

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 13:40 on 27 NOVEMBER 2017, at MedRus 1, Penbryn.

Present: Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Chancellor (Chair, except for minutes 29.9 to 29.11); Dr Timothy Brain, Treasurer; Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor (until minute 35); Prof Chris Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research); Mr George Ashworth; Ms Anne Davies (until minute 33); Mrs Janet Davies; Mr Keith Evans; Mrs Elizabeth France (Chair, for minutes 29.9 to 29.11); Mr Richard John; Ms Gwerfyl Pierce Jones (until minute 33); The Right Hon Elfyn Llwyd; Mr Ian MacEachern; Dr Emyr Roberts; Dr Hazel Davey; Ms Kath Williams; Prof Reyer Zwiggelaar (until minute 42); Mr Bruce Wight, AberSU Union Development Officer; and Mr Gwion Llwyd Williams, UMCA President.

In attendance: Ms Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer); Mr Rob Eastwood, Interim Director of Finance; Mrs Lucy Hodson, Director of Planning (from minute 29); Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement); Mrs Esther Prytherch, Head of Communications (until minute 33); Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; and Mrs Bethan Owen, HEFCW Director of Institutional Engagement.

Apologies for absence had been received from Prof John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International).

20. PERSONAL MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

1. Brexit

Both the Chair of Council and the Vice-Chancellor were using the channels available to them to underline the importance of a satisfactory outcome for universities as part of the negotiations between the UK and the EU. In advance of Brexit, the University should also look to maximise the opportunities provided by European funding while still available.

2. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the death of Emeritus Professor Bobi Jones, former Chair in the Department of Welsh.

21. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Treasurer reminded members that he was Chair of the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AIEC) Ltd Board of Directors, a position to which he had been independently appointed by the Board of Directors.

22. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meetings held on 04 October 2017 (COU1718-031).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

23. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RECEIVED

A log setting out the progress made in taking forward decisions and actions agreed at the most recent Council meeting, and outstanding actions from previous meetings (COU1718-032).

NOTED

The update provided in the decisions log.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Aberystwyth University Mauritius

NOTED

1. Immediately prior to the start of the meeting, correspondence for the attention of Council had been received from Boston Campus Limited relating to their ongoing discussions with the University.

RESOLVED

2. Since there had been insufficient time to circulate and consider the letter in advance of the Council meeting, the University Executive would review its contents and bring forward a recommended response as appropriate, for consideration by the sub-group established by the Finance and Strategy Committee (FSC) to scrutinise matters relating to the branch campus (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer)).

25. HEALTH AND SAFETY MOMENT

NOTED

1. The adverse weather recently experienced in Aberystwyth had provided an opportunity to test the University's business continuity arrangements, which had worked well.
2. Further work had been undertaken in relation to the new Travel Policy, and the Health, Safety and Environment Committee would consider periodic feedback on the Policy to ensure that it is being applied consistently across the institution.

26. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor (COU1718-033).

NOTED

The report provided updates on recent developments, including: strategy development; the Llanbadarn Campus; bequests; medical student training; international links; and the Reid Review.

27. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Director of Finance Mark Godsell; and the Director of Planning; incorporating a Programme Highlight Report, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and the

minutes of the Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP) Council Oversight Group meeting held on 26 October 2017 (COU1718-034).

NOTED

1. The report provided an update on the progress made to date, and included the latest iterations of key documents as presented to the SIP Council Oversight Group at its meeting on 26 October 2017.
2. More business cases for restructuring were being prepared as the University continues to work towards the efficiency targets in the SIP.
3. The Director of Change Strategy would commence in post at the University on 10 January 2018. A key priority for the new Director will be the institutional reshape which will be required to generate the remaining savings targeted in the SIP. It is hoped that detailed proposals in this respect can be presented to Council on 23 March 2018 (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).

28. STRATEGIC PLAN 2018–23

RECEIVED

Report by the Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, incorporating the latest iteration of the draft Strategic Plan (COU1718-035).

