

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING OF UNIVERSITY OF WALES AND UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY SAINT DAVID

Unrestricted Minutes of the meeting held at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday 30 January 2020 in Room 002, IQ Building, SA1 Swansea

Present:

Venerable Randolph Thomas (Chair)
Tony Ball
Pam Berry
Andrew Curl
Margaret Evans
Tania Davies
Andrew Gibson
Eifion Griffiths
Emma Hughes
Professor Medwin Hughes
Rowland Jones

Arwel Ellis Owen
Eirlys Pritchard-Jones
Becky Ricketts
Stuart Robb
Geraint Roberts
Dr Liz Siberry
Maria Stedman
Martha Warren
Deris Williams

In attendance:

Professor Robert Brown, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)
Sarah Clark, Clerk to Council
Dr Andrew Cornish, Principal, Coleg Sir Gar
Shône Hughes, Chief of Staff
Professor Dylan Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and Civic Engagement)
Professor Catrin Thomas, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Gwyndaf Tobias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Finance and Planning)

Agenda item	Main discussion points	Action/decision
20.01 Apologies for absence	The Councils RECEIVED apologies for absence from Sian Eirian, Victoria Provis and Nigel Roberts.	
20.02 Declarations of interest	The Councils RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in JCO006.	
20.03 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2019	The Councils APPROVED the Minutes of the joint meeting held on 28 November 2019 as an accurate record (JC0037).	
20.04 Chairs report	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the report of the Chair of Council (JC0038).</p> <p>The Chair referred to the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent HEFCW Institutional Visit to UWTSO, the report of which was expected in February 2020. • Progress with the independent review of governance in Wales, led by Gillian Camm. • WG report on the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research <p>The Chair referred to his recent series of 1:1 meetings with members and thanked members for their time. The generic outcomes of the meetings would be considered by the NGC at its May 2020 meeting.</p>	
20.05 Vice-Chancellor's report	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the report of the Vice-Chancellor (JC0039).</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor referred to the following matters:</p> <p><u>Coronavirus</u> University officers had a clear strategy in place and were monitoring the situation with a working group meeting on a daily basis. Officers were in regular contact with the Government, public health and other relevant agencies. Staff and students were being kept informed of processes and given advice in line with guidance from Public Health Wales. The University had also prohibited all travel to China. The start dates of short courses for students from China had been put back.</p>	

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	<p>The Vice-Chancellor reminded members of the significant amount of UWTSD funding linked to a long-standing partner at Wuhan. Officers would be reflecting on mitigation strategies for business development.</p> <p><u>Celtic Chair</u> The new Celtic Chair would be announced shortly. The person appointed was a formidable linguist and scholar of the Welsh language and the appointment would be welcomed by members and the two universities.</p> <p><u>QAA Report</u> UW had received the report of QAA's annual monitoring visit. The report, which would be presented to the Academic Committee, was generally favourable and had commended the processes and quality of service provided to partnerships.</p> <p><u>Report on Post 16 Education</u> An advisory report had been prepared for consideration by the WG regarding post 16 Education. The report would have implications for the University, and contained considerable focus on vocational skills.</p> <p><u>Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol</u> The CCC was due to publish its five-year strategic plan. The Vice-Chancellor referred to the emphasis on bilingual teaching staff within the plan and noted that UWTSD would focus on appointing appropriate staff to provide bilingual programmes in the future.</p> <p><u>CAWCS</u> The Vice-Chancellor report that he and the Chair of CAWCS had signed a letter noting the transfer of the Centre into UWTSD. He noted the exciting opportunities that this presented and the spirit and willingness of the Centre to work with UWTSD. The Centre would be based within the Athrofa and meetings had already taken place to move things forward with a particular focus on postgraduate programmes.</p> <p><u>Student Loan Company</u> Officers were currently looking at the planning between the UWTSD Registry and Finance teams to establish a focussed approach to the SLC regarding the release of funding in line with the different term start dates at UWTSD's teaching centres.</p>	

