SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:15 on 11 March 2026, in the Main Hall, International Politics Building.

Voting members:	Professor Jon Timmis, Vice-Chancellor; Dr Otar Akanyeti; Dr Stephen Atherton; Professor Iain Barber Pro Vice-Chancellor (Sciences); Mr Tom Bates; Dr Hanna Binks; Professor Hazel Davey; Professor Sarah Davies; Professor Iain Donnison; 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; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Professor Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience); Dr Ffion Jones; Professor Louise Marshall; Esperanza Monnier, Undeb Aberystwyth Academic Affairs Officer; Dr Professor Charles Musselwhite; 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;
In attendance:	Mrs Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar; Mrs Anna Cole, 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; Mr Ian Munton, Director of Student Services; Dr Gwawr Taylor, University Secretary and Director of Welsh Language.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Professor Andy Evans; Professor Mererid Hopwood; Dr Rhianedd Jewell; Dr Alex Mangold; Dr Julie Mathias; Dr Steve Thompson; Dr Lucy Trotter.

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16. WELCOME

A warm welcome was extended to Anna Cole (Deputy Registrar, QA), who was attending her first meeting and would serve as Secretary to Senate. The Senate also recorded its

thanks to Kim Bradick for her work and contribution, noting that she was leaving the University.

17. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 19/11/2025 (SEN2526-023).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

19. 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 (SEN2526-024).

20. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Vice-Chancellor's Report (SEN2526-025)

NOTED

The report consisted of three parts: sector issues, external matters and academic related communications. It noted the Welsh Government plans on the Future of Tertiary Education in Wales and members were invited to send any contributions to the collective Universities Wales response. A Medr report on an analyses of subject demand was highlighted, alongside guidance for maintaining neutrality during the Senedd elections; sector-wide data showed a slight fall in UK academic staff numbers (HESA), inequities for disabled staff (National Disabled Staff Survey), a declining UK graduate salary premium (Financial Times) and growing pressures on the student loan system (HM Treasury); there has been significant media coverage of key research and 49 news items issued, major ministerial visits and public engagement events with internal communications on the Annual Report and ongoing alignment with Strategy 2030 through regular updates and staff engagement activities.

21. RESEARCH MATTERS

RECEIVED

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) Report (SEN2526-026)

NOTED

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) drew attention to strong performance across research, innovation and engagement, with growth in research applications (up 36%) and new awards (up 68%) noting that smaller-value but numerous awards support a broad stable base and will work to support application to larger grants in future. Public and cultural engagement activity remained high, and several flagship events and exhibitions were successfully delivered. Key successes included external funding competitions including the International Science Partnership Fund, Innovate UK projects and through collaboration with the National Library of Wales, with continued system improvements and strategic progress supporting long-term income diversification. The committee were pleased to note that the AHRC Studentship Agreement on the History of Herbal Medicine in Wales demonstrated effective cross-over between research and learning and teaching activity.

22. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report from Research and Innovation Committee (SEN2526-027)

NOTED

A more structured approach to internal research-related capital was needed with a targeted approach with key funders. The University was required to confirm its REF Units of Assessment working closely with research staff to ensure an optimal submission. Work on research culture had progressed with the Responsible Research Assessment Group established.

23. EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE MATTERS

RECEIVED

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) Report (SEN2526-028)

NOTED

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) drew attention key regulatory developments, including AU's intention to register under Medr's new regulatory system and successful securing of £100K to lead a multi-institution suicide-prevention training framework. It highlighted progress with partner-focused initiatives such as new online programmes and franchise developments. Internally, the report updated on NSS engagement, development of Graduate Attributes, insights and student-facing services such as Holi Aber/Ask Aber. A Generative AI conference had been held with cross department insights and external insights shared. Significant employability initiatives to enhance student success and graduate outcomes were highlighted.

