

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 13:00 on 25 NOVEMBER 2019, at the Executive Boardroom, Visualisation Centre.

Present: Dr Emyr Roberts, Chair of Council (Chair, except for minute 28); Ms Gwerfyl Pierce Jones, Deputy Chair of Council (Chair, for minute 28); Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor (except for minute 28); Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience); Mr George Ashworth; Mrs Samantha Blackie (via Skype); Dr Hazel Davey; Ms Anne Davies (via Skype, until minute 35.4); Ms Meri Huws; Mr Tomos Ifan, UMCA President; Mr Richard John; the Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd; Mr Ian MacEachern; Mr Dhan Ramnatsing, AberSU President (except for minute 28); Ms Kath Williams; Prof Sir Robin Williams; and Prof Reyer Zwigelaar.

In attendance: Mr Stephen Forster, Director of Finance and Corporate Services; Mrs Elinor Howells, Communications Officer; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; Mr Mark Tweed; Prof Colin McInnes, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) (for minute 32.3); and Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Director of Welsh Language and External Engagement (for minute 36.1).

Apologies for absence had been received from Ms Fiona Sharp.

21. MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

1. Welcome

The following were welcomed to their first meeting of the Council:

1. Heledd Davies, who had been appointed as a simultaneous interpreter at the University. Rhys Huws was thanked for his service to the institution as a freelance simultaneous interpreter over many years; and
2. Mark Tweed, who was observing the meeting in advance of his term as Independent Member of the governing body commencing on 01 January 2020.

2. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the death of Elizabeth Harrison, a third-year student at the School of Art.

3. Chairs of Universities Wales

As Chair of the Chairs of Universities Wales (ChUW), the Chair of Council had attended a presentation the previous week of initial findings from the review being undertaken by Gillian Camm on higher education governance arrangement in Wales. Once the final report for this review has been published, a copy will be presented to the Governance and Compliance Committee (GCC) (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

4. Briefing session

A briefing session on transnational education had been held for Council members in advance of the formal meeting. A video of this informal session would be made available via SharePoint for the benefit of those members not able to attend during the morning (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

5. Informal meeting of Independent Members

An informal meeting of Independent Members with the Vice-Chancellor had been held in advance of the formal governing body meeting. The Chair summarised the matters discussed during that informal meeting. All matters related to items to be discussed during the formal meeting and would be considered further under the appropriate agenda item.

22. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

NOTED

The following were reported in relation to matters to be discussed during the meeting. It was not deemed necessary for any members to recuse during discussions on the reports in question:

1. Ian MacEachern, as a Trustee of the Aberystwyth University Pension and Assurance Scheme (AUPAS), declared an interest in the item 'AUPAS Investment Strategy';
2. Richard John had been instructed to represent St Michael's Church in negotiations with the University in relation to car park requirements for the Old College project; and
3. Meri Huws is a Director of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2019 (COU1920-040).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

24. 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 (COU1920-041).

NOTED

The updates provided in the decisions log.

25. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1920-042).

NOTED

1. The report detailed the instances since the last Council meeting when matters had been approved by members via correspondence.
2. The matters approved by members via correspondence were:
 1. the University's proposed response to a consultation on revisions to HEFCW's institutional engagement process;
 2. the draft response proposed by the Vice-Chancellor to HEFCW in response to the Institutional Risk Review letter received during September 2019; and
 3. a recommendation by the Honorary Awards Group to confer an Honorary Fellowship.

26. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Consultation on an additional governing body assurance statement relating to academic quality

NOTED

1. On 22 November 2019, HEFCW had issued a Circular which invited responses from higher education institutions in Wales on an additional governing body assurance statement relating to academic quality.
2. The University was currently drafting a proposed response to HEFCW. A copy of this response would be shared with Council members prior to submission (**ACTION:** Head of Strategic Development).

27. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary, and the Environment and Sustainability Advisor (COU1920-060).

NOTED

1. During the Council away day on 11 October 2019, members had received a presentation on the University's activities in relation to environmental sustainability. These activities, including developments since the away day, now meant that the institution was well placed to consider declaring a Climate Emergency, and do so in a meaningful way whereby the University could evidence the action already being taken.
2. An analysis during summer 2019 of the University's investments undertaken by the institution's investments advisors had been presented to the Investments Committee on 15 November 2019. The public equity element of the overall investment portfolio did have some exposure to fossil fuel producers, and the Investments Committee had consequently approved the transfer of a substantial tranche of public equity holdings to a fund which specifically excludes fossil fuel investments. The investment portfolio would be further reviewed in this context at the next Investments Committee meeting.

