

COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 16:00 on 26 APRIL 2017, at Room F16, Visualisation Centre.

Present: Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Chancellor (Chair, by phone); Mrs Elizabeth France, Pro-Chancellor (by phone; from minute 100.7); Ms Gwerfyl Pierce Jones, Pro-Chancellor; Dr Timothy Brain, Treasurer (by phone); Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Ms Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer) (by phone); Prof John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International); Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement); Prof Chris Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research); Ms Anne Davies (by phone); Mrs Janet Davies (by phone); Mr Richard John; the Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd (by phone); Mr Ian MacEachern (by phone); Dr Emyr Roberts (by phone); Dr Hazel Davey; Prof Neil Glasser (until minute 100.6); Ms Jackie Sayce; and Mr Rhun Dafydd, UMCA 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; Mrs Lucy Hodson, Director of Planning; Mrs Esther Prytherch, Head of Communications; Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; and Dr David Blaney, HEFCW Chief Executive (by phone).

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr George Ashworth; Mr Keith Evans; Dr Jenny Mathers; and Ms Lauren Marks, Aberystwyth University Students' Union President.

98. PERSONAL MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

1. The Complete University Guide

The Vice-Chancellor and University Executive were congratulated on the news that the Aberystwyth University (AU) had climbed 19 places in the 2018 Complete University Guide league table. The institution was now ranked 68th in the UK.

99. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

100. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

RECEIVED

Report by the University Executive, incorporating the proposed Sustainability Implementation Plan 2017–22, and the minutes of the SIP sub-group meeting held on 21 April 2017 (COU1617-119).

NOTED

1. On 07 April 2017, Council had considered an initial draft of a Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP) and had invited the Vice-Chancellor to bring forward a revised iteration, drawing on the comments and guidance received from the governing body.
2. At that meeting, Council had also established a sub-group to scrutinise the further development of the SIP, and to agree a recommendation to the governing body, in order that the SIP could be adopted by 30 April 2017. The membership of the sub-

group was: the Chair of Council, the Treasurer, Dr Emyr Roberts, the Vice-Chancellor, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer).

3. A refined SIP had been considered by the sub-group at its meeting on 21 April 2017. The iteration now circulated to the governing body reflected further consideration and comments since received from the sub-group, who now recommended that the SIP be approved by the Council. Supporting documents had been made available via the Council's SharePoint site.
4. The longer-term vision for AU – as set out in the SIP – sought excellence across all of the institution's provision. Members acknowledged that, while this vision is aspirational, it could be achieved in manageable stages – the first of which would be set out as part of the institution's next Strategic Plan.
5. The SIP had been designed to provide flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances during its implementation. A degree of contingency had also been allowed for, and decreases in student numbers modelled in order to ascertain what further efficiencies would be required in such a scenario.
6. Members debated the basis of the assumptions made in the SIP with respect of future cost-of-living salary increases, forecast inflation rates, and expected trading income. The forecasts with respect to cashflow were also considered.
7. Each member present spoke in turn and all endorsed the proposed SIP. Members also welcomed the clear determination from the Vice-Chancellor and the University Executive to implement the SIP once approved by the governing body. In this respect, two letters – one to be issued to the University's recognised trade unions, and the other to the staff – were in the process of being drafted. These letters would address the legal requirements with which AU would need to comply in order to deliver the Change Efficiencies strand of the SIP.
8. HEFCW had been consulted as part of the development of the SIP, and had provided positive feedback to the University. Once the SIP is agreed by the governing body, the University's application for a Fee and Access Plan for 2018-19 will be considered by the Funding Council in the light of their assessment of the SIP.
9. In tendering their apologies for absence, Mr Keith Evans, Dr Jenny Mathers, and Ms Lauren Marks had all confirmed in writing to the University Secretary that they were supportive of the sub-group's recommendation of the SIP. Prof Neil Glasser also confirmed his support of the recommendation prior to leaving the meeting.

RESOLVED

10. To unanimously approve the SIP, subject to (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor):
 1. minor amendments to the text to reflect the points made by members during the preceding discussion;
 2. correcting any typographical errors which members were invited to submit to the University Secretary by 14:00 on 27 April 2017; and
 3. revisions to the risk register incorporated within the document to reflect the comments made by members on financial assumptions.
10. That consequential amendments be made to the supporting documents, to reflect the revisions made to the SIP as a result of the preceding resolution (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).

11. To fully support the Vice-Chancellor and the University Executive in the implementation of the SIP.
12. That the text of the two letters being drafted be agreed by the existing sub-group which had been established to scrutinise the development of the SIP (**ACTION:** Director of Human Resources).
13. That the existing sub-group continue to scrutinise the implementation of the SIP and report back to Council on a regular basis (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).