



**Prifysgol Cymru**  
Y Drindod Dewi Sant  
**University of Wales**  
Trinity Saint David

## COUNCIL

**UNRESTRICTED** Minutes of the meeting held at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday 27 March 2025 at the Westferry Campus, London

### **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

### **UWTSD Council Members:**

Natalie Beard  
Dr Tracy Cruickshank  
Maria Dinu  
Professor Kyle Erickson  
Dr Deborah Hughes  
Rowland Jones (Teams)  
Geraint Roberts  
Katrin Shaw

### **In attendance:**

Gavin Bessant, Director of Financial Services  
Sarah Clark, University Secretary and Clerk to the Councils  
Peter Mannion, Chief Operating Officer  
Dr Chris Marshall, Chief of Staff  
Jane O'Rourke, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Professor Mirjam Plantinga, PVC (Student Experience)  
Catrin Beard (Translator)  
Margaret Williams (Secretary)

### **Observer:**

Hugh Jones, Consultant

Minute	Main discussion points
25.19 Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from Justin Albert, Dr Andrew Cornish, Geraint Evans, Emlyn Schiavone, Iwan Thomas and Deris Williams.

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	<p>Council welcomed Dr Chris Marshall, Chief of Staff and Head of the Vice-Chancellor's office, to his first meeting in attendance.</p> <p>Council noted that Natalie Beard and Maria Dinu were attending their last meeting of Council. The Chair thanked them for their contribution to the Council and the University, and wished them well for the future.</p>
25.20 Declarations of interest	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in the Clerk's report (JCO333).</p> <p>The following additional declarations were made:</p> <p>Dr Liz Siberry - Agenda item 2.2 (Trustee of the Gregynog Trust)  Dr Stuart Robb - Agenda item 2.4 (Trustee of the UWRET)  Tim Llewellyn - Agenda item 5.1 (Member of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales)</p>
25.21 Chair's report	<p>Council RECEIVED an oral report from the Chair.</p> <p>The Chair thanked members for attending their appraisals / one-to-one discussions. The process had been beneficial and he would be reporting in more detail at the May meeting of the Nominations and Governance Committee.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the recent public meeting at Lampeter, which had been attended by several members. He noted that the response from local and national politicians had been positive and that the chair of the meeting was keen to continue the discussions.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the official opening of the Innovation Matrix in the presence of Senedd and UK Government members, and thanked officers for the arrangements made.</p>
25.22 Vice-Chancellor's report	<p>Council RECEIVED an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor updated members on the financial situation of the University and the sector more widely. She noted her gratitude to Council for supporting the executive in making some difficult decisions in order to improve sustainability. Substantial progress in achieving savings had been made and non-pay expenditure was carefully controlled. Changes made in the International Office which were already delivering a benefit in terms of student recruitment. She drew members' attention to the significant work being undertaken to develop a robust financial model, which would be integral to the University's future business planning process and was being used to support the current discussions in respect of longer-term financing.</p>

Minute	Main discussion points
	<p>The Vice-Chancellor reported on progress with the Lampeter Futures project, which was being led by the PVC (Commercial and Business Relations). A written report had been provided in the papers. Productive discussions were also in progress with the Academy of Sinology and the University would also be receiving a visit from representatives of the Khalifa Foundation in the near future.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor reported on the work in progress to identify priorities for the Strategic Plan 2025-2030, a draft of which would be presented to Council for discussion in due course. A key focus would be the consolidation of the UWTSD Group and FE collaboration, in accordance Medr's ambitions for the tertiary sector.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor reported that the SA1 Waterfront campus had recently been announced as one of the host venues for the World Skills UK National finals. She also reported on recent sporting successes.</p> <p>The Chair of CSG Board reported that Dr Andrew Cornish had recently announced his retirement as Principal of Coleg Sir Gar and Coleg Ceredigion. He wished to thank him on behalf of the Board for all his work. The Vice-Chancellor echoed the thanks and noted that there would be an opportunity for the University to thank him formally in due course.</p> <p>In respect of the University of Wales, the Vice-Chancellor reported that work was in progress on a range of legacy matters. In respect of Gwasg Gregynog, the report of an externally funded feasibility study had been given preliminary consideration by SLT, and options would be presented to the company's directors for consideration in June 2025. An informal discussion was also planned with representatives of the Gregynog Hall trustees.</p> <p>Work was also in progress in relation to the International University of Malaya Wales, a longstanding collaborative partnership operated via a joint venture whereby UW, through its subsidiary Awen Wales, held a small percentage of shares. UW and UWTSD were currently under pressure to increase the financial investment and officers continued to explore options. An update would be provided in due course.</p>
25.23 Students' Union report	<p>Council RECEIVED the Students' Union report (JCO334).</p> <p>The report focused on the Students' Union engagement in the Western Campuses Project and the Swansea Business Campus relocation project and provided updates from the Student Opportunities, Student Voice and Student Advice teams.</p> <p>In respect of the SBC relocation, the Swansea Student President reported that she was in communication with students and officers regarding the move, including discussions relating to parking. She would continue to feed back</p>

