

COUNCIL

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the meeting held at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday 19 March 2026 at Quay Place, Birmingham campus

UWTSD and UW Council Members:

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

UW Council Members:

Dr Stuart Robb

UWTSD Council Members:

Richard Bills
Jonathan Chitty
Dr Tracy Cruickshank
Gwyneira Davies
Jonathan Pugh
Katrin Shaw

In attendance:

Sarah Clark, University Secretary and Clerk to the Councils
Sarah Evans, Chief Financial Officer
Peter Mannion, Chief Operating Officer
Dr Chris Marshall, Chief of Staff
Professor Conny Matera-Rogers, PVC (International)
Jane O'Rourke, Chief People Officer
Lynwen Davies (Translator)
Margaret Williams, Secretary

The formal business was preceded by a campus tour for members around the Sparkhill and Quay Place campuses.

Minute	Main discussion points
26.20 Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from members Professor Kyle Erickson, Geraint Evans, Rowland Jones, Jacqui Kedward, Chris Martin, Richard Norton, Emlyn Schiavone, Jennifer Taylor, Iwan Thomas and Deris Williams; and from officers Vanessa Cashmore, Sharron Lusher and Professor Mirjam Plantinga.

Minute	Main discussion points
26.21 Declarations of Interest	Council RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in the Clerk's report (JCO488).
26.22 Chair's report	Council RECEIVED the Chair's report (JCO489). The Chair: (a) formally welcomed Jonathan Chitty to his first meeting and confirmed that the recruitment process for additional members of Council was continuing; (b) expressed thanks to Dr Deborah Hughes as staff member of Council for her contribution following her resignation from the University; (c) paid tribute to Dr Elizabeth Siberry who was attending her final meeting of Council, noting her immense contribution as an independent member of the two Councils and as Chair of the Remuneration and Nominations and Governance Committees; (d) expressed thanks, in her absence, to Jennifer Taylor, the outgoing Student Union President for the Carmarthen campus for her contribution during her term, noting that she had stood for election as the President of the National Union of Students Wales, the outcome of which was expected soon; (e) congratulated Gwyneira Davies on her re-election as President for the London and Birmingham Campuses; (f) summarised a recent meeting of ChUW at Cardiff University which had included presentations from Medr and Welsh Government on the finances of the HE sector; the forthcoming Senedd elections; and student recruitment across the sector; (g) appraised members of a recent meeting of Y Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Genedlaethol and commended their success of reaching the milestone of 20,000 Welsh language learners in the last year. He had shared on behalf of Council congratulations with the Chief Executive on this achievement.
26.23 Vice-Chancellor's report	Council RECEIVED the Vice-Chancellor's report (JCO490). The Vice-Chancellor: (a) informed Council that she had invited the Dean of London Campus and Dean of Birmingham Campus to join the Senior Leadership Team; (b) updated members on current work being undertaken on the current and future UWTSD Group structure, and the steps being taken to ensure that it was appropriately configured to maximise opportunities available to support learners entering the integrated tertiary sector in Wales;

Minute	Main discussion points
	(c) referred to the recent recommendation to UWTSD Council for the appointment of a new Principal for Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Ceredigion; (d) reported on current discussions within the sector on financial sustainability, Medr's focus on further education governance, and the forthcoming Senedd elections; (e) reported that in her capacity as Chair of Universities Wales she had met with a number of politicians to discuss the challenges facing the HE sector and that she would continue to do engage with them to represent the interests of the University and the sector. Members welcomed progress in redeveloping conferencing opportunities in Lampeter, noting that the local community had provided positive feedback on the matter. The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to the role of the Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language Services) in re-establishing Welsh language residential courses at the campus.
26.24 Students' Union	Council RECEIVED the Students' Union report (JCO491). The Students' Union President summarised the report, noting: (a) engagement with Medr on the drafting of the Engagement Code and Learner Protection Plan; (b) success in the services provided to support retention; (c) work to support the student voice through course representatives and the appointment of part-time Officers; (d) opportunities provided to students to engage in sporting and extra-curricular events and the positive feedback provided; (e) the current and future focus of the three Campus Presidents. Members welcomed the report and extended thanks for the opportunity to meet with students prior to the Council meeting. Additional thanks were extended to the departing Carmarthen President for her leadership and work to engage with staff across each of the Universities campuses during her tenure
26.25 Financial update	This is a RESTRICTED ITEM and reported within the restricted minutes of the meeting.
26.26 UWTSD Annual Equality Report and Gender Pay gap report	Council CONSIDERED the Annual Equality Report and Gender Pay Gap Report (JCO493). The Chief People Officer (CPO) reminded Council that the University was required to publish an Annual Equalities Report and Pay Gap data by 31 March 2026. The Annual Equality Report measured progress against the Strategic