NOTED

1. Following the discussions at the Council away day, further iterations of the new Strategic Plan had been produced in light of feedback received during consultation events with staff. Members particularly welcomed the steps to strengthen the section on 'Civic Responsibility' in the latest iteration of the document, which had been taken in response to the feedback received from FSC members on 10 November 2017.
2. The Vice-Chancellor had attend a meeting of Aberystwyth Town Council on 13 November 2017 to seek their views on the section relating to 'Community Engagement', and arrangements were being made to consult with the student body. Consideration would be given to further revising the draft Plan to account for any last-minute feedback received as part of the consultation exercises conducted.
3. Members debated whether the current iteration of the Plan provided the right amount of narrative given the target audience. It was recognised that a series of sub-strategies would be developed during early 2018 which would provide more detail in specific areas. Appropriate KPIs would also be proposed to Council for approval in the New Year, to enable the governing body to monitor progress against delivering the new Strategic Plan (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).

RESOLVED

4. To approve in principle the 2018–23 Strategic Plan on the basis of the iteration circulated to Council, and invite the Vice-Chancellor to produce, where required, a further iteration by 31 December 2017 in response to any last-minute feedback received for final approval by the Chair of Council on behalf of the governing body (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).

29. PANTYCELYN

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor, incorporating the report on financing the capital project as considered by FSC on 10 November 2017, the draft minute of the discussion at that FSC meeting, a letter from the Welsh Government (WG) 21st Century Schools and Education Programme Director confirming that a budget of up to £5m had been earmarked in principle towards the project, and a summary of the initial findings of the first phase of the estate Condition Survey conducted during October 2017 (COU1718-036).

NOTED

1. On 29 June 2016, Council had considered a report by the Pantycelyn Project Board which set out a recommended design option for the refurbishment of Pantycelyn as a hall of residence with 200 en-suite bedrooms. At that meeting, Council had endorsed this proposed design and had confirmed its intention to proceed with the project to reopen Pantycelyn by September 2019, subject to the necessary funding being identified.
2. To realise Council's intention, contractors would need to be appointed through an appropriate procurement process with construction starting in early 2018. Council would therefore be required to earmark the capital funding during the current meeting to enable the project to progress accordingly. The most recent estimates indicated that the cost of refurbishing Pantycelyn would be £12m.
3. The Vice-Chancellor had been leading work to identify additional sources of funding to support the University's capital requirements, and enable the refurbishment of Pantycelyn to progress alongside the University's other priority capital projects. A report setting out the potential funding sources which had been identified had been presented to FSC on 10 November 2017.
4. WG had been approached by the Chair of Council, the Chair-elect of Council, and the Vice-Chancellor, with a request for a contribution of £5m towards the capital cost of the refurbishment. WG had subsequently confirmed that, subject to standard conditions which the University would be able to meet, they would be prepared to provide a non-repayable grant of the amount requested. Members were very grateful for this grant offer, which recognised the importance of progressing with the refurbishment for September 2019 in accordance with the University's publicly-stated intention.
5. The remaining £7m in capital funding would be achieved through a combination of releasing capital from endowments; attracting additional European funding towards the University's element of the AIEC project, thereby enabling the University to use some of the funding it had already earmarked towards that development to the refurbishment of Pantycelyn; and using funds from the Protect and Stabilise budget towards the improvement works which the University would eventually be required to carry out to the external fabric of Pantycelyn.
6. At their meeting on 10 November 2017, the majority of FSC members had agreed that the work undertaken by the Vice-Chancellor and University Executive on funding opportunities would enable Council to assert with a very high degree of probability that the aggregate amount of £12m could be sufficiently covered by a combination of the sources identified. FSC had therefore recommended that the governing body prioritise Pantycelyn as a capital project, and invite the University Executive to proceed to obtain the funding.
7. Following that FSC meeting, the University Executive had undertaken further work on several aspects relating to the funding proposal. Most notably, the Finance Department had identified additional endowment funds which could have the potential to be released towards the capital project. A summary of the initial findings of the first phase of the estate Condition Survey conducted during October 2017 had also been

produced, which provided clarity as to the level of investment required in the University's estate over the next 10 years.

