

## Joint Meeting of the Councils

**UNRESTRICTED** Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 24 March 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Venerable Randolph Thomas (Chair)  
Tony Ball  
Pam Berry  
Andrew Curl  
Tania Davies  
Margaret Evans  
Eifion Griffiths  
Professor Medwin Hughes  
Dr Conny Matera Rogers

Arwel Ellis Owen  
Matthew Peake  
Victoria Provis  
Dr Stuart Robb  
Geraint Roberts  
Nigel Roberts  
Dr Liz Siberry  
Maria Stedman  
Dr Kerry Tudor  
Deris Williams

In attendance:

Sarah Clark, Clerk to Council  
Professor Dylan Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Catrin Thomas, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)  
Dr Andrew Cornish, Principal, Coleg Sir Gar  
Steve Baldwin Director of Resources and Business Planning  
Gavin Bessant Director of Financial Services  
Tammy Bowie  
Shône Hughes, Chief of Staff  
Jane O'Rourke, Executive Director of Human Resources

Geraint Flowers, Executive Head of Capital Projects (for item 21.16)

Catrin Beard (Translator)  
Margaret Williams (Secretary)

Agenda item	Main discussion points	Action/decision
21.16 Presentation by Dr Conny Matera-Rogers and Matthew Peake	<p>The Councils RECEIVED a presentation by Dr Conny Matera-Rogers and Matthew Peake on developments at the London and Birmingham campuses.</p> <p>Dr Matera-Rogers reported that the London and Birmingham campuses were an integral part of UWTSD and combined the best of the established institutional strengths of a traditional University with the flexibility and agility of private sector HEIs. She outlined the progress made in recruitment since the establishment of both campuses. The presentation also included messages from students providing snapshots of the life-changing experiences they had received.</p> <p>The Executive Head of Capital Projects (EHCP) outlined plans for the London campus relocation which would further enhance the student experience.</p>	
21.17 Apologies for absence	The Councils RECEIVED apologies for absence from Rowland Jones.	
21.18 Declarations of interest	The Councils RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in the Clerk's report (JCO082).	
21.19 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2021	The Councils CONFIRMED the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2021 as an accurate record (JCO083).	
21.20 Matters arising and action points	The Councils RECEIVED the completed table of action points (JCO084).	
21.21 Report of the Chair of Council	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the report of the Chair (JCO085).</p> <p>The Chair reported on the forthcoming CUC meeting, on which he would report at the July meeting of Council.</p>	
21.22 Report of the Vice-Chancellor	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the report of the Vice-Chancellor (JCO086).</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor referred to the following matters</p> <p><u>Covid 19</u> In the light of the continuing uncertainties relating to the pandemic, with regret the University had taken the decision to postpone the graduation ceremonies planned for July 2021. Achievements would be marked with a series of online celebrations, with the intention of convening ceremonies in the next academic year when safe to do so.</p>	

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	<p>The University had instigated an internal review of the processes and structures which it developed over the last 12 months as it responded to Covid-19. This was seen as a ‘lessons learnt’ engagement allowing managers, staff, Students’ Union and union representatives an inclusive opportunity to critically reflect upon such a difficult period. The outcomes would be presented to the Councils.</p> <p><u>SA1 Waterfront development</u> UWTSD had issued a formal notice of completion to the joint venture partner. The outputs of current discussions would determine the next steps.</p> <p><u>University of South Wales</u> Officers were continuing to develop the implementation plan for the collaboration and the governor Development Group would be convened shortly.</p> <p><u>Yr Egin – City Deal Funding</u> Discussions to complete the Egin Phase 1 Funding Agreement were now complete. The funding would be structured as a grant and release was dependent on the concession of a legal charge over the assets delivered by the grant. This was standard practice for property development grants but was slightly complicated by the existing legal charge. Officers were now proceeding with the development of the Phase 2 Business Case to be crafted in line with the outputs of the creative sector demand study. The revised Business Case was expected to be submitted in summer 2021.</p> <p><u>Innovation Matrix</u> The planning application for the Innovation Matrix was progressing according to schedule and would be submitted in April 2021. This will allow the University to make good on its delivery commitments, pending the successful review of the overall portfolio. Discussions were ongoing with the SCC for further collaboration to maximise impact and ensure that funding was taken forward appropriately.</p> <p><u>IHRA working definition of antisemitism.</u> Pending discussions in the sector, the UWTSD Senate would be considering the formal adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of antisemitism and would make a recommendation to Council accordingly.</p>	

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	<p>The Vice-Chancellor referred to the significant structural changes within UWTSD and noted its strong position to take forward new creative and skills-related opportunities. He noted the difficulties and disruption caused by the pandemic and thanked staff for their dedication over the last year.</p>	
<p>21.22 Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2019/20</p>	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2019/20, scheduled for publication on 31 March 2021 (JCO087).</p> <p>The EDHR noted that the report focussed on all staff and students. It ensured that the University complied with Equality and Diversity requirements and helped officers oversee and monitor progress in implementing the University's Strategic Equality Plan.</p>	
<p>21.23 Risk Management</p>	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the Corporate Risk Register (JCO088).</p> <p>The Clerk referred to the increase in the risk score for Governance following an amendment, as requested by the Councils, to reflect the risk associated with succession planning. The risk remained within the risk tolerance.</p> <p>The Clerk drew attention to the overall risk relating to the Covid pandemic. There was also reference to Covid in other risks to reflect the external environment.</p> <p>Following discussion, the Councils AGREED that the risk relating to potential increase in pension contributions be included on the risk register due to its impact on financial surpluses.</p>	<p>Clerk to include on risk register</p>
<p>21.24 Report on Chair's Action</p>	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the report on Chair's action since the last meeting (JCO089).</p>	
<p>21. 25 PREVENT annual returns: Outcomes</p>	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the response from HEFCW to the Prevent annual returns 2019/20 (JCO090).</p>	
<p>21. 26 Health and Safety Report</p>	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Health and Safety report (JCO091).</p>	
<p>21.27 Declarations of interest</p>	<p>No additional conflicts of interest were reported during the course of the meeting.</p>	
<p>21. Date of the next meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting would be held on 8 July 2021.</p>	

Meeting terminated 11.45