

Joint Meeting of the Councils

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the virtual meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 27 January 2022 via Zoom

Present:

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

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

In attendance:

Sarah Clark, Clerk to Council
Andrew Cornish, Principal, Coleg Sir Gar/Ceredigion
James Barrow
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)

Members acknowledged the passing of Mr Lyn Williams and extended their sympathy to Mrs Deris Williams. Members stood as a mark of respect.

Minute Number	Main discussion points	Action/decision
22.01 Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Justin Albert, Vanessa Liverpool and Deris Williams.	
22.02 Declarations of interest	The Councils RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in the Clerk's report (JCO131).	
22.03 Report of the Chair	<p>The Councils RECEIVED a verbal update from the Chair.</p> <p>The Chair reported that he had completed his 1:1 sessions with members and thanked them for their co-operation.</p>	
22.04 Report of the Vice-Chancellor	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the Vice-Chancellor's report (JCO132).</p> <p>In presenting the report, the Vice-Chancellor included reference to the following:</p> <p><u>Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill</u> The parliamentary process had started regarding the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill and it was envisaged that amendments would be made to the current draft. The Minister for Education and the Welsh Language had confirmed that HEFCW would continue until 2024 pending the establishment of the new Commission.</p> <p><u>London Campus</u> UWTSD was in the process of finalising the new location for its London campus. The site initially identified was not available and a new premises had been investigated, with a visit made by the Chair and the Chair of ESSC earlier that week. Officers were now working to secure the leasing of the property.</p> <p><u>Wales Studies publications</u> HEFCW was consulting on the funding arrangements for Wales Studies publications, the funding for which was currently distributed to HEIs through QR funding. HEFCW was proposing that the funding be returned to the University of Wales Press to manage, with greater oversight and monitoring from HEFCW.</p>	

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	<p><u>JISC digital experience insights survey</u> The results of the JISC digital experience insights survey had been published. At UWTSD the survey found that 77% of students rated their online learning experience positively with 36% describing it as 'good', 32% describing it as 'excellent', and 9% as the 'best imaginable'. The survey also revealed that 73% felt positively about the support offered by UWTSD to enable students to learn online.</p> <p><u>OIA</u> UWTSD had received the final outcome from the OIA and was taking forward the recommendations made within the report.</p> <p><u>Bicentenary celebrations</u> The Vice-Chancellor presented the programme of the events to be held.</p>	
22.05 Establishment of confederal framework	This is a RESTRICTED item and reported within the restricted minutes of the meeting.	
22.06 UW UWTSD integration: operational plan update	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the UW UWTSD integration operational plan update (JCO134).</p> <p>The Clerk referred to the key milestones to the plan, many of which had been completed. Progress since the last presentation related mainly to the integration of IT systems. The Clerk reported that, notwithstanding the development of the confederal alliance, the consolidated list of milestones achieved was unlikely to change in its current form until closer to 2027 and it was therefore recommended that the plan was presented biennially rather than annually.</p> <p>The Councils AGREED to move to a biennial review with the next update presented in 2024.</p>	Clerk to amend workplan
22.07 Minutes 25 November 2021	The Councils APPROVED the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2021 (JCO135).	

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22.08 Restricted minutes 25 November 2021	The Councils APPROVED the Restricted Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2021 (JCO135).	
22.09 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement	<p>The Councils APPROVED the Group Annual Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for 2020/21 (JCO136).</p> <p>The DFS confirmed that the statement would be updated annually. The University had good controls in place with a central and qualified team to scrutinise and manage supply chain risks relating to slavery and human trafficking. Contractors and suppliers were also requested to confirm that they were compliant.</p> <p>The Chair of CSG reported that the statement would be presented to the CSG Board for approval in March 2022.</p>	
22.10 Health and Safety	The Councils RECEIVED the Health and Safety report (JCO137).	
22.11 Remuneration Committee	The Councils RECEIVED the report of the Remuneration Committee held on 8 December 2021 (JCO138).	
22.12 Remuneration Committee annual report	The Councils RECEIVED the Remuneration Committee annual report (JCO138).	
22.13 Declarations of Interest	No additional conflicts of interest were reported.	
22.14 Date and time of next meeting	<p>The next meeting would be held on 31 March 2022 at the London campus.</p> <p>The Clerk informed members that information regarding arrangements would be circulated to members shortly.</p>	

Meeting closed : 11.45