8. Concerns had been raised at FSC on 10 November 2017 regarding the management of cash flow as a result of progressing the Pantycelyn refurbishment alongside the University's other capital priorities. The relevant considerations were set out in the report presented to FSC at that meeting. It would be possible for the University to mitigate against any such risks by putting in place a revolving credit facility (RCF). It was recognised that a RCF would be advantageous regardless of the requirements for capital expenditure, and the Interim Director of Finance was already making enquiries in this respect.
9. While acknowledging that progressing with the refurbishment of Pantycelyn could be affordable as a result of the grant offer from WG, some members expressed concern about the reduced capital funding which would be available for other Protect and Stabilise projects which the University may wish to progress before September 2019. Members were assured that decisions would need to be taken on a case-by-case basis as additional capital funding becomes available, although the initial findings of the Condition Survey suggested that the bulk of the investment required in the estate would not arise until 2020.
10. The wish of the student body as a whole to see priority given to refurbishing and reopening Pantycelyn by September 2019 was emphasised by the Student Members. Members also acknowledged the University's civic responsibility to the nation and Welsh language, and how the investment in a refurbished Pantycelyn would reinforce the University's contribution in this respect.
11. The effort made by the Pantycelyn Project Board to operate transparently over recent months meant that the University had regained the trust of those who had been critical of the decision to close Pantycelyn as a hall of residence in summer 2015, and that these individuals now had a reasonable expectation that the University would proceed in accordance with its stated intention.
12. Members were reminded of the requirements set out in the Financial Management Code agreed between the University and HEFCW with respect to entering into financial commitments, and of the University's own Financial Regulations and Procedures. It was argued that it was reasonable for Council to take a decision on the basis of the Vice-Chancellor's report and the probability that the aggregate amount of £12m could be assembled using the funding sources assembled; thereby complying with the various Funding Council and University requirements.

RESOLVED

13. To agree, having scrutinised the future cash flow position as set out in the report and been assured that the University was satisfying the Welsh Government's requirements for the non-repayable grant of £5m, to (**VOTE:** 15 for the motion, 4 against) (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor):
 1. prioritise Pantycelyn as a capital project;
 2. proceed with the funding as set in the report; and
 3. invite the University Executive to proceed with the project and report through Council appropriately.
14. That the Vice-Chancellor brings a further report to the governing body should there be difficulty in covering the aggregate amount of £12m from the identified sources, or should there be an increase in costs above the budgeted £12m (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).

30. END OF YEAR REPORTING

1. ARC Annual Report (and Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion)

RECEIVED

Report of the Audit and Risk Committee for 2016–17, incorporating the Internal Auditors' 2016–17 Internal Audit Report and Opinion (COU1718-037).

NOTED

1. The report on the work of Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) for the year 2016–17 (and up to its most recent meeting) was presented to Council in accordance with the HEFCW Financial Management Code (which came into force on 01 August 2017, and which includes the current Audit Code of Practice) and with the Committee of University Chairs' (CUC) 'Higher Education Code of Governance' (December 2014).
2. The University's Internal Auditors, Deloitte, had also agreed their Annual Report and Opinion. This would be submitted to HEFCW during December 2017 along with ARC's own report.
3. KPMG had not completed their external audit of the University's Financial Statements at the time of the ARC meeting held on 09 November 2017 where an earlier draft of the Committee's Annual Report had been considered. Key considerations which would influence the External Auditors' conclusions were discussed at that meeting.
4. On the basis of the External Auditors' final draft Memorandum and Management Letter when issued, ARC members had agreed by correspondence a revised version of the Committee's Annual Report, which gave an assurance to Council that it could place reliance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the University's internal controls, risk management systems, and governance processes.
5. Members considered the wording of the Report in relation to the nature of the discussions with the External Auditors' on 09 November 2017. The ARC Chair confirmed that the wording had been agreed by the majority of ARC members and provided a reasonable summary of their considerations at that meeting.

RESOLVED

6. To note the Annual Report, and to invite ARC to bring forward an iteration with revised wording should that be appropriate (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
- #### 2. Financial Statements for 2016–17, including the outcome of the External Audit

RECEIVED

Composite report from Assistant Director of Finance Nansi George; incorporating the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2017, the final draft External Auditors' Management Letter and Memorandum, and proposed Letter of Representation to the External Auditors (COU1718-038).

NOTED

1. While a deficit budget had been agreed for 2016–17, Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 meant that the University would report a surplus after taxation for the year ended 31 July 2017. This was primarily the result of two large bequests to the University during the period in question. A deficit result

would nevertheless be reported once actuarial losses in respect of the pension schemes had been accounted for.