3. Members recognised that the steps being taken in relation to environmental sustainability were long-term, including the University's voluntary commitment to a net zero emissions target by the end of the 2030–31 financial year. Declaring a Climate Emergency would therefore be a demonstrable step along this journey.
4. Members of the Aberystwyth Extinction Rebellion branch were staging a demonstration to coincide with Council's consideration of this report. The Chair of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, and the AberSU President would step out of the meeting to convey the Council's decision to the demonstrators.

RESOLVED

5. To formally declare a Climate Emergency on behalf of Aberystwyth University (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).

28. HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

RECEIVED

Report by the Health, Safety and Environmental Manager, incorporating the draft Health, Safety and Environment Management Annual Report 2018-19 (COU1920-044).

NOTED

1. The report provided a summary update on health and safety, drawing on the fuller report presented to GCC on 07 November 2019.
2. The Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service had conducted routine inspections of the University's residential accommodation. Information on how the University was progressing any resulting recommendations would be circulated by e-mail following the meeting (**ACTION:** Director of Finance and Corporate Services).
3. The reporting year for the Health, Safety and Environment Management Annual Report had been realigned to the academic year. The report therefore covered the period 01 August 2018 to 31 July 2019. It had been considered in detail by GCC at its last meeting, where members had expressed concern that some of the actions to be delivered during 2018–19 had not been achieved as planned.
4. Members reviewed the Annual Report in detail, with particular reference to the institution's performance in relation to health, safety and the environment during 2018–19, and planned activity for 2019–20.

RESOLVED

5. To accept the draft Health, Safety and Environment Management Annual Report 2018-19 (**ACTION:** Health, Safety and Environmental Manager).

29. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor (COU1920-043).

NOTED

1. The report consisted of four key parts: a highlight report; a planning and student recruitment report; a communications report; and a report from Senate.
2. Members considered the student recruitment element of the report in detail, with a particular focus on efforts to recruit international and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) students. The Vice-Chancellor assured members that appropriate steps were being taken with respect to these constituencies.
3. The Director of Global Marketing and Student Recruitment had delivered a presentation to Council upon his appointment in spring 2018 on his initial impressions of the University's student recruitment activities. Members would welcome a follow-up presentation in this respect, but acknowledged that it would be best to wait until the restructure of that function is fully completed.
4. A public lecture by Prof M Wynn Thomas on the subject of Alwyn D Rees had been held at the Old College on 06 November 2019. This lecture had been arranged as part of preparations to reopen Pantycelyn in September 2020. The Vice-Chancellor was congratulated on delivering her closing address at that event solely through the medium of Welsh.

30. REPORT BY ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

RECEIVED

Report by Aberystwyth University Students' Union (AberSU) (COU1920-045).

NOTED

1. The report provided an update on developments at AberSU since the last meeting of the University's Council.
2. A hustings featuring candidates standing in the Ceredigion constituency for the Westminster General Election would be held at the Students' Union on 05 December 2019. The AberSU President also advised Council members of his campaign for a polling booth for students on the campus.
3. AberSU remained in discussion with the University on a potential refurbishment of the Students' Union building. A project group had now been established to develop proposals for capital improvements to the Arts Centre, the Students' Union, and the piazza. This group was being led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), and would bring forward plans once they had been sufficiently developed.

31. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Financial Update

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Director of Finance, Mark Godsell (COU1920-046).

NOTED

1. The report set out the University's financial performance as at Quarter 1 2019–20 (30 October 2019). The timing of meetings meant that this report had not been

ready in time for consideration at the Resources and Performance Committee (RPC) meeting on 07 November 2019. Council was therefore receiving a full copy of the quarterly report, rather than the usual summary.

2. Members discussed the contents of the quarterly report, and were advised that the institution was forecast to meet its agreed budgetary outturn for the current academic year.

2. Sustainability Implementation Plan

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services; the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development; Assistant Director of Finance Mark Godsell; and Management Accountant Mark Davies (COU1920-047).

