

University of Wales Trinity Saint David Council

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the Virtual meeting held at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday 08 July 2021 on Zoom.

Present:

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

Vanessa Liverpool
Arwel Ellis Owen
Matthew Peake
Liam Powell
Victoria Provis
Geraint Roberts
Dr Liz Siberry
Maria Stedman
Dr Kerry Tudor

In attendance:

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

University of Wales Council Members attending as observers:
Nigel Roberts
Deris Williams

In attendance for item 21.38

Emyr Jones, Executive Head of Property & Estates Development
Mike Williams, Vice Principal, CSG

Catrin Beard (Translator)
Margaret Williams (Secretary)

Agenda item	Main discussion points	Action/decision
21.28 Apologies for absence	Council RECEIVED apologies for absence from Dr Conny Matera Rogers, Professor Dylan Jones and Gavin Bessant.	
21.29 Declarations of interest	Council RECEIVED the Declarations of interest as noted in the Clerk's report (CO354).	
21.30 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021	Council CONFIRMED the Unrestricted Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 as an accurate record (CO355).	
21.31 Restricted Minutes	Council CONFIRMED the Restricted Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 as an accurate record (CO355).	
21.32 Matters arising and action points	<p>Council RECEIVED the updated table of action points (CO356).</p> <p>The following matter was raised:</p> <p><u>Coleg Sir Gar Board membership</u> Members referred to the minute whereby it was reported that eight members were coming to an end of their term on the Board and asked for an update on the current position. The Chair of CSG Board noted that she would respond as part of her report on the recent Board meeting.</p>	
21.33 Coleg Sir Gar Board report 1 July 2021	<p>Council RECEIVED a report on the Coleg Sir Gar Board meeting held on 1 July 2021 from the Chair of the Board (CO358).</p> <p>The Chair of the Board referred to the membership of the Board and reported that the Board had undertaken a survey to identify those members who wished to be considered for a further period of office, noting that the Board reserved the right not to renew. This action would facilitate succession planning. The College was working in tandem with the University in its recruitment process with links available from one recruitment drive to the other.</p> <p>The Chair of the Board reported that the Board had received the proposals regarding FE-HE developments at Carmarthen and had been encouraged by the progress made by officers. The Board was pleased to endorse the proposals for taking the project forward.</p>	

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	<p>The Chair of the Board reported on the financial position and the proposed budget for 2021/22, which predicted a modest surplus. She referred to Coleg Ceredigion and the improvements achieved.</p> <p>The Chair of the Board referred to the remit letter which demonstrated that the Group was working well together with significant progress being made in all areas. She drew attention to the new Group Protocol, which reflected the maturing of the relationship between the College and UWTSD as the member.</p> <p>The Chair of the Board reported that it was expected that the planned Estyn inspection postponed due to Covid was likely to take place in autumn 2021. She also drew attention to the recent Festival of Practice and reported that the College was one of ten founding Institutions of a Research College in the UK.</p>	
<p>21.34 Resources and Performance Committee report</p>	<p>Council RECEIVED the reports of the Resources and Performance Committee meetings held on 29 April, 24 June and 30 June 2021 (CO357).</p> <p>The Chair of RPC in presenting the reports noted that members had recognised the outstanding work undertaken by senior officers not only in terms of the volume of work, but also for their pace and diligence. He also thanked the members of the RPC for their dedication and quality of their test and challenge during meetings.</p> <p>The Chair of RPC referred to the KPI monitoring report and annual assessment, which indicated that over the last year each KPI had either held steady or improved. He referred to the financial update and assured Council that the quality of preparation and internal test and challenge provided confidence in the position.</p>	
<p>21.35 UWTSD KPI Annual Monitoring Report</p>	<p>This is a RESTRICTED item and reported within the RESTRICTED MINUTES of the meeting.</p>	
<p>21.36 Budget and five year forecast</p>	<p>This is a RESTRICTED item and reported within the RESTRICTED MINUTES of the meeting.</p>	
<p>21.37 Students' Union block grant</p>	<p>Council APPROVED proposals for the Students' Union Block grant for 2021/22-2023/24, which had been reviewed and endorsed by RPC (CO360).</p>	

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	<p>The Student Presidents declared their interest in this matter.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University was content with the targets set and commended the work of the Students Union during a very difficult year.</p>	
21.38 FE/HE Review Carmarthen	This is a RESTRICTED item and reported within the RESTRICTED MINUTES of the meeting.	
21.39 Academic Committee report	<p>Council CONSIDERED the report of the Academic Committee meeting held on 19 May 2021 (CO362).</p> <p>The Chair of the Academic Committee commended the work of officers and quality of papers which had been presented for consideration. He reported that the meeting had received a presentations and updates on academic partnerships, enhancement and proposed direction of travel of the Wales Global Academy and the Welsh Medium and Bilingual Education Strategy.</p> <p>Council CONSIDERED and APPROVED the recommendation of the Academic Committee that the Wales Global Academy structure became the vehicle through which all commercial international activity took place in future.</p>	
21.40 Welsh Medium and Bilingual Education Strategy	<p>Council CONSIDERED the Welsh Medium and Bilingual Education Strategy (CO363)</p> <p>The Strategy was based on the following key strategic priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase and develop the bilingual workforce • To increase study opportunities through the medium of Welsh • To enhance the student experience • To maintain and develop a Welsh language ethos on campus <p>The Strategy would be implemented from September 2021 and reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>Council APPROVED the Welsh Medium and Bilingual Education Strategy.</p>	
21.41 Audit and Risk Committee Report	Council CONSIDERED the report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 24 June 2021 (CO364).	