2. In consultation with the External Auditors, the Finance Department had taken steps to ensure that historic income from endowments was now appropriately reported to better show the cash available to the University, and that which related to the restricted endowments. While this would not affect reporting under FRS102, an explanatory note had been included in the Financial Statements.
3. Draft iterations of the Financial Statements and related reports had been considered by ARC on 09 November, and by FSC on 10 November 2017, at which points the external audit had not completed. Minor amendments had subsequently been made to the Financial Statements prior to circulation to Council to reflect the outcome of the external audit. Some further corrections had since been made and a copy of the final document would be made available via SharePoint (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
4. Members expressed their appreciation to the Treasurer, the Interim Director of Finance, and the Finance department for their diligence in producing the Financial Statements for 2016–17.
5. The wording of paragraph 8(ii) of the proposed Letter of Representation to the External Auditors was discussed. Concerns were expressed that the letter as drafted suggested that there had been fraud to report during 2016–17 when that had not been the case.

RESOLVED

6. To approve the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2017 (**ACTION:** Interim Director of Finance).
7. To approve the proposed Letter of Representation to the External Auditors as currently drafted, with the Chair of Council inserting a note when signing to clarify that there had been no instances of fraud to report during 2016–17 (**ACTION:** Chair of Council).

3. Annual Assurance and Sustainability Return

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Director of Finance Nansi George, incorporating the proposed Annual Sustainability Assurance Report for 2016–17, and the Annual Assurance Return for 2016–17 (COU1718-039).

NOTED

1. Council was required to agree the Annual Sustainability Assurance Report for submission to HEFCW during December 2017 alongside the audited Financial Statement. This report follows a standard disclosure format as suggested by HEFCE's Financial Sustainability Strategy Group. The proposed response had been considered by ARC on 09 November, and by FSC on 10 November 2017.
2. The Vice-Chancellor as the institution's Accountable Officer was required to submit the Annual Assurance Return to HEFCW during December 2017. A copy of the proposed submission had been made available to Council members for information.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the proposed Annual Sustainability Assurance Report for submission to HEFCW (**ACTION:** Assistant Director of Finance Nansi George).

4. Modern Slavery Act Disclosure

RECEIVED

Draft Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year ended 31 July 2017 (COU1718-040).

NOTED

1. As required by the Modern Slavery Act (2015), the University had drafted a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the 2016–17 academic year. The proposed draft built on the University's first such Statement which had been approved by Council as part of last year's end of year reporting, and published on the University's website in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
2. The draft report had been considered by ARC on 09 November, and by FSC on 10 November 2018. Minor revisions had been made to the report in response to the feedback provided by members during those meetings.
3. On 23 June 2017, the University had signed up to the WG's Code of Practice on Ethical Employment in Supply Chains. The importance of implementing the Code of Practice by universities in Wales had been highlighted by the Cabinet Secretary for Education during a recent meeting with the Chairs of Universities Wales. The University was working to comply with the eleven commitments set out in the Code, and progress will be reported in the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year ending 31 July 2018.

RESOLVED

4. To approve the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for publication on the University's website (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer)).

5. Quality Assurance Statement

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Registrar Kim Braddick (COU1718-041).

NOTED

1. The new Quality Assurance Framework for Wales places greater emphasis on the role of governing bodies for providing assurances about quality and standards matters. Governing bodies are required to agree and submit their first Annual Quality Assurance Statement to HEFCW during December 2017.
2. The format of the report had been agreed by Senate and Council during the March / April 2017 cycle of meetings, and had been designed to provide Council with the appropriate evidence to confirm to HEFCW that it is satisfied that the University has and continues to meet its obligations in respect of series of statements in relation to quality assurance.
3. A version of the report had been presented to the Senate on 15 November 2017 where members had recommended Council the proposed Annual Quality Assurance Statement be approved by Council, subject to any further revisions

proposed by the Quality Assurance Committee which was meeting the following day. The report had since been revised in light of the Quality Assurance Committee's discussions.