NOTED

The report provided an update on the savings made to date against the Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP) targets; a summary of the completed business cases to date; and the work now underway to conduct a 'lessons learned' review of the SIP process.

32. STRATEGIC MATTERS

1. Strategic Plan 2018–23 Key Performance Indicators

RECEIVED

Report by the Head of Planning (COU1920-048).

NOTED

The report presented current data points for the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which had been agreed by Council to monitor the delivery of the institutional Strategic Plan.

2. Revisions to Key Performance Indicators' targets

RECEIVED

Report by the Head of Planning (COU1920-049).

NOTED

1. A one-year review of the University's KPIs had been undertaken, which had led to a series of recommendations to adjust some stretch targets, to change the Executive ownership of some KPIs, and to introduce a new coding system for KPI reporting.
2. As the body responsible for monitoring performance against the institutional Strategic Plan, the report had come directly to Council, and not via a sub-committee.

RESOLVED

3. That RPC scrutinise the recommended revisions to KPI targets at its next meeting, prior to further consideration at Council on 14 February 2020 (**ACTION:** University Secretary; and Head of Planning).

3. Research and Innovation Strategy

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation), incorporating a draft Research and Innovation Strategy 2019–24 (COU1920-050).

NOTED

1. A new Research and Innovation Strategy had been developed, and had been subject to consultation with key stakeholders. Designed to complement the institution's Strategic Plan 2018–23, the draft Strategy identified five principles to improve the research culture at the University.
2. Members discussed the contents of the draft Strategy and accompanying Action Plan in detail. An earlier iteration had been considered by Senate on 13 November 2019 where members had recommended that the draft Strategy be approved by Council.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the Research and Innovation Strategy 2019–24 (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation)).

33. END OF YEAR REPORTING

1. Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee's Annual Report (including the Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion)

RECEIVED

Report by the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee for 2018–19, incorporating the Internal Auditors' 2018–19 Internal Audit Report and Opinion (COU1920-051).

NOTED

1. The report on the work of Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (ARAC) for the year 2018–19 (and up to its most recent meeting) was presented to Council in accordance with the HEFCW *Financial Management Code*, and with the CUC *Higher Education Code of Governance*.
2. The University's Internal Auditors, Deloitte, had also agreed their Annual Report and Opinion. This would be submitted to HEFCW during December 2019 along with ARAC's own report.
3. Both reports had been considered by ARAC on 08 November 2019. A revised iteration of the Committee's report had subsequently been prepared, to take account of the discussions at the last meeting, and approved by the Chair on behalf of the Committee.

2. Financial Statements for year ended 31 July 2019

RECEIVED

Composite report by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, incorporating an explanation of the reconciliation between the management and statutory accounts, the draft Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2019, the External Auditors' year-end report for 2018–19 (including a copy of a follow-up e-mail circulated to ARAC members on 15 November 2019), and the proposed Letter of Representation to the External Auditors (COU1920-052).

NOTED

1. The financial operational deficit outturn of £2.3m for the year ended 31 July 2019 was slightly better than the deficit budget which had been agreed for that year. However, a £40m accounting deficit would be reported as a result of the actuarial assessments of future liabilities (primarily pension adjustments and book impairments). These did not relate to actual cash expenditure.
2. In considering the draft Financial Statements on 07 and 08 November 2018 respectively, RPC and ARAC members had emphasised the need for clear and concise explanations to be available when the Financial Statements are published of the bridge between the operating results and the financial results. Such explanations would make it easier for those without accounting experience to better understand that the University had performed well against its agreed deficit budget for the year.
3. Members queried the length of the letter of representation, and the need for Council to be fully aware of the representations it was making to the External Auditors.

RESOLVED

4. To approve the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2019 (**ACTION:** Director of Finance and Corporate Services).
 5. To approve the proposed Letter of Representation to the External Auditors as drafted (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
3. ASSUR (Annual Sustainability Return)

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Director of Finance Mark Godsell (COU1920-053).

