SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:15 on 19 November 2025, in the Main Hall, International Politics Building.

Voting members:	Professor Jon Timmis, Vice-Chancellor; Dr Otar Akanyeti; Professor Iain Barber Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sciences); Mr Tom Bates; Professor Hazel Davey; Professor Sarah Davies; Professor Andy Evans; Dr Patrick Finney, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Humanities); Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of AU Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Millie Hackett, Undeb Aber President; Nanw Hampson, 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); Professor Louise Marshall; Dr Julie Mathias; Esperanza Monnier, Undeb Aberystwyth Academic Affairs Officer; Ms Jen Phipps; Dr Alexander Pitchford; Ms Jackie Sayce; Professor Phillipp Schofield; Dr Alistair Shepherd.
Non-voting members:	Professor Homagni Choudhury, Mr Prysor Davies; Professor Engobo Emeseh; Dr Gwion Evans; Professor John Gough; Dr Joe Ironside, Dr Thomas Jansen; Dr Anoush Simon; Dr Steve Thompson.
In attendance:	Mrs Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (Secretary); Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Ms Lliwen Jones, Translator; Dr Helen Miles, in lieu of Director of Research Excellence and Impact.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Dr Hanna Binks; Professor Iain Donnison; Dr Ffion Jones; Dr Kim Knowles; Dr Alex Mangold; Mr Ian Munton, Director of Student Services; Dr Professor Charles Musselwhite; Dr Samuel Raybone; Dr Gwawr Taylor, Dr Lucy Trotter, Professor Catrin Webster; Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar.

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1. WELCOME

A warm welcome was extended to the new members of Senate from Undeb Aber, Millie Hackett, Nanw Hampson, Esperanza Monnier, and also the following Heads of Department who were attending their first Senate as non-voting members: Professor Homagni Choudhury, Professor Engobo Emeseh and Dr Joe Ironside.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 18/06/2025 (SEN2526-003).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

4. 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 (SEN2526-004).

5. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Vice-Chancellor's Report (SEN2526-005)

NOTED

The report consisted of two parts: a highlight report and an update on recruitment. It was noted that the UK government had said it would raise tuition fees in line with inflation and the Welsh Government had also confirmed that this would be the case for next year; Medr was also in the process of consulting the sector on a new regulatory system including conditions of registration and funding. It had been decided that updates on the areas overseen by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), previously provided as part of the Vice-Chancellor's report would now be taken as reports under their respective agenda headings.

6. RESEARCH MATTERS

RECEIVED

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) Report (SEN2526-006)

NOTED

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) drew attention to the wide range of research activities across the institution. There had been a small increase on the previous year in relation to the number of bids made; further training and support was being put in place to support colleagues in this area. The PVC encouraged Senate members to contact her directly with suggestions for other information that might usefully be included in her report going forward.

7. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

1. Report from Research and Innovation Committee (SEN2526-007)

2. Terms of reference (SEN2526-008)

3. Annual Report on Research Ethics (SEN2324-009)

4. Annual Integrity Statement (SEN2526-010)

NOTED

5. Updated ToRs were presented; these had been developed to align with the university's research plan and the inclusion of research theme leaders on the committee would bring a fresh perspective to operation of this committee.

6. The Annual Report on Research Ethics and the Annual Integrity Statement had been presented to the University Executive and would go forward to Council the following week.

APPROVED

7. To approve the Research and Innovation Committee terms of reference. [**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar (Secretary to Senate)]

RECOMMENDED

8. To recommend to Council the Annual Report on Research Ethics report. [**ACTION**: University Secretary and Director of Welsh Language]

9. To recommend to Council the Annual Integrity Statement report. [**ACTION**: University Secretary and Director of Welsh Language]

8. EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE MATTERS

RECEIVED

1. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) Report (SEN2526-011)

2. Resit regulations (SEN2526-012)

3. Quality Assurance Statement 2025 (SEN2526-013)

NOTED

4. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) drew attention to the wide range of ESE activities across the institution including the work on graduate attributes and the current Medr consultation. The PVC ESE and the University Secretary were leading on the university's response and would be attending a national event about the consultation exercise at the end of the month; Senate members were invited to send any comments to the PVC ESE.

5. The institution had been formally notified that the next Quality Enhancement Review, conducted by the QAA would take place during the 2027/28 session.

