



## SENATE

**Minutes of the meeting held at 14:15 on 12 March 2025, in the Main Hall, International Politics Building.**

Voting members: Professor Jon Timmis, Vice-Chancellor; Dr Otar Akanyeti; Mr Tom Bates; Dr Hanna Binks; Professor Hazel Davey; Professor Sarah Davies; Dr Patrick Finney, Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of AU Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Professor Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Professor Angela Hatton, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation); Professor Mererid Hopwood; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Professor Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience); Dr Ffion Jones; Dr Alex Mangold; Professor Louise Marshall; Dr Julie Mathias; Mr Will Parker, Undeb Aberystwyth Academic Affairs Officer; Ms Jen Phipps; Dr Alexander Pitchford; Dr Samuel Raybone; Professor Phillipp Schofield; Dr Alistair Shepherd; Ms Jackie Sayce; Mr Bayanda Vundamina, Undeb Aberystwyth President; Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar Head of Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Professor Iain Barber; Mr Prysor Davies; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Thomas Jansen; Professor Charles Musselwhite; Dr Olaoluwa Olusanya; Professor Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence and Impact; Dr Anoush Simon, Dr Steve Thompson.

In attendance: Mrs Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (Secretary); Ms Michelle Dickson, Academic Registrar; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Mr Ian Munton, Director of Student Services.

Apologies for absence had been received from Professor Nigel Copner; Mr Tim Davies, Head of Information Services; Professor Iain Donnison; Prof Andy Evans; *Professor John Gough*, Miss Elain Gwynedd, UMCA President; Dr Kim Knowles; Professor Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences); Dr Gwawr Taylor, University Secretary and Director of Welsh Language; Dr Lucy Trotter. Professor Catrin Webster.

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### 30. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

### 31. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 13/11/2024 and 13/01/2025 (SEN2425-032).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

### **32. 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 (SEN2425-033).

### **33. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

RECEIVED

Vice-Chancellor's Report (SEN2425-034)

NOTED

1. The report consisted of two parts: a highlight report and an update on recruitment.
2. The VC gave an overview of the issues covered in a recent roundtable meeting between the First Minister, the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Medr staff and Welsh VCs. The Welsh Government was keen to drive growth, engagement in public sector training, particularly in relation to health, and increase participation rates through closer working and integration of the further and higher education sectors.

### **34. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE**

RECEIVED

Report from Research and Innovation Committee (SEN2425-035)

NOTED

1. Senate's attention was drawn to the discussions on i) proposed changes to Grant Application Process; ii) possible 'walk-away' option from IEEE and ACS subscription once the current term ended and iii) discussion and approval of the Women in Research Network proposal for Visibility Awards 2025.
2. The welcome increase seen in research income reflected the number of applications submitted last year, however, the volume of applications had dropped off this year compared with the same time last year and colleagues were asked to encourage staff to submit applications and remind them that that support was available through RBI. It was also noted that recent updates relating to REF2029 would be shared with the faculties.

### **35. MRS FOSTER WATSON MEMORIAL GIFT**

RECEIVED

Report (SEN2425-036)

NOTED

1. The Mrs Foster Watson Memorial Gift was awarded every five years to a member of staff for published work that combined scholarship with general interest.
2. Submissions were invited by 16 October 2024. Four books were received and considered by a panel of three distinguished assessors, Professor Sir Deian Hopkin, Professor Dame Elan Closs Stephens and Mr Myrddin ap Dafydd.

RESOLVED

3. To award the Mrs Foster Watson Memorial Gift to Dr Alice Vernon for her book '*Night Terrors*', as recommended by the judging panel. [**ACTION:** PVC (ESE)]

### 36. QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report from Quality and Standards Committee (SEN2425-037)

NOTED

1. Summary of 2023/24 annual reports were received relating to Unacceptable Academic Practice, Academic Appeals, Complaints, Discipline, Fitness to Practice, Support to Study, Exclusions, Final Review and Completion of Procedures letters and cases which had been taken to the OIA.
2. The Degree Outcome Statement 2023/24; the tables, accompanying commentary and main body the text had been updated for 2023/24. The DOS would be published on the web pages.
3. Approval for additional regulations was requested to enable the award of accredited Biomedical Science degrees. Accreditation was being sought from Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) for the BSc in Biomedical Science (B900) and Biomedical Science with integrated year in industry (B901), accreditation visit due in May 2025. The IBMS required that all 'clinically relevant modules' must be passed at 40% and exit awards could not carry the name Biomedical Science. Senate was advised that it had become increasingly complex to manage the number of bespoke additional regulations which were required for certain accredited degrees. This was currently a manual process and system development was necessary to manage basic checks and ensure scheme regulations for progression and awards were met; longer-term work was also needed around component marks to be able to accurately flag failed components. Development time would be needed to support system changes and that the finer detail of the regulation would also need to be reviewed prior to publication in the AQH.

RESOLVED

4. To approve the additional regulations for Biomedical Sciences. [**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar (Secretary to Senate)]

### 37. EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report from Education and Student Experience Committee (SEN2425-038)

NOTED

1. A process for considering extenuating financial circumstances had been put in place as a result of the assessment of the consequences on the student experience of the new Student Debtor Policy. The policy had been developed in consultation with the SU, Student Services and the Finance Office and although it had been approved in principle by ESEC in the autumn it had not been fully in place to be reported to the previous meeting of Senate.
2. ESEC had considered an abridged report prepared by SUMS Consulting which had been undertaken as a direct result of the EHRC advice issued following the judgements publishing as a result of the Natasha Abraham vs University of Bristol case. A significant number of AU students disclosed a disability or multiple disabilities with a resultant increase in the pressure on student advisers, professional services and academic staff. The SUMS report made a series of recommendations and it was recognised that transformation would be involve extensive efforts. There were 16 recommendations with a suggested implementation timeframe of 5 years. The Head of Accessibility and Inclusion had been tasked with establishing a project group and preparing a paper for the Executive.

### **38. COLLABORATIVE PROVISION COMMITTEE**

RECEIVED

Report from Collaborative Provision Committee (SEN2425-039)

NOTED

1. The Terms of Reference had been reviewed at the last meeting of the committee.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the revised terms of reference for Collaborative Provision Committee.  
[**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar (Secretary to Senate)]

### **39. ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY BRANCH OF COLEG CYMRAEG CENEDLAETHOL**

RECEIVED

A report from Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of the Branch (SEN2425-040)

NOTED

The contents of the report.

### **40. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES.**

RECEIVED

Minutes from the following committees (SEN2425-041):

1. Research & Innovations Committee
2. Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions Committee
3. Quality and Standards Committee
4. Education and Student Experience Committee
5. Collaborative Provision Committee
6. Welsh Medium Studies Committee

NOTED

The reports received from the committees

#### **41. EXECUTIVE ACTION**

RECEIVED

Report of Executive Approval of EdD Regulations (SEN2425-042)

NOTED

Executive Approval had been granted for Regulations for a National EdD, ahead of students starting the programme in January. The National Doctorate of Education was a part time pan-Wales programme developed in collaboration with 6 other Welsh institutions as an extension to an existing pan- Wales National MA Education Wales scheme.