NOTED

1. The University was required to agree the Annual Sustainability Assurance Report for submission to HEFCW alongside the audited Financial Statements. This report followed a standard disclosure format as suggested by the Financial Sustainability Strategy Group, and provided a suitable mechanism to test the institution's 'going concern' status.
2. The Margin for Sustainability and Investment (MSI) had increased from 7.8 to 8.6 per cent since last year's report, and remained over the target of 7 per cent.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the draft Annual Sustainability Assurance Report (**ACTION:** Assistant Director of Finance Mark Godsell).
4. Modern Slavery Disclosure

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Director of Finance Mark Godsell (COU1920-054).

NOTED

1. As required by the Modern Slavery Act (2015), the University had drafted a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year ended 31 July 2019. The draft statement built on the version approved and published for the previous year, and also outlined the steps being taken by the University to comply with the Welsh Government (WG) Code of Conduct for Ethical Employment in Supply Chains.
2. The draft Statement for the year ended 31 July 2019 had been considered and endorsed by GCC on 07 November 2019.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the proposed Modern Slavery and Human trafficking Statement (**ACTION:** Assistant Director of Finance Mark Godsell).
5. Quality Assurance Statements

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Braddick, incorporating the AberSU Annual Statement (COU1920-055).

NOTED

1. The Quality Assurance Framework for Wales places an emphasis on the role of governing bodies for providing assurances about quality and standards matters. Governing bodies are required to agree and submit an Annual Quality Assurance Statement to HEFCW during December 2019.
2. The detailed report prepared by the Academic Registry had been designed to provide Council with the appropriate evidence to confirm to HEFCW that it is satisfied that the University has and continues to meet its obligations in respect of series of statements in relation to quality assurance.
3. Members considered the report in detail, and welcomed the steps taken to introduce suitable status flags into the report in response to Council's request last year.

RESOLVED

4. To approve the submission of the Annual Quality Assurance Statements to HEFCW, on the basis of the assurances provided in the report (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

6. 'Prevent' Annual Report

RECEIVED

Report by the Business Continuity and Health, Safety and Environment Officer (COU1920-056).

NOTED

1. Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Higher Education Institutions must have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This requirement has become known as the Prevent Duty.
2. Whereas in previous years, Welsh universities had been required to submit an annual narrative report to HEFCW, the revised Monitoring Framework from the Funding Council – which came into effect on 01 August 2019 – only requires the submission of a Prevent Duty Annual Accountability Return signed by the Chair of Council, and a Prevent Duty Monitoring Annual Data Return. A detailed Annual Report had nevertheless been produced to provide Council with the appropriate evidence to agree the required submission to HEFCW.
3. Members considered the Annual Report in detail and sought assurances that considerations relating to the Prevent Duty feature when assessing applications for research ethics approval. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience) would discuss this further with the Chair of the Research Ethics Panel (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience)).
4. The draft Annual Report had been considered by GCC on 07 November 2019 where members had recommended that it be approved by Council.

RESOLVED

5. To approve the submission of the Prevent Duty Annual Accountability and Data Returns to HEFCW, on the basis of the assurances provided in the report (**ACTION:** Business Continuity and Health, Safety and Environment Officer).

7. Annual Pay Statement

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development (COU1920-057).

NOTED

1. Since 2017, WG has expected universities to publish Annual Pay Statements, in accordance with the common set of principles and minimum standards outlined by WG in December 2015 in relation to devolved public bodies in Wales.

2. The University had therefore developed an Annual Pay Statement for 2018–19, to be approved by Council and subsequently published online. The Statement had been considered and endorsed by GCC on 07 November 2019.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the proposed Annual Pay Statement for publication on the University's website, subject to ensuring that the headings used are appropriate and align with WG's requirements (**ACTION:** Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development; and University Secretary).

8. Annual Report by the Remuneration Committee

RECEIVED

Report by the Remuneration Committee for 2018–19, incorporating a draft public Annual Statement on Senior Remuneration for the 2018–19 financial year (COU1920-058).

NOTED

1. To comply with the 'Higher Education Senior Staff Remuneration Code', the Remuneration Committee had agreed an annual report to the governing body summarising the decisions taken by the Committee on behalf of Council, and to provide assurance to the governing body that the Committee was effectively discharging its responsibilities. A summary of this report would also be made publicly available as part of an Annual Statement on Senior Remuneration.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the proposed Annual Statement on Senior Remuneration for the 2018–19 for publication on the University's website, subject to including information on the Vice-Chancellor's salary multiple for 2017–18 to aid comparison (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

9. Annual Assurance Return

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary, incorporating a draft Annual Assurance Return 2018–19 (COU1920-059).