6. Changes to the Resit Regulations had been proposed and were outlined in the paper for discussion. The proposals included removing the resit fee and the mark cap on the resit mark (40 at undergraduate level and 50 for PGT modules); other amendments included setting a time limit for full-time students for the completion of Part One within two years and Part Two within three years, or the duration of the scheme plus no more than two years in total reflecting the existing 'five-year rule'. Senate's approval was being sought, in principle, for approval to progress with the work needed to develop the detail of the changes and the associated regulations.

7. Senate welcomed the proposals in principle. The following issues were raised: limiting the number of resit opportunities and discussions around changes to the regulations yet to be drafted. Several departments voiced concerns around the impact on staff workload during the summer, particularly when the marking window was extremely tight between the assessment period and exam board, whether the date of the supplementary exam board could be moved and whether there should be a limit on the number of credits that could be taken during the resit period. It was noted that when the limit on the number of credits had previously been suspended during Covid, the marking workload in August had not been identified as having been significantly higher, notwithstanding this, an analysis of the volume of resit assessments undertaken over a number of years had been requested to inform the discussions. Questions about allowing students to resit passed components, and expectations around recording special circumstances where a student passed a module, were also raised. It was expected that changes to the regulations would need to be phased in, with existing students continuing under the existing arrangements, with the changes introduced for new students.

8. The PVC reported that modelling of the impact of the proposed changes on Good Honours data was underway. Anecdotally it was believed that students performed less well during the resit period. It was a challenge to undertake the analysis for a variety of reasons: the assessment types could vary between the semester and supplementary exams, and the swapping of modules from semester 1 to 2 meant that in some years the resit would take place closer in time to the original point of assessment, and in other years it would be up to 8 months later. The discussion noted that changes to assessment practice which had been adopted in Covid, moving away from reliance on in person examinations, gave greater flexibility in some disciplines to manage student and staff workloads, consequently the impact was likely to differ between departments. Further discussion was needed around assessment methods, volume and timing and it would be helpful to look at what other universities were doing for example in the area of online closed exams and assessing module and scheme learning outcomes.

9. The consensus was that the proposed changes would be positive for students and would be likely to reduce the number of academic appeals. However, with the removal of the resit fee there were concerns that more students would choose to opt out of their first attempt during the semester assessment period, without the penalty of a mark being capped at 40 (or 50), and no financial cost, and postpone their assessments to the summer. This could lead to some attempting a significant number of credits in the resit period. It was requested that consideration should again be given to reducing the existing 80 credit resit limit to 60, (any more than this would require repeating the year) and also that the timing of the resit period should be reviewed, particularly in

view of the fact that teaching on programmes started earlier in September (Nursing, Veterinary and some fieldwork trips).

10. The PVC noted that following a small number of cases where students had been misadvised around what they were required to achieve in order to pass and proceed to Part Two; the Portfolio Development Group would also be asked to look at the Part One progression rules, in particular the requirement to achieve an average of 40%, as well as the requirement to pass 100 credits overall.

11. The annual Quality Assurance Statement (QAS) was welcomed by the Senate. The PVC ESE also reported that initial discussions had taken place around developing a better way of capturing the ongoing working relationship with Undeb Aber in the context of the Student Charter and the Undeb Aber annual report, included each year as part of the QAS as evidence of working with students as partners. It was suggested that the expertise in the Dialogue Centre could be used to help with these discussions and the co creation of a progress log reporting.

12. The issue of the previously approved change to the regulations, removing the 2% Window of Opportunity was raised and it was clarified that the 2% Window of Opportunity was applicable to undergraduate students who started **before** September 2024, i.e. the June 2026 graduating cohort would still come under these regulations.

APPROVED

13. To approve the proposals to change the resit regulations in principle and to move to the next phase to draft the detail of the associated regulations. [**ACTION**: Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience]

RECOMMENDED

14. To recommend to Council the Quality Assurance Statement 2025. [**ACTION**: University Secretary and Director of Welsh Language]

9. QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report from Quality and Standards Committee (SEN2526-014)

NOTED

1. That the work of the Portfolio Development Group would report into QSC and ESEC according to the nature of the business it conducted that required formal committee consideration and approval.

2. Consolidated faculty monitoring reports for 2024/25 had been received covered Annual Monitoring of Taught Schemes and External Examiner Reports; NSS Action Plans had also been submitted by departments. QSC had been tasked with taking forward the university-level issues. Reporting was by exception and comments made on matters of particular significance, including successes, good practice and innovation, as well as identifying challenges and risks. The individual AMTS reports, NSS analysis and Action Plan Reports were retained on the AMTS SharePoint site.

