further considered by the Nominations Committee as part of its annual review of the Council's skills matrix (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

ADVISED

3. That the proposed process for developing the annual Quality Assurance Statement be endorsed (**ACTION:** Director of Academic Quality and Records).

128. BIODIVERSITY PLAN

RECEIVED

Report by the Business Continuity and Health, Safety and Environment Officer, incorporating a proposed Biodiversity Plan (COU1617-156).

NOTED

1. The Biodiversity Plan had been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and seeks to provide details of the strategic objectives of the University in terms of the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity and environmental management.
2. The Plan had been considered and endorsed by the Health, Safety and Environment Committee on 9 June 2017. At the request of the Committee, feedback had also been sought from Dr Emyr Roberts to further refine the iteration circulated to Council.

ADVISED

3. That the Biodiversity Plan be approved (**ACTION:** Business Continuity and Health, Safety and Environment Officer).

129. STUDENTS' UNION RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1617-157).

NOTED

1. The current Relationship Agreement had been reviewed in consultation with both the incoming Aberystwyth University Students' Union Development Officer and the Vice-Chancellor. Other than updating the signatures, no further changes were being proposed to the current Relationship Agreement.

ADVISED

2. That the current Relationship Agreement be retained for the forthcoming academic year, subject to the signatures being updated (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

130. REAPPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITORS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1617-158).

NOTED

1. On 07 April 2017, Council had been informed that ARC at its meeting on 10 March 2017 had endorsed a proposed approach to audit procurement which would involve procurement processes for internal audit, external audit and taxation work running at the same time.
2. ARC members had received an update on this matter at their meeting on 09 June 2017, where it was clarified that the contract for the current internal audit service with Deloitte is due to expire on 31 July 2017. Members therefore recommended to Council that the appointment of Deloitte as internal auditors be extended by a further year, to a new contract end date of 31 July 2018.

ADVISED

3. That a one-year extension to the contract of the current internal auditors, Deloitte, be approved (**ACTION:** Interim Assistant Director of Finance).

131. ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Students' Union President (COU1617-159).

NOTED

The report provided an update on developments at the Students' Union since the last meeting of the University's Council.

132. HEALTH AND SAFETY: INCIDENT TRENDS

RECEIVED

Report by the Business Continuity and Health, Safety and Environment Officer (COU1617-160).

NOTED

The report documented the emerging trends and developments arising from incidents reported and received by the Health, Safety and Environment Department during the period January to May 2017.

133. SUMMARY CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

RECEIVED

Report by Director of Planning (COU1617-161).

NOTED

The report provided a summary of the significant risks from the Corporate Risk Register.

134. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1617-162).

NOTED

1. The report detailed the instances since the last Council meeting where:

1. the Chair had used the Executive Powers provided for by Standing Order 6.11; or
 2. members had approved matters by correspondence.
2. The matters approved by means of Executive Action by the Chair were:
1. the University's submission to the HEFCW Consultation on use of the Transnational Education Guidance;
 2. the composition of the sub-group established to scrutinise the draft Section 106 agreement in relation to the AIEC development;
 3. an increase to the Old College's project budget; and
 4. a nomination for an honorary award.
3. The matters approved by Council members via correspondence were:
1. the recommendations made during the Council meeting held on 07 April 2017 in the absence of a quorum; and
 2. the University's application for a Fee and Access Plan for 2018–19.

135. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

RECEIVED

A composite report covering the following reports (COU1617-163):

1. Audit and Risk Committee (09 June 2017);
2. Senate (14 June 2017);
3. Finance and Strategy Committee (24 May 2017);
4. Professional Development, Staffing and Equality Committee (26 May 2017);
5. University Research Ethics Committee (29 March 2017);
6. Charter Committee (23 May 2017);
7. Nominations Committee – Special Meeting (24 May 2017); and
8. University Executive Group (21 March, 04 April, 25 April, 16 May, 23 May, and 06 June 2017).

NOTED

9. The reports received from the committees.

136. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Farewells

The following were attending their last meeting of Council. All were thanked for their contributions during the course of their terms:

1. Mr Daniel Benham, Director of Finance;
2. Mr Rhun Dafydd, UMCA President;

3. Prof Neil Glasser, Senate member;
4. Ms Lauren Marks, AberSU President;
5. Dr Jenny Mathers, Senate member; and
6. Ms Jackie Sayce, Non-academic staff member.