NOTED

1. As part of annual reporting arrangements, HEFCW requires each higher education institute in Wales to submit an Annual Assurance Return. The template to be used is provided by HEFCW each November, and the submission is to be signed by both the Chair of Council, and the Vice-Chancellor as Accountable Officer.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the submission of the Annual Assurance Return (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

34. ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 STATUTORY REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Environment and Sustainability Advisor, incorporating a draft Biodiversity Plan Progress Report (COU1920-061).

NOTED

1. In response to the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the University had prepared and published an action plan outlining how the institution would maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote resilience. This action plan had been approved by Council and submitted to Natural Resources Wales in June 2017.
2. Under the Act, the University was now required to publish a report by December 2019 summarising progress against the agreed action plan. The draft report had been considered by RPC on 07 November 2019 where members recommended that it be approved by Council.
3. Significant progress had been made against most of the objectives agreed in 2017, although last year's restructure of the University Executive meant that responsibility for delivering biodiversity and conservation enhancement needed to be clarified.

RESOLVED

4. To approve the progress report for publication on the University's website (**ACTION:** Environment and Sustainability Advisor).

35. POLICY MATTERS

1. Financial Regulations

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services; and Temporary Financial Accountant Alan Graham; incorporating proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations (COU1920-062).

NOTED

1. The University's Financial Regulations had been last reviewed in May 2017. A full review had now been undertaken and amendments were being proposed to reflect revised internal structures within the institution, and to align with current best practice.
2. The section on Treasury Management, which previously formed part of the Financial Regulations, would now become a stand-alone policy.
3. The proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations had been considered and endorsed by RPC and ARAC on 07 and 08 November 2019 respectively.

RESOLVED

4. To approve the proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations (**ACTION:** Director of Finance and Corporate Services).
2. Treasury Management Policy

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services; and Temporary Financial Accountant Alan Graham; incorporating a draft Treasury Management Policy (COU1920-063).

NOTED

1. It was proposed that the text of the Treasury Management section, which previously formed part of the Financial Regulations, be revised and now become a stand-alone policy.
2. The proposed Policy had been considered by RPC and ARAC on 07 and 08 November 2019 respectively. The feedback received by members at those meetings had led to the production of a revised draft for consideration by Council.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the Treasury Management Policy (**ACTION:** Director of Finance and Corporate Services).
3. Re-designation of Endowment Funds

RECEIVED

Report by Temporary Financial Accountant Alan Graham (COU1920-064).

NOTED

1. The report provided an update on the process to re-designate the Group 2 endowment funds – those funds where there was insufficient information as to whether they should be considered ‘restricted’ or not.
2. The report had been considered by RPC on 07 November 2019 where members had recommended that the proposed approach be approved by Council.
3. Members were advised that, while steps were being taken to re-designate some endowments as ‘unrestricted’, the University’s activities to which any income from these endowments is currently applied would be largely unchanged.

RESOLVED

4. To agree to seek confirmation from the Charity Commission that the Gogerddan Estate Fund can be re-designated as ‘unrestricted’ (**ACTION:** Temporary Financial Accountant Alan Graham).
4. AUPAS Investment Strategy

RECEIVED

Report by Temporary Financial Accountant Alan Graham (COU1920-065).

NOTED

1. In order to reduce the volatility of the movements in the values of the Aberystwyth University Pension and Assurance Scheme (AUPAS) investment funds, the scheme's Trustees were proposing a change to the AUPAS Investments Strategy. By law, such a change requires the approval of the University as employer.
2. The proposed revisions to the Investments Strategy were set out in the report. The revisions had been endorsed by the University Executive on 15 October 2019, who also proposed that the AUPAS Trustees be encouraged to explore disinvestment from fossil fuels. This proposal had also been endorsed by RPC on 07 November 2019.

RESOLVED

3. To formally approve the changes to the AUPAS Investment Policy on behalf of the University as employer, and encourage the AUPAS Trustees to explore disinvestment from fossil fuels (**ACTION:** Temporary Financial Accountant Alan Graham).

