

Joint Meeting of the Councils

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 25 November 2021 at the Halliwell Centre, Carmarthen Campus

Present:

Venerable Randolph Thomas (Chair)
Tony Ball
Andrew Curl
Siwan Davies
Tania Davies
Eifion Griffiths
Professor Medwin Hughes
Dr Conny Matera Rogers
Rowland Jones
Vanessa Liverpool

Arwel Ellis Owen
Matthew Peake
Liam Powell
Victoria Provis
Dr Stuart Robb
Geraint Roberts
Nigel Roberts
Emlyn Schiavone
Dr Liz Siberry
Maria Stedman
Deris Williams

In attendance:

Sarah Clark, Clerk to Council
Professor Dylan Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Catrin Thomas, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Shône Hughes, Chief of Staff

Steve Baldwin Director of Resources and Business Planning
Gavin Bessant, Director of Financial Services
Jane O'Rourke, Executive Director of Human Resources
Catrin Beard (Translator)
Margaret Williams (Secretary)

| Minute number | Main discussion points | Action/decision |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 21.60 Apologies for absence | The Councils RECEIVED apologies for absence from Justin Albert, Pam Berry, Margaret Evans, Uzo Iwobi, Dr Kerry Tudor. | |

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|--|---|-----------------|
| 21.61 Declarations of Interest | The Councils RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in the Clerk's report (JCO116). | |
| 21.62 Chairs report | <p>The Councils RECEIVED the Chair's report (JCO117).</p> <p>The Chair reported on the recent meeting with the new Minister for Education. Items discussed included the TER (Wales) Bill, in particular the importance of institutional autonomy and the independence of the new Commission.</p> <p>The Chair reported that Pam Berry had attended the CUC Plenary meeting on his behalf where the main themes of discussion had focussed on the economic recovery post Covid and post Brexit.</p> | |
| 21.63 Report of the Vice Chancellor | This is a RESTRICTED item and reported within the restricted minutes of the meeting. | |
| 21.64 Report of the Resources and Performance Committee | The Councils RECEIVED the report of the Resources and Performance Committee meeting held on 15 November 2021 (JCO120). | |
| 21.65 Corporate Risk Register | <p>The Councils CONSIDERED the Corporate Risk Register (JCO121), as presented to ARC on 22 November 2022.</p> <p>Members noted that the Corporate Risk Register outlined the key risks facing UW and UWTSD through clear statements of risk consequence and management linking to strategic objectives. The Risk Register had been reviewed and updated since last presented to the Councils to ensure that it reflected the current operating environment.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four risks had been archived; • two risks had been added, relating to Welsh medium strategy and CMA Compliance; • the risk relating to collaborative partnerships had been significantly broadened and amended to reflect international partnership risk more generally; • the risk statement had been amended for a further seven risks; • the risk relating to estates statutory compliance had been discussed in detail by ARC in the context of internal audit recommendations. | |

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| <p>21.66 Nominations and Governance Committee Report</p> | <p>The Councils CONSIDERED the report of the Nominations and Governance Committee meeting held on 22 October 2021 (JCO122).</p> <p>The Councils APPROVED the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the recommendation that the GER for UWTSD be postponed to 2022/23; • that the proposed buddy scheme for new governors be endorsed; • to continue with the rolling programme of recruitment in spring 2022, using the same (updated) advertising materials and processes as used for the summer 2021 recruitment exercise, supplemented by more targeted activity relating to increasing diversity; • that the skills/experience targeted are higher education (particularly higher education quality assurance and international higher education); accountancy, audit and pensions; and business/commercial experience; • that the existing vacancies for co-opted members of the Academic Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee be explicitly included in the recruitment exercise; • that the periods of office of those Council members retiring in July 2022 be exceptionally extended to include the Bicentenary celebrations in August 2022; • the designation of an independent governor as a link with the Students' Union. | |
| <p>21.67 Complaints annual report</p> | <p>The Councils CONSIDERED the Complaints Annual Report (JCO123), as presented to NGC on 22 October 2021.</p> <p>Members noted that this was the first annual report on complaints as required by HEFCW's Financial Management Code and provided information on complaints received between May and October 2021 together with a summary of complaints received during 2020/21 as a whole. The Clerk summarised the key elements of the report as discussed by NGC.</p> <p>The DVC updated members on the University's response to a recent student complaint to the OIA. The University had responded to the OIA's request for further information and was currently awaiting the OIA's final decision.</p> <p>Members commended the work of officers and staff for the way they supported students and responded to their concerns and issues. The Student President noted that the Student Services department had been fundamental in supporting students during the pandemic. Members of the ARC noted that a review by the internal auditors of the University's response to the pandemic had also commended the response.</p> | |

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| 21.68 Approval of Joint University Council minutes: 30/09/2021 | The Councils APPROVED the minutes of the Joint University Council meeting held on 30 September 2021 (JCO124). | |
| 21.69 Action points arising from the minutes of the last meeting | The Councils RECEIVED the updated action points from the last meeting (JCO125). | |
| 21.70 Prevent Duty: Annual Report 2020/21 | The Councils APPROVED the Prevent Duty Annual Report for 2020/21 (JCO126). | |
| 21.71 Academic Committee annual report | The Councils RECEIVED the Academic Committee annual report (JCO127). | |
| 21.72 Nominations and Governance Committee annual report | The Councils RECEIVED the Nominations and Governance Committee annual report (JCO128). | |
| 21.73 Resources and Performance Committee annual report | The Councils RECEIVED the Resources and Performance Committee annual report (JCO129). | |
| 21.74 Report on Chair's Action | The Councils RECEIVED the Report on Chair's Action (JCO130). | |
| 21.75 Declarations of Interest | There was one declaration relating to an item recorded in the restricted minutes. | |
| 21.76 Dates of next meetings | The Councils RECEIVED the dates for the next meeting. The Clerk noted that the proposed development day scheduled for 29 March 2022 might be rescheduled; confirmation would be circulated in January 2022. | |
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Meeting terminated 12.00