

JCO454b



COUNCIL

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the meeting held at 2.15 p.m. on Thursday 18 September 2025 at the Teaching and Learning Building, 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
Deris Williams

UWTSD Council Members:

Richard Bills
Dr Tracy Cruickshank
Professor Kyle Erickson
Dr Deborah Hughes
Rowland Jones
Katrin Shaw
Jennifer Taylor

In attendance:

Gavin Bessant, Director of Financial Services
Sarah Clark, University Secretary and Clerk to the Councils
Vanessa Cashmore, Acting Principal, Coleg Sir Gar
Rebecca Doswell, Head of Planning
Peter Mannion, Chief Operating Officer
Dr Chris Marshall, Chief of Staff
Jane O'Rourke, Executive Director of Human Resources
Professor Mirjam Plantinga, PVC (Education)
Lynwen Davies (Translator)
Margaret Williams, Secretary

The formal business was preceded by a planning and briefing session which covered scene-setting for the year ahead by the Vice-Chancellor; discussion of the draft new Strategic Plan led by the Chief of Staff and Head of Planning; a session on student data delivered by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education); and a session on annual and financial planning, led by the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Financial Services. Council also considered and agreed its institutional risk appetite for 2025/26.

Minute	Main discussion points
25.73 Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from Gwyneira Davies, Geraint Evans, Professor Conny Matera-Rogers, Geraint Roberts, Emlyn Schiavone, Iwan Thomas and Debra Williams.
25.74 Declarations of interest	Council RECEIVED the full Register of Interests 2025/26 (JCO404). The Clerk noted that the register was currently in a draft format as she was awaiting updated declarations from a small number of members.
25.75 Terms of reference and work plan	Council RECEIVED its terms of reference and work plan 2025/26 (JCO405).
25.76 Chair's report	Council RECEIVED the Chair's report (JCO357). Presenting the report, the Chair referred to the following: (a) the recent deaths of three former friends and colleagues of the University over the summer: Dr R Brinley Jones, Professor John Morgan-Guy and Mr Dai Rogers. He extended sincere condolences to their families; (b) the retirement of Dr Andrew Cornish as Principal of Coleg Sir Gar and Coleg Ceredigion. He thanked him for his many years of service to the UWTSD Group. He welcomed Vanessa Cashmore to the meeting as Acting Principal; (c) the recruitment of new independent members. The University had appointed the executive search firm Goodson Thomas to undertake a search for new independent Council members. Their work had commenced and interviews for the first appointments were expected to be held during the last week of October;

Minute	Main discussion points
	<p>(d) his attendance at a recent ChUW meeting. The main discussion had focussed on the 2026 Senedd elections. He also reported that Advance HE had recently published a major report on the future of HE Governance, the link for which was provided. The report would be considered by NGC at its October meeting.</p>
<p>25.77 Vice-Chancellor's report</p>	<p>Council RECEIVED the Vice-Chancellor's report (JCO407).</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor referred to the matters she had covered at the planning session. She also expressed her thanks to Dr Andrew Cornish and thanked the Chair of the CSG Board for the care that he had exercised in his role during the recent months. She reported on the appointment of Sharron Lusher as PVC (Further Education), which would be fundamental to delivery of the University's strategy for tertiary education and to shaping effective integration within the Group.</p>
<p>25.78 Students' Union report</p>	<p>Council RECEIVED the Students' Union report (JCO408).</p> <p>Presenting the report, the Student President referred to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Students' Union's NSS results, with a ranking of second in Wales. She referred to the levels of satisfaction with the SU and noted the lower levels of satisfaction amongst apprenticeship students. Action was in progress to understand and address any issues; (b) the work being undertaken in relation to Student Voice in preparation for the new Medr regulatory framework. The PVC (Education) reported that there had been a discussion at Senate on this matter; (c) the work being undertaken to welcome new and returning students. Several enhancements had been made to the welcome process, which had included increased delivery of communal spaces at Carmarthen and moving of induction talks to different weeks to reduce information overload.
<p>25.79 Financial and cash management report</p>	<p>Council CONSIDERED an oral report from the Director of Financial Services on the financial and cash management position.</p> <p>The DFS reported on the year end process. The KPMG audit of the University and its subsidiary companies was in progress. The current outstanding items related to capitalising of appropriate expenditure items, deferred tuition fee income calculation, review of bad debts provision and his review of balance sheet account schedules. Income had</p>

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	decreased from the previous year (which had included City Deal grant income) and he expected that the University would be reporting a small surplus.
25.80 Scheme of Delegation 2025/26	Council CONSIDERED its proposed Scheme of Delegation 2025/26, which had been reviewed by the Clerk (JCO411). The item was accompanied by a short presentation by the Clerk on delegated authority. Council APPROVED the Scheme of Delegation 2025/26.
25.81 Minutes	Council APPROVED the Unrestricted Minutes of meeting held on 10 July 2025 (JCO412b). Council APPROVED the Restricted Minutes of Council held on 10 July 2025(JCO412c).
25.82 Annual confirmation of signatories	Council: (a) ENDORSED the list of authorised signatories 2025/26 (JCO414).; (b) APPROVED the renewal of the power of attorney in relation to the Chief Operating Officer;
25.83 Student Charter 2025/26	Council APPROVED the Student Charter 2025/26 (JCO415).
25.84 SU Relationship Agreement 2025/26	Council APPROVED the Students' Union Relationship Agreement 2025/26 (JCO416).
25.85 Emeritus Professorships	Council APPROVED Senate's recommendation that the title of Emeritus Professors be conferred on the following (JCO417): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Peter Charlton • Professor Julia Lockheart • Professor Kathryn Penaluna
25.86 Professor of Practice	Council APPROVED Senate's recommendation that Dr Roderick Thomas be appointed as an Honorary Professor of Practice (JCO418).

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25.87 Chair's action report	Council RECEIVED the Chair's action report (JCO419).
25.88 Staff declarations of interest procedure	Council RECEIVED confirmation of the staff declarations of interest procedure (JCO420).
25.89 University Seal	Council RECEIVED the report on the use of the University Seal (JCO421).
25.90 Declarations of Interest	No additional declarations were made during the meeting.
25.91 Date of next meeting	The next meeting would be held on 26 November 2025.

Meeting terminated 3.45