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	<p><u>City Deal</u> A new Chief Executive had been appointed to the City Deal. UWTSD had been informed that the funding was currently being held by the Carmarthenshire County Council and would be released by March. The Vice-Chancellor reported that he would be writing to the Chief Executive and Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the matter.</p> <p><u>Institute of WISA</u> The Vice-Chancellor reported on changes within WISA and that Barry Liles would be taking on the interim management of the Institute, with the objective of ensuring that the two former faculties worked seamlessly as one linked to innovation and integration across the University.</p> <p><u>HEFCW Institutional Visit to UWTSD</u> The Vice-Chancellor commented on the HEFCW Visit on 22 January 2020. He noted in particular the positive reaction to the University's proposal regarding part-time education and reported that officers were working on a focussed project with clear outcomes to safeguard funding.</p> <p><u>University of Wales Financial Statements</u> Officers and Auditors were working on the final details of the accounts which would be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee. The outstanding issues related to CAWCS and CBM.</p> <p><u>2022 Celebrations</u> A meeting had been held to discuss celebrations for UWTSD's bicentenary in 2022. A formal paper would be presented to members outlining initial suggestions by April 2020. It was the intention that events were celebrated across the whole University with a particular focus on where higher education began.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor referred in particular to the digitisation of the special collections at Lampeter and that officers would be looking at securing investment and grant funding to fund the project.</p> <p><u>HE-FE</u> The Vice-Chancellor reported on recent joint SMT meetings and noted the good foundations being established for the future. The Chair of CSG Board reported on the</p>	

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	increased willingness to collaborate with the University to future develop and promote the dual concept.	
20.06 Code of Practice for Council members	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED a proposed Code of Practice for Council members (JCO040). If approved, the Code would replace the existing Code for UWTSD Council members.</p> <p>In discussion, members referred to the section referring to confidentiality and agreed that the paragraph should be extended to note that the duty of confidentiality continued after a member leaves the Council. A number of other drafting suggestions were made.</p> <p>Subject to the above amendments, the Councils APPROVED the Code for immediate adoption, noting that the Clerk proposed to write to members individually inviting them to formally to sign up to its contents. Thereafter this process would be completed annually, as with the current UWTSD Code. The Code itself would be reviewed biennially by the NGC.</p>	Clerk to take forward
20.07 Effectiveness review progress report	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the progress report on the integrated action plan arising from the Governance Effectiveness Reviews (JCO041).</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the action plan had been considered by the NGC in October 2019 and had been updated for the HEFCW visit. It had now been published on the Governance web pages.</p> <p>Members noted that the majority of actions had been completed. A further update would be provided for NGC at its May 2020 meeting.</p>	
20.08 CUC Consultation : Higher Education Code of Governance	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the draft revised Higher Education Code of Governance (JCO042) launched by the CUC as a consultation document.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the key change was in approach and layout in order to make the Code more applicable to all organisations offering HE. The new version was premised on an “apply or explain” basis, where providers were given a set of values, principles and elements. Organisations could choose which parts of the Code applied to them, but would be expected to explain and be able to justify the reasons behind their choices.</p>	

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	Members identified a number of matters to be included in the response to the consultation and were asked to submit any further comments to the Clerk.	Clerk to respond on behalf of the Councils
20.09 UW and UWTSD TRAC Returns 2018-19	The Councils CONSIDERED and APPROVED the UW and UWTSD TRAC Returns for 2018/19 (JCO043a and JCO043b).	
20.10 Professors of Practice	The Councils APPROVED the recommendation from the UWTSD Senate for the appointment of three Professors of Practice (JCO044).	
20.11 Report on Chairs Action	The Councils RECEIVED the report outlining the action taken by the UWTSD Chair since the last meeting (JCO045).	
20.12 Declarations of interest	No additional conflicts of interest were declared.	
20.13 Date and time of next meeting	The next meeting would be held during the away days on 24/25 March 2020.	

Meeting terminated 11.45