

COUNCIL

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 23 January 2025 in the Teifi Suite, Carmarthen Campus

UWTSD and UW Council Members:

Emlyn Dole (Chair)
Professor Elwen Evans KC (Vice-Chancellor)
John Edge
Timothy Llewelyn
Nigel Roberts
Dr Liz Siberry

UW Council Members:

Dr Stuart Robb
Geraint Evans
Iwan Thomas

UWTSD Council Members:

Natalie Beard
Dr Tracy Cruickshank
Maria Dinu
Professor Kyle Erickson
Rowland Jones
Geraint Roberts
Emlyn Schiavone
Katrin Shaw

In attendance:

Gavin Bessant, Director of Financial Services
Sarah Clark, University Secretary and Clerk to the Councils
Dr Andrew Cornish, Principal, Coleg Sir Gar
Peter Mannion, Chief Operating Officer
Jane O'Rourke, Executive Director of Human Resources
Professor Mirjam Plantinga, PVC (Student Experience)
Debra Williams PVC (Commercial and Business Relations)
Catrin Beard (Translator)
Margaret Williams (Secretary)

Observer

Hugh Jones, Consultant

Minute	Main discussion points
25.01 Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from Justin Albert, Dr Deborah Hughes and Deris Williams. Council welcomed Katrin Shaw to her first meeting. It also welcomed Hugh Jones who was observing the meeting as part of the Governance Effectiveness Review.

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	Council noted the recent resignation of Uzo Iwobi as a member and thanked her for her work.
25.02 Declarations of interest	<p>Council RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in the Clerk's report (JCO318).</p> <p>The following additional declarations were made:</p> <p>Professor Erickson declared his interest in item 25.08 as a director of Tan a Chwrrw Cyf, based on the Lampeter campus.</p> <p>The Vice Chancellor declared her interest in item 25.09 as a trustee of Trinity University College.</p>
25.03 Chair's report	<p>Council RECEIVED an oral update from the Chair.</p> <p>The Chair referred to his regular meetings with the Vice-Chancellor. He commended the clarity of the Business Plan and expressed his thanks to officers. He also congratulated the University on the recent degree awarding ceremonies at the Brangwyn Hall, which had provided a more personal experience than the Arena.</p> <p>The Chair reported that he had recently chaired board meetings of Mentrau Creadigol Cymru and the Canolfan Dysgu Cymraeg. He would be meeting the new CEO of S4C in the next few weeks. He and other Welsh HE Chairs had attended a meeting with the Senedd Minister for FE and HE and a twice-yearly meeting was planned.</p> <p>Council recorded its condolences to Maria Stedman, former UWTSD Vice-Chair and member of both Councils, on her recent bereavement.</p>
25.04 Vice-Chancellor's report	<p>Council RECEIVED an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.</p> <p>The report focused on the discussions about Lampeter, which would be set out in detail in a subsequent item. She recognised that the decision was a difficult and significant one for the University. She reported on positive discussions with students and staff and commended the Students' Union engagement, which had included a presentation by the Lampeter President at the SLT meeting on 22 January. She referred to the interest from the media and alumni and noted the significant degree of misinformation that had appeared. She was grateful to all who had contributed to the discussions and to the staff who had provided the framework for engagement.</p>
25.05 Students' Union report	<p>Council RECEIVED the Students' Union report (JCO319).</p> <p>The report highlighted areas of work of the Students' Union with a focus on:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course representation • Advice Service • Student Opportunities • Lampeter Student Engagement <p>The Student President referred to the use of the SU Advice Service and noted an increase in enquiries during the last year. She noted some concern that the IICL only had one student advisor, who was based on the Birmingham campus. She noted that the annual report on the Advice Service would be submitted in February 2025, referencing the student cases report produced by the Academic Office.</p> <p>The Student President updated Council on the University's dialogue with students based on the Lampeter campus. The SU had been sharing feedback from students at weekly meetings with the COO. Feedback had also been provided on the tours of the Carmarthen campus provided for the Lampeter students in December 2024.</p>
25.08 Western campuses update	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED a report on the options appraisal of the Western campuses, which included a recommendation and supporting papers in respect of the future of the Lampeter campus (JCO322).</p> <p>The COO reminded members that an options appraisal of the Lampeter and Carmarthen campuses was a key objective of the University's Business Plan 2024/25, with the aim of identifying measures to ensure that the two campuses were vibrant contributors to the University's aims and ambitions. It had become apparent that action was required in terms of Lampeter owing to the significant reduction in student numbers. At its meeting in September 2024, Council had been advised that options relating to activity on the Lampeter campus were being formulated. Several options had emerged for consideration. In November 2024, Council was provided with an update, noting that dialogue had commenced with staff and students around a proposal to move current and future taught Humanities provision to Carmarthen with effect from September 2025, with a further report to be provided to Council in January 2025.</p> <p>The COO reported that from November 2024 to January 2025 there had been ongoing integrated engagement with staff, students and external stakeholders regarding the proposal. This had included significant work with students and the Students' Union, which had included an introductory visit to the Carmarthen campus in December 2024. The visit had received positive feedback. The primary area of concern had been the Library and access to resources, particularly in respect of Archaeology. The Student President reported on the matters raised and the requests made by students, which included a modest budget to assist them in the transition to Carmarthen. The COO confirmed that a group had been established to address the concerns and that, whereas there was no intention to move the Library special collections to Carmarthen, the required resources would be transferred. The provision of transitional support had been agreed.</p>

