



SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 15:00 on 13 January 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); Miss Elain Gwynedd, UMCA President; 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; Professor Louise Marshall; Dr Julie Mathias; Mr Will Parker, Undeb Aberystwyth Academic Affairs Officer; Ms Jen Phipps; Dr Alexander Pitchford; Professor Phillip Schofield; Dr Alistair Shepherd; Professor Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences); Mr Bayanda Vundamina, Undeb Aberystwyth President; Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar Head of Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Professor Iain Barber; Professor Nigel Copner; Mr Prysor Davies; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Hywel Griffiths AU Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Dr Thomas Jansen; Dr Kim Knowles; Professor Charles Musselwhite; Dr Olaoluwa Olusanya; Professor Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence and Impact; Ms Jackie Sayce; Dr Steve Thompson; Professor Catrin Webster.

In attendance: Mrs Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (Secretary); Ms Michelle Dickson, Academic Registrar; Mr Ian Munton, Director of Student Services.

Apologies for absence had been received from Professor Iain Donnison; Mrs Jean Jones; Dr Alex Mangold; Dr Samuel Raybone; Dr Anoush Simon, Dr Lucy Trotter.

29. RESEARCH PLAN

NOTED

1. Following on from the workshop approach taken to discuss the Education and Student Experience Plan a special meeting of the Senate had been convened, held as a workshop, to discuss the institutional Research Plan. Professor Angela Hatton and Professor Helen Roberts provided an overview of the draft plan and led the workshop; discussions had already taken place with a variety of groups including Heads of

Department, Associate Deans Research and Directors of Research and Senate members were invited to discuss the plan in small groups and report back to Senate as a whole. A note of the feedback was taken to help to refine the plan.

2. Comments were noted around:

- Looking at how research was prioritised in the university's strategic plan – it would be helpful to have a strategic framework for making research choices as an institution and nature of engagement with relevant policies.
- Research leave, mentoring and support for individuals (both internal and externally) and clearer pathways for progression and reward for engagement with research.
- Support and the interface for research including applications, digital and physical infrastructure and the role of professional services.
- Measuring success and increasing the prominence of impact in the plan; communicating and promoting research success; encouraging and supporting opportunities for external networking and harnessing links outside the university to working with partners and collaborators to understand their particular challenges.
- Articulating what was meant by a positive research culture and “Researcher community” – suggesting that “research community” would be more inclusive and encompass technicians and research students.
- Capturing research led teaching, overlap between research and innovation and learning and teaching and engagement with the PGR community as well as alignment with the Education and Student Experience Plan.

3. Senate members were thanked for their positive engagement in the discussions and invited to contact the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) with any other comments.

RESOLVED

That the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) would take on board the feedback from the discussions and submit the plan to University Executive.
[**Action:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation)]