Minute	Main discussion points
	Equality Plan (2024-28), providing detailed analysis of staff and student profiles derived from data provided by HESA. Council noted that progress made in the last twelve months, including key strategic level appointments, the achievement of the Race Equality Charter Bronze Award, alongside the embedding of equality and diversity approaches into the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy and Academic Success Strategy. The mean Gender Pay Gap for 31 March 2025 was 3.8%, a decrease of 1.7% in comparison to 31 March 2024 data. The University was therefore required to produce an action plan to address the pay gap. The action plan was included within the report.
26.27 Audit and Risk Committee report	Council RECEIVED the report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 5 March 2026 (JCO494). Presenting the report, the Chair of ARC drew members' attention in particular to: (a) Group Governance which had received substantial assurance in the recent internal audit; (b) progress made in regard to recommendations of the Health and Safety internal audit report; (c) two emerging risks recorded in the Risk Register; (d) an increased risk profile for financial stability. The Chief Operating Officer (COO) provided additional detail on the Risk Register and action being taken by the University to address items. The COO responded to questions concerning the recent meningitis outbreak in Kent and outlined action being taken by the University across all of its campuses. Council RECEIVED the Corporate Risk Register (JCO506).
26.28 Resources and Performance Committee report	Council RECEIVED the report of the Resources and Performance Committee meeting held on 12 February 2026 (JCO495). The Clerk reported that an additional meeting of RPC had been scheduled for 27 April to consider Estates matters. Council RECEIVED: (a) the Annual Plan monitoring report (JCO507); (b) the Key Estates Initiatives report (JCO509). Council APPROVED the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (JCO508).

Minute	Main discussion points
26.29 Senate report	Council RECEIVED the report of the Senate meeting held on 25 February 2026 (JCO496a). The Vice-Chancellor drew attention to the Research and Innovation Strategy 2025-30, noting its important role in reflecting the University's culture and ambitions, while preparing for the forthcoming Research Excellence assessment in 2029. Council APPROVED the Research and Innovation Strategy (JCO510).
26.30 Annual League table report	Council RECIEVED the Annual League Table Report (JCO496b). The report reflected on the University's performance in the 2026 league tables released during 2025. Members were referred to the efforts being made to improve performance in relation to graduate outcomes which included a short-term and long-term action plan to improve outcomes.
26.31 Minutes	Council APPROVED the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2026 (JCO497b).
26.32 Modern Slavery Statement	Council APROVED the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2024/25 (JCO498).
26.33 Medr registration	Council RECEIVED an update on arrangements for seeking entry on the new Medr Register for Higher Education Providers (JCO499). Noting the timescales and the intention to submit an application in June 2026, Council APPROVED the proposal for submission for entry in Higher Education (Core) category of the Register.
26.34 Curriculum review	Council RECEIVED the Curriculum review update (JCO500).
26.35 Chair's action	Council RECEIVED the report on Chair's Action (JCO501).
26.36 University Seal	Council RECEIVED the report on the use of the University Seal (JCO502).
26.37 Declarations of Interest	No additional declarations of interest were reported during the course of the meeting.
26.38 Date of next meeting	In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked the staff and students of the Birmingham campus for the arrangements and welcome. The next meeting would be held on 02 July 2026 in Swansea.

Meeting terminated 3.00 p.m.