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	<p>The Chair of ARC reported that the Committee had received the External Audit plan and noted that with the significant risk of pension liabilities KPMG would be increasing their focus on the LGPS and USS deficits, as was the case with other HE institutions.</p> <p>The Chair of ARC reported that the Committee had received a thorough summary report on the allocation of Covid support funds received via HEFCW during the year.</p> <p>The Chair of ARC reported that the contracts for KPMG and Mazars were due to come to an end in July 2021. The appointment of both External and Internal Auditors in 2018 had been for a period of three years with an option for an additional year. ARC had considered the outcomes of an evaluation undertaken by members and attending officers in regard to the services of the Internal and External Auditors, together with the proposals of officers and RECOMMENDED to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that the appointment of KPMG and Mazars as Group external and internal auditors respectively be extended for one additional year i.e. until 31 July 2022, in accordance with the terms of their existing contracts; b) that officers reflected on the optimum future arrangements for internal audit based on sector best practice; c) that proposals in respect of the future procurement and appointment process for both internal and external audit be presented at ARC's first meeting in 2021/22. <p>The Clerk noted that this matter had been approved by Council Chair's action</p>	
21.42 Group Scrutiny Committee report	<p>Council RECEIVED the report of the Group Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14 June 2021 (CO365).</p> <p>The Chair of the GSC reported that the Committee had considered the first annual report on subsidiary companies, which provided information about the establishment and dissolution of companies, together with information about the composition and activities of existing companies. It RECOMMENDED to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in relation to the Academy of Sinology, the commencement of dialogue with the Chin Kung Foundation (CKF) to refine the company framework; 	

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	<p>b) in relation to Eclectica Drindod, the transfer of ownership from TUC to UWTSD, subject to confirmation that there were no VAT implications;</p> <p>c) in relation to UWTSD Learning Centres, the commencement of the dissolution process.</p> <p>Council APPROVED the recommendations.</p> <p>Council NOTED that the proposed Strategic Intent Statement with Coleg Sir Gar and a new Protocol to replace the FE/HE Ordinance would be presented to a subsequent meeting for consideration.</p>	
<p>21.43 Senate matters</p>	<p>Council RECEIVED the reports of the Senate meetings held on 28 April and 23 June 2021 (CO366).</p> <p>The DVC(A) reported that Senate had considered and approved the draft Academic Quality Handbook 2021/22. She commended the detailed work undertaken by the Academic Office and the working groups established to work on the handbook.</p> <p>The Senate had considered the Students' Union Annual Quality Report 2020/21 focusing on blended and online learning. Senate had commended the report and noted the arrangements for monitoring progress on addressing the recommendations. The report and the University's formal response would be presented to the Academic Committee for consideration.</p>	
<p>21.44 Student Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p>	<p>Council RECEIVED the Annual Review of the Student Health and Wellbeing Strategy (CO367)</p>	
<p>21.45 Professors of Practice</p>	<p>Council APPROVED a nomination from Senate for the appointment of a Professor of Practice (CO368).</p>	
<p>21.46 Code of Practice on the Students' Union</p>	<p>Council APPROVED the revised Code of Practice on the Students' Union (CO369) and noted that the specific requirements of Council and its standing committees would be embedded in their workplans from 2021/22 onwards.</p> <p>Council also NOTED the outcomes of the recent SU elections for sabbatical positions 2021/22 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group President: Vanessa Liverpool • Carmarthen Campus President: Becky Bush 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lampeter Campus President: James Barrow • Swansea Campus President: Liam Powell 	
21.47 Use of Seal	<p>Council RECEIVED the report on the use of the Seal (CO370).</p> <p>Council APPROVED a recommendation of Senior Directorate to adopt an approach whereby the use of the Seal was reserved for those occasions where the two parties agreed that a traditional, ceremonial approach was specifically required or where legal advice was that the Seal should be affixed.</p>	
21.48 University procedures for responding to disclosures of sexual misconduct by students	Council RECEIVED the procedures in place at the University for responding to disclosures of sexual misconduct made by students. It covered the procedures for allegations against both students and staff (CO371).	
21.49 Fee and Access Plan 2022/23	Council RECEIVED the Fee and Access Plan for 2022/23 which had been approved by Chair's action (CO372).	
21.50 Declarations of Interest	<p>Council NOTED the Declarations of the Student Union Presidents in regard to matters relating to the Students Union budget.</p> <p>No other Declarations of Interest were reported.</p>	
21.51 Date and time of next meeting	The next meeting of Council would be held on 29-30 September 2021.	
RESERVED MATTERS		
21.52 Remuneration Committee	Council CONSIDERED the oral report of the Remuneration Committee meeting held on 30 June 2021 and APPROVED its recommendations.	

Meeting closed 12.45