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	<p>In respect of staff, the EDHR summarised the process that had been followed. Dialogue with the recognised trades unions had commenced in early November 2024 and an initial all-staff meeting had been held in Lampeter. Thereafter, engagement had been ongoing through respective line managers and collective consultation with the trades unions. The collective consultation process was concluded at a University meeting with the trades unions' representatives in January 2025, with minor amendments to the original proposals agreed. The University had received positive feedback from the unions on the nature of the discussion and consultation.</p> <p>Dialogue with external stakeholders had been led by the Vice-Chancellor, with a range of comments received from the wider community, politicians and alumni. In respect of the latter, two emails specifically marked for the attention of Council had been received. These had been shared with the Chair and were included in the papers presented for Council's consideration. During the meeting, the Clerk reported that her attention had been drawn to an open letter to the Council from the Chair of the Lampeter Society, which had been sent the previous evening. With Council's permission, the letter was read out in full by the Clerk.</p> <p>The COO reported that the Western Campuses Project Board on 20 had considered the appraisal of options at a meeting on 20 January 2025. It had agreed to recommend to SLT the option to move the University's current and future taught Humanities provision from the Lampeter campus to the Carmarthen campus with effect from the new academic year commencing in September 2025. On 21 January 2025 SLT had received a presentation from the Lampeter Students' Union President which provided information about why students had chosen to study in Lampeter and matters regarding the support for students if the move to Carmarthen was to take place. Subsequently SLT had considered the appraisal of options and had supported the recommendation of the Project Board. The Vice-Chancellor had therefore decided to proceed with the proposal to move the University's current and future taught Humanities provision from the Lampeter campus to the Carmarthen campus with effect from the new academic year starting in September 2025. The papers presented to Council included a summary of the process that had been followed.</p> <p>The COO emphasised that the proposal had focused solely on the relocation of the Humanities. The University was committed to an ongoing and sustainable future for the Lampeter campus and SLT was confident that this change would enable the leadership of the University to develop a long-term and financially sustainable alternative educational offer delivered in Lampeter. SLT was therefore recommending that a new, dedicated project be established to take this work forward.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded members that under the Charter the Council was responsible for the determination of the character and mission of the University. Under Ordinance, the Council had delegated planning, the allocation of resources and the organisation and management of staff resources to the Vice-Chancellor. The decision to move the teaching of Humanities was therefore one for the Vice-Chancellor, but one which had implications for the educational character of</p>

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	<p>the Lampeter campus in particular, given that Humanities was currently only academic discipline delivering taught provision in that location.</p> <p>Council considered the information presented, both in the papers and verbally. It acknowledged the care with which the matter had been approached by officers and noted the feedback from the Students' Union. Members agreed with SLT's assessment that moving the Humanities provision to the Carmarthen campus would provide the relevant disciplines with the opportunity to flourish within a multi-disciplinary environment and would enable the University to enhance the student experience. They also supported SLT's intention to develop a long-term and financially sustainable alternative educational offer for the Lampeter campus and emphasised the importance of continuing to work with the local communities to deliver social and economic value to the region.</p> <p>Accordingly, Council unanimously AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ENDORSE the decision of the Vice-Chancellor, as recommended by the Senior Leadership Team, to move the University's current and future taught Humanities provision from the Lampeter campus to the Carmarthen campus with effect from the new academic year starting in September 2025; and • in recognition that this decision would change the educational character of the Lampeter campus, to APPROVE the recommendation from the SLT to establish a 'Lampeter Futures' project which would report on progress at each meeting of the Council. <p>The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Council for its support and reported that the University would proceed to arrange a public meeting at Lampeter to discuss the future of the Lampeter campus.</p>
25.10 Academic Committee report: 10 December 2024	<p>Council RECEIVED the report of the Academic Committee meeting held on 10 December 2024 (JCO323).</p> <p>Council RECEIVED the Student Experience Surveys annual report (JCO329).</p> <p>Council RECEIVED the Annual Student Statement (Quality Report) and University response (JCO330).</p>
25.11 Academic Committee Annual Report	<p>Council RECEIVED the annual report 2023/24 of the Academic Committee (JCO324).</p> <p>Presenting the report, the Chair of the Committee emphasised the importance of good attendance if the Committee's function was to be fully realised in the future.</p>

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25.12 Minutes	Council APPROVED the Unrestricted and Restricted Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2024 (JCO325b and JCO326c).
25.13 CSG Board	Council APPROVED the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor as its nominee at the Coleg Sir Gar Board meeting on 20 February 2025 in the event that John Edge was unable to attend (JCO326).
25.14 Chair's action	Council RECEIVED the report on Chair's action taken since the last meeting (JCO327).
25.15 Use of University Seal	Council RECEIVED the report on the use of the University Seal (JCO328).
25.16 Declarations of Interest	<p>The Councils noted the following Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>Vice-Chancellor – Director and Trustee of Trinity College Carmarthen Professor Kyle Erickson - Director of Tan a Chwrrw Cyf, based on the Lampeter campus. Timothy Llewelyn – Lay member of the governing body of the Church in Wales.</p> <p>There were no other additional Declarations of Interest.</p>
25.17 Date of next meeting	27 March 2025 at IICL at Westferry, London. Further information about travel and timing would be circulated shortly.