Minute	Main discussion points
	<p>to the project board and to work with the student body. In respect of the Humanities relocation, the COO responded to members' enquiries.</p> <p>The student members thanked Council and officers for their support during their periods of office.</p>
25.24 Financial and cash management report	This is a RESTRICTED item and reported in the restricted minutes of the meeting.
25.25 Annual Equality Report and Gender Pay Gap Report	<p>Council CONSIDERED the Annual Equality Report 2023/24 and Gender Pay Gap report (JCO336).</p> <p>Council was reminded that the University was required to publish an annual equalities report and pay gap data by 31 March 2025.</p> <p>The Annual Equality Report 2023/24 contained an update on progress against the targets as set out in the University's Strategic Equality Plan (2024-28), as well as detailed analysis of the staff and student profile by protected characteristics. The EDHR reported that the HESA student statistics for 2023/24 were not available at the time of preparing the report and that the report would therefore be updated following the release of the data. She referred to key insights into the report, noting particularly the age profile of staff which varied from the average across the sector.</p> <p>In respect of the Gender Pay Gap Report, Council noted the progress made and the activities to promote gender equality across the institution.</p>
25.26 ARC Committee report: 6 February 2025	<p>Council RECEIVED the report of the ARC meeting held on 6 February 2025 (JCO337).</p> <p>The Chair of ARC drew members' attention to the implications of the new IIA Global Internal Audit Standards and reported that officers and the internal auditors would be preparing an action plan in response.</p> <p>Council RECEIVED the Corporate Risk Register (JCO350).</p> <p>Council APPROVED ARC's recommendation that the current contracts for both the internal and external audit services be extended for a further period of one year. Members noted the desirability of seeking new auditors at the end of that period.</p>
25.27 NGC Committee report:	Council RECEIVED the report of the NGC meeting held on 17 March 2025 (JCO338).

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17 March 2025	
25.28 Remuneration Committee report: 10 February 2025	Council RECEIVED the report of the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 10 February 2025 (JCO339).
25.29 Remuneration Committee Annual Report	Council RECEIVED the annual report 2024/25 of the Remuneration Committee (JCO340).
25.30 RPC Committee report: 12 February 2025	<p>Council RECEIVED the report of the Resources and Performance Committee meeting held on 12 February 2025 (JCO31).</p> <p>Council RECEIVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Business Plan monitoring report (JCO351)</li> <li>• The KPI report (JCO352)</li> <li>• The update on key estates initiatives (JCO353)</li> <li>• The capital budget report (JCO354)</li> </ul>
25.31 Senate report: 19 February 2025	Council RECEIVED the report of the Senate meeting held on 19 February 2025 (JCO343a).
25.32 Honorary Professor of Practice Framework	<p>Council APPROVED:</p> <p>(a) the revised Honorary Professor of Practice Framework, as recommended by the Senate (JCO343b);</p> <p>(b) Senate's recommendation that minor adjustment be made to Ordinance II and III to clearly delineate between Honorary Professor of Practice appointments and other honorary awards, noting that this matter would be progressed by the Clerk through the Nominations and Governance Committee.</p>
25.33 Minutes	Council APPROVED the Unrestricted and Restricted Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 January 2025 (JCO344b and JCO344c).
25.34 Lampeter Futures update	Council RECEIVED the Lampeter Futures update (JCO346).
25.35 Curriculum Review update	Council RECEIVED the Curriculum Review update (JCO347).
25.36 Chair's action	Council RECEIVED the Chair's action report (JCO348).

Minute	Main discussion points
25.37 Use of the University Seal	Council RECEIVED the report on the use of the University Seal (JCO349).
25.38 Declarations of Interest	<p>The following declarations had been noted:</p> <p>Dr Liz Siberry - Agenda item 2.2 (Trustee of the Gregynog Trust)</p> <p>Dr Stuart Robb - Agenda item 2.4 (Trustee of the UWRET)</p> <p>Tim Llewellyn - Agenda item 5.1 (Member of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales)</p> <p>No other additional declarations were made during the meeting.</p>
25.39 Date of next meeting	The next meeting would be held on 10 July 2025.
RESERVED MATTERS	
25.40 Reserved Minutes of UWTSD Council	Council APPROVED the Reserved Minutes of the UWTSD Council held on 23 January 2025.

Meeting terminated at 15.50.