3. An annual review of the exclusion statistics for the previous session had been considered at the first meeting of QSC (previous year's figures provided for comparison)
   - Academic Regulation on Academic Progress: 152 (161) referred and 10 (20) excluded.
   - UKVI: 1 (24) excluded as a direct result of breaching the Student Visa Engagement and Attendance Monitoring Policy.
   - Debt: 16 excluded on grounds of unpaid college debt; this was the first year of implementation of the revised debt policy.

4. The dates for the 2025/26 resit exams had been changed back to 10–21 August 2026 to allow sufficient time for marking and the resit exam boards before the start of 2026/27.

5. Clarification was sought on the wording around the approval procedure for the development and delivery of any DL or online provision. The PVC ESE would check the detail of the procedure to ensure that it was clear that it related to the development of all new DL provision with the exception of the Department of Information Studies.

10. EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report from Education and Student Experience Committee (SEN2526-015)

NOTED

That the Suicide Safer Strategy had been approved the previous year and the Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Response Policy was a development of that strategy. The Policy set out AU's responsibilities and support available using UUK, Step Change and other sector guidance.

11. RESPONSE TO UNDEB ABER ANNUAL REPORT

RECEIVED

Report from (SEN2526-016)

NOTED

1. An interactive workshop was led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience to consider whether there were other ways to record the dialogue which took place between the university and Undeb Aber throughout the year, which was captured in this annual report. The generation of the report was rooted in a legacy HEFCW requirement that Students' Unions, "*produce an annual student statement, to form the basis of dialogue with the institution, report to students, and inform the development of the QAA student submission for the institutional review*."

2. Historically the report had been used as was a means to demonstrate to the Governing Body that it had the appropriate evidence to assure itself that the University had met, and continued to meet, its obligations in respect of the quality assurance statements set out by HEFCW/Medr, in particular statement iv; '*The governing body has considered a report on the annual dialogue between the institution and the student union or*

equivalent, scrutinised student survey outcomes and confirmed that action plans have been put in place and implemented, in partnership with the student body."

3. The outgoing Student Education Sabbatical Officer generally presented the report at the end of the academic year on behalf of the broader team of SU sabbatical officers and staff members. In 2025 this had been to the Quality and Standards Committee in May, in place of Academic Board and reported to Senate in June. It had been agreed that the report should be made directly to Senate going forward and the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience was keen that Senate members should have the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing discussions with Undeb Aber.

4. A number of questions had been identified for discussion: i) did the timing limit its impact? – the report was submitted in Spring by the outgoing Academic Affairs Officer and presented to Senate in June; ii) the summative report addressed a broad range of issues including facilities and resources, but Senate was not necessarily the forum to be able to respond to some of the issues – how might this be addressed? iii) the report provided partial evidence of the ongoing dialogue with Undeb Aber during an annual academic cycle - was this an adequate account/reflection of the relationship between the university and the student body? And iv) the issues identified provided a snapshot of the previous 12 months and did not necessarily align to incoming officer priorities, how might this be addressed?

5. Feedback from the workshop session included discussions around the student rep system and capturing the student voice more broadly as well as synchronisation with newly elected officers each academic cycle. The effectiveness of SSCC and level of interaction amongst students and their representatives varied considerably between departments, anecdotally this related to the size of the student cohort, with larger departments having quite active SSCCs; the focus tended to be very much toward undergraduate students. Interactions with individual student representatives were generally very positive but reps could struggle to get feedback from their colleagues and it was sometimes unclear whether issues raised were actually representative of the whole student body, not helped by low survey responses making it difficult to draw meaningful conclusions. The role of the Faculty reps was not clear.

RESOLVED

6. That the Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience would take on board the feedback from the discussions and report back to the next meeting. [**ACTION**: Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience]

12. ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY BRANCH OF COLEG CYMRAEG CENEDLAETHOL

RECEIVED

A report from Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of the Branch (SEN2526-017)

NOTED

The contents of the report.

13. ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

RECEIVED

Annual Report (SEN2526-018)

NOTED

The contents of the report.

14. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES.

RECEIVED

Minutes from the following committees (SEN2526-019):

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

NOTED

The reports received from the committees.

15. HONORARY AWARDS

RECEIVED

Report from (SEN2526-020)

RECOMMENDED

To recommend the nominations to Council.

krb 2025/12/11