24. Undeb Aber Annual Report Update

RECEIVED

Undeb Aber Annual Report Update (SEN2526-029)

NOTED

Following the workshop at the previous meeting of Senate it was confirmed that the Undeb Aber report meets regulatory requirements but is better directed to Executive and Council rather than Senate. From 2026 it will follow a new cycle with an accompanying action plan and later shift to a calendar-year reporting model. These changes form part of a wider review of student voice, aligned with Medr's regulatory framework. The ESE committee discussed introducing an inter-committee workshop to support fuller discussion of key agenda items and strengthen engagement in line with new requirements and PAU desire to develop student engagement.

25. QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report from Quality and Standards Committee (SEN2526-030)

NOTED

1. Approval was requested for the Remit and Terms of Reference for the Quality and Standards Committee be amended to include oversight and authority to approve standards in relation to admission to the university in line with Ordinance 15 of Senate.

2. Ongoing work around examination boards to build more consistent practices, PSRB requirements and the impact of changes to the PGCtHE.

3. Summary of 2024/25 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.

4. To confirm the IELTS (or equivalent) requirement for schemes in the Faculty of Science with foundation year had been reduced from 6.5 to 6. This does not include schemes with the language development foundation year.

5. Approval was requested for an additional regulation relating to four-year schemes with a language development foundation year to meet IELTS related standards.

6. Clarification was received that credit transfer is not accepted into one-year top-up schemes.

RESOLVED

7. To approve the revised to the terms of reference for Quality and Standards Committee, including the addition that QSC will consider and approve conditions of entry to the University on behalf of Senate. [**ACTION**: Deputy Registrar (Secretary to Senate)]

8. To seek clarification on the schemes impacted by the change to IELTS entry requirements for four-year schemes with academic subject foundation year in the Faculty of Science before formal approval. [**ACTION**: Deputy Registrar (Secretary to Senate)]

9. To approve the additional regulations for schemes with a language foundation year. [**ACTION**: Deputy Registrar (Secretary to Senate)]

26. EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report from Education and Student Experience Committee (SEN2526-031)

NOTED

ESEC had updated its Terms of Reference to reflect recent structural changes. It had been agreed to discontinue *Tell Us Now* and *Your Voice Matters*, replacing them with the new AU Enquiry Service also endorsed were new structures for disability-inclusion work, noting curriculum and assessment should align with wider University plans.

27. Governance Matters

NOTED

1. An interactive workshop was led by the University Secretary and Director of Welsh Language following the Governance Review reported to Senate in June 2025 with a focus on the future operation of Senate. The session aimed to clarify next steps, gather member reflections, and identify areas requiring further development. No decisions were expected.

2. Workshop members were asked to reflect on indicators of effective operation and whether Senate is effectively discharging its TORs and what forms of assurance are required to evidence this.

3. Feedback from the workshop session included the desire for improved briefing materials, greater clarity on when Senate decisions were required, enhanced visibility of issues emerging from subcommittees, and stronger feedback loops from Council to demonstrate impact. Members emphasised the importance of meaningful discussion, engagement with papers, and the ability to challenge recommendations where necessary. It was noted that Senate has oversight of subcommittee membership and TORs, and should therefore have confidence in subcommittee decision making, while retaining the ability to escalate issues or request further detail when required. Training and induction for Senate members were identified as priorities, alongside clearer communication of expectations.

4. Members were thanked for their contributions. The discussions and notes captured would inform the next phase of development as the Governance team continued to review processes, membership, and TORs. Next steps included developing training materials, role descriptors reflecting key expectations, and mechanisms for evaluating Senate effectiveness, alongside longer-term work to review Senate membership, and revise TORs.

RESOLVED

5. That the University Secretary and Director of Welsh Language would take on board the feedback from the discussions and report back to the next meeting. [**ACTION:** University Secretary and Director of Welsh Language]

28. ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY BRANCH OF COLEG CYMRAEG CENEDLAETHOL

RECEIVED

A report from Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of the Branch (SEN2526-032)

NOTED

The contents of the report.

29. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES.

RECEIVED

Minutes from the following committees (SEN2526-033):

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.

AOB - none