RESOLVED

4. To approve the submission of the Annual Quality Assurance Statements to HEFCW on the basis of the assurances provided in the report (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
 5. To correct the typographical errors in the report and make the final iteration available via SharePoint for future reference (**ACTION:** Assistant Registrar Kim Braddick).
 6. To consider how Independent Members in future could scrutinise the contents of the annual report before it is presented to Council (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
 7. To arrange a briefing for Council members on academic quality during spring 2018 (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
6. 'Prevent' Annual Report

RECEIVED

Draft Prevent Duty Annual Report for 2016–17 (COU1718-042).

NOTED

1. Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Higher Education Institutions must have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This requirement has become known as the 'Prevent' Duty.
2. HEFCW's Monitoring Framework for Higher Education Providers in Wales in relation to the 'Prevent' Duty includes a requirement to formally submit an Annual Report, with a data return.
3. The University's draft 'Prevent' Duty Annual Report had been considered electronically by members of the University's Prevent Oversight Group; by the Professional Development, Staffing and Equality Committee on 27 October 2017; and by the University's Strategic Executive Group on 14 November 2017, prior to its circulation to members of the University Council.
4. Members welcomed the positive work being undertaken by the University with respect to its responsibilities under the 'Prevent' Duty, but underlined the natural tension which exists between the External Speakers Protocol required under the Duty and the requirement more generally for universities to secure Freedom of Speech.

RESOLVED

5. To agree the three standard declarations as set out in the report, and approve the Annual Report for submission to HEFCW (**ACTION:** Business Continuity and Health, Safety and Environment Officer).

31. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Interim Director of Finance; and Assistant Director of Finance Mark Godsell (COU1718-043).

NOTED

The report set out the University's financial performance during Quarter 4 2016–17, as well as an update on other finance-related performance indicators.

32. DIRECTOR OF PLANNING'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Planning (COU1718-044).

NOTED

The report provided updates on recent developments, including: September 2017 enrolment; preparations for the National Student Survey 2018; the University's submission to the Teaching Excellence Framework; the WG's decision to retain full-time Home / EU undergraduate fees at £9k; and the University's application for a Fee and Access Plan 2019–20.

33. HONORARY AWARDS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1718-045).

NOTED

1. On 10 November 2017, the Committee on Honorary Awards met to consider nominations for Honorary Awards of the University. 43 nominations had been submitted by staff, students, Honorary Fellows, and others, for Honorary Fellowships or Degrees of the University. One nomination originally considered on 18 October 2016 had also been re-presented for further consideration.
2. The report outlined the Committee's recommendations for the conferral of Honorary Awards. The report had been considered by Senate on 15 November 2017, where members had recommended that they be formally approved by Council.

RESOLVED

3. To approve the proposed nominations for Honorary Awards of the University (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

34. TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Planning, and the Senior Projects Officer (COU1718-046).

NOTED

1. The University Executive was recommending that the University participates in the next round of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). The report therefore included a draft of the University's proposed text for its submission to the TEF– the deadline to submit applications to HEFCE being 18 January 2018.
2. Members discussed the proposed text as currently drafted, as well as the core metrics which would be taken into account as part of considering the University's application.

RESOLVED

3. To endorse the recommendation that the University participates in the next round of TEF, with a copy of the final submission shared with the Chair of Council prior to submission (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International)).

35. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT DOCUMENT

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Planning (COU1718-047).

NOTED

1. The University was developing its annual submissions to HEFCW as part of the Strategic Planning and Engagement Document (SPED) processes. As well as reporting against the objectives set out in the SPED for 2016–17, a new or revised SPED was required for 2017–18 and 2018–19.
2. The development of a new 2018–23 Strategic Plan would inform the SPED which would be submitted for the period 2017–18 onwards. The objectives of the SIP would also inform the University's submission.

RESOLVED

3. That an update on the development of a new SPED be provided to the SIP Council Oversight Group at its next meeting, with the draft submission then circulated to Council members for review and approval by correspondence during December 2017 (**ACTION:** Director of Planning).

36. AUPAS TRUSTEES

RECEIVED

Report from Assistant Director of Finance Nansi George (COU1718-048).

NOTED

1. At their meeting on 09 November 2017, the Aberystwyth University Pension and Assurance (AUPAS) Trustees had requested the addition of a further trustee, to enable all three Trade Unions recognised by the University to be represented on the trustee board. This request had been considered by FSC on 10 November 2017 where members had recommended that it be approved by Council.