36. MAJOR PROJECTS

1. Old College

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Welsh Language and External Engagement (COU1920-066).

NOTED

1. The report provided an update on the project's progress, with particular attention to: project development; the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and other applications; and the current match-funding position.
2. The round two bid would be considered by the Wales HLF Committee on 26 November 2019, prior to being considered by the UK-level Committee on 17 December, where a final decision would be taken. By that final meeting, the HLF would require a written commitment that the University would underwrite any shortfall in fundraising to ensure that the required match funding was available.
3. The University was also awaiting the outcome of its approaches to WG and the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), for financial support towards the capital costs. Their responses were expected during December 2019.
4. An earlier iteration of the report had been considered by RPC on 07 November 2019 where members had emphasised the need for a successful fundraising campaign targeting individuals, to reduce the University's actual contribution. Some progress further had since been made in this respect.

RESOLVED

5. To agree to underwrite any shortfall in capital funding, up to a maximum value of £7.846m, to include the contribution previously agreed by Council towards the project (**ACTION:** Director of Welsh Language and External Engagement).

6. That, should the University receive a favourable outcome from the HLF, WG and WEFO, Council agrees to the University progressing the project immediately to avoid unnecessary delays (**ACTION:** Director of Welsh Language and External Engagement).
7. That every effort is made to improve fundraising from individuals, to ensure that the University's own contribution to the capital costs are reduced as much as possible (**ACTION:** Director of Welsh Language and External Engagement).

2. Veterinary Medicine

RECEIVED

Report by Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience) (COU1920-067).

NOTED

1. The report provided an update on the development of a joint bachelor's degree in Veterinary Science (BVetSci) between the University and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). The business case for the project was appended to the report, and was the first time such a document had been presented to Council since the project had assumed its current form as a joint degree.
2. A separate version of the report, accompanied by the outcome of the site visit undertaken by representatives of the University at the RVC's campuses in February 2019, had been considered by Senate on 02 October 2019. At that meeting, Senate members had approved the joint degree from an academic perspective.
3. The business case for the project had been developed on a prudent basis, and did not consider the opportunities the venture would offer with respect to growing research and other income. The Net Present Value (NPV) calculation for the project was therefore tight, although it was recognised that the University was looking to progress this project for civic as well as financial reasons.

RESOLVED

4. To endorse the business case (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience)).

3. Nursing and Allied Healthcare Provision

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); and the Senior Projects Officer (COU1920-068).

NOTED

1. As part of its civic mission, the University was seeking to find ways to support the healthcare needs of mid Wales by providing opportunities for quality training and education, and providing support for career development. In this context, the University was looking to work with the local health boards to develop education

provision at Aberystwyth, as well as supporting the delivery of medical education with the local health boards and other universities.

2. The report provided an update on developments to date, and was discussed in detail by members.

37. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1920-037).

NOTED

1. On 25 October 2019, the Honorary Awards Group had met to consider nominations for Honorary Awards of the University. The report outlined the Committee's recommendations for the conferral of Honorary Awards.
2. The Group's recommendations had been considered and endorsed by GCC on 07 November 2019, and similarly by Senate on 13 November 2019.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the proposed nominations for Honorary Awards (**ACTION:** Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office).

38. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Summary Corporate Risk Register (COU1920-070);
2. Documents affixed with the Common Seal (COU1920-071); and
3. Summary of complaints received relating to the Welsh Language (COU1920-072).

NOTED

4. Summary of complaints received relating to the Welsh Language

Members were advised that the University had now received the outcomes of the three complaints from the Welsh Language Commissioner: the first two as listed in the report had been upheld, while there was deemed insufficient evidence to uphold the third complaint.

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

39. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

RECEIVED

A composite report comprising the following (COU1920-073):

1. Governance and Compliance Committee (07 November 2019);

2. Remuneration Committee (07 November 2019);
3. Resources and Performance Committee (07 November 2019);
4. Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (08 November 2019); and
5. Senate (13 November 2019).

NOTED

6. The reports received from the sub-committees.

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

1. Farewell

This had been Gwerfyl Pierce Jones' final meeting of the governing body as she would stand down as Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council at the end of her term on 31 December 2019. The Chair of Council paid tribute to Gwerfyl Pierce Jones' tremendous contribution to the University during her term on the governing body.