



SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:00 on 12 JANUARY 2022, via Zoom.

Voting members: Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Prof Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Prof 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); Prof Hazel Davey; Mr Prysor Davies; Prof Iain Donnison; Ms Mared Edwards, UMCA President; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Patrick Finney; Dr Gabor Gelleri, Dr Sarah Higgins; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Mr Penri James, Chair of AU Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Dr Alex Mangold; Ms Elizabeth Manners, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Dr Louise Marshall; Prof Robert Meyrick; Mr John Morgan; Dr Heather Norris; Prof Eleri Pryse; Prof Phillipp Schofield.

Non-voting members: Dr Andrew Davies; and Dr Anoush Simon.

In attendance: Dr Gwawr Taylor, University Secretary; Ms Emma Williams, Academic Registrar; and Ms Kath Williams, Interim University Secretary.

Apologies for absence had been received from Prof Simon Banham; Professor Simon Cox; Ms Rachael Davey, Mr Tim Davies, Head of Information Services; Mr David Moyle; Ms Sarah Wydall and Jean Jones.

28. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. Welcome

1. Dr Gwawr Taylor, University Secretary and Ms Kath Williams, Interim University Secretary.

29. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

30. QUALITY ENHANCEMENT REVIEW

RECEIVED

Report from Dr Alan Macmillan, Deputy Registrar Postgraduate and Quality Review (SEN2122-039)

NOTED

1. A special meeting of Senate was convened to receive a draft of the Quality Enhancement Review (QER) – Self-Evaluative Analysis, which is one of the key documents for submission to an institutional quality review scheduled for April 2022.

2. The document, as received, had been partially amended following feedback from the University Executive and the Working Group overseeing the preparations for the review as well as an external consultant.
3. The document had been circulated by email to Academic Board following circulation to Senate members. Senate was asked to consider the draft and to comment prior to final approval and in time for the submission deadline of 2 February 2022. Comments were invited by way of affirmations, commendations or concerns regarding QA arrangements; a response was invited in particular regarding degree standards, student support and the student voice.
4. Recognising that there would be some editing of detail in the final document, points for addition or further emphasis were noted. These included elaborating on International English Centre provision. Further amendments suggested included emphasising the significance of the Doctoral Training Programmes and associated collaborative arrangements; the University's success in responding to Covid-19 and adapting to blended learning; a narrative regarding the University's engagement with sustainability and de-carbonisation; and emphasising the process leading to a more robust handling and oversight of collaborative provision.
5. No changes were proposed to the section covering the arrangements for securing academic standards.
6. Members suggested further emphasis of progress in areas of Welsh-medium provision and highlighting the positive nature of the relationship with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. It was also noted that additional material would be provided drawing on the forthcoming Welsh-medium strategy for learning and teaching, training for Welsh-medium staff and students.
[**ACTION:** Faculty Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and PVC with responsibility for Welsh-medium academic provision].
7. Members suggested verifying the functionality of on-line platforms developed for validation processes.
8. The President of UMCA and President of AberSU confirmed they had no further suggestions to make and were content with the representation in the document of student support structure and mechanisms for capturing the student voice. It was also noted that a separate document would be submitted by the Students' Union as part of the same review.
9. The areas for commendation included in the document were listed as follows: partnerships and collaborations; the response to Covid-19; learning and IT support; procedures for capturing the student voice; the effectiveness of the University and post-SIP structures.

RESOLVED

10. To formally approve the document subject to final edits.