RESOLVED

2. To approve an increase in the number of AUPAS Trustees from nine to ten be approved, with four Trustees nominated by AU and six nominated by the Trade Unions or the pension scheme members (**ACTION:** Assistant Director of Finance).

37. ABERSU DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the AberSU Development Officer (COU1718-049).

NOTED

The report provided an update on developments at the Students' Union since the last meeting of the University's Council.

38. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

RECEIVED

A composite report including annual reports from the Finance and Strategy Committee and the Senior Remuneration Committee (COU1718-050).

NOTED

Since the 2016–17 academic year sub-committees of Council had presented an annual report to the governing body on their work during the preceding academic year, making specific reference to those matters considered and approved in line with the committee's delegated authority from the Council, as well as outlining the sub-committee's proposed work over future months.

39. SUMMARY CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

RECEIVED

Report by Director of Planning (COU1718-051).

NOTED

The report provided a summary of the significant risks from the Corporate Risk Register.

40. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1718-052).

NOTED

1. The report detailed the instances since the last Council meeting where the Chair had used the Executive Powers provided for by Standing Order 6.11.
2. The matters approved by means of Executive Action by the Chair were:
 1. the scoring methodology for the procurement of audit services;
 2. the University's response to the consultation on the WG White Paper: "Public Good and A Prosperous Wales – Building a Reformed Post-Compulsory Education and Training (PCET) system"; and
 3. the University entering a lease with respect to the Mauritius branch campus.

41. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

RECEIVED

A composite report covering the following reports (COU1718-053):

1. Finance and Strategy Committee (10 November 2017);
2. Audit and Risk Committee (03 October and 09 November 2017);
3. Senate (15 November 2017);
4. Health, Safety and Environment Committee (09 November 2017);

5. Professional Development, Staffing and Equality Committee (27 October 2017);
6. Welsh Language Strategy Committee (07 June 2017);
7. Committee on Honorary Awards (10 November 2017); and
8. University Executive Group (27 September; 08, 24, and 31 October 2017).

NOTED

9. Finance and Strategy Committee – 10 November 2017

1. Members had received an update report on the AIEC project, and the work being progressed to ensure project costs remain within the agreed budget.

RESOLVED

2. That the Treasurer formally write to the BBSRC to outline the progress made on the project to date, and underline the University's commitment to the project (**ACTION:** Treasurer).
10. The reports received from the committees.

42. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Farewells

1. This had been Sir Emyr Jones Parry's final meeting of the governing body as he would stand down as Chancellor and Chair of Council at the end of his term on 31 December 2017. Pro-Chancellor Elizabeth France paid tribute to Sir Emyr's tremendous contribution to the University, which would be formally recognised during the dinner being held in his honour that evening.
2. Janet Davies would reach the end of her term on Council on 31 December 2017. She was thanked for her contribution to the University over the past six years.
3. Rob Eastwood would be leaving the University's employment in January 2018 once the incoming Director of Finance had commenced in post. He was thanked for his contribution over recent months.

2. Address by the Chair-elect of Council

1. Dr Emyr Roberts, as Chair-elect of Council, paid tribute to Sir Emyr Jones Parry for the firm foundations he had laid for the University during his term as Chancellor and Chair of Council.
2. Two vacancies would arise for Independent Members on Council as a result of Sir Emyr Jones Parry and Janet Davies reaching the end of their terms of office. A meeting of the Nominations Committee would therefore be held during January 2018 to commence a process to recruit new members to the governing body.
3. The Chair-elect would work with the University Secretary to conduct a skills audit of Council members in the New Year. The Chair-elect also intended to have individual discussions with each council member to seek their views on how Council and its sub-committees should operate in the future. These discussions would be organised by the University Secretary (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
4. The appointment of Dr Emyr Roberts as Chair of Council meant that he could no longer serve on ARC. A new ARC Chair would need to be appointed for the

period from 01 January 2018, ideally appointed from amongst the Committee's current membership.

RESOLVED

5. To appoint George Ashworth as Chair of ARC for a one-year term commencing 01 January 2018 (**ACTION:** University Secretary).