

## COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held at 13:00 on 10 JULY 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Dr Emyr Roberts, Chair of Council (Chair); the Rt Hon Elfyn Llwyd, Deputy Chair of Council; Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience); Mr George Ashworth (until minute 88); Mrs Samantha Blackie; Dr Hazel Davey; Ms Anne Davies (from minute 82); Ms Meri Huws; Mr Richard John; Mr Morgan Lewis, UMCA President; Mr Ian MacEachern; Mr Nathaniel Pidcock, AberSU President; Mrs Fiona Sharp; Mr Mark Tweed; Ms Kath Williams; Professor Sir Robin Williams; and Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar.

In attendance: Mr Stephen Forster, Director of Finance and Corporate Services; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; Mr Steve Thomas, Head of Communications and Public Affairs; and Mr Nicholas Rogers, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development (for minutes 82 and 83).

No apologies for absence had been received.

### 76. MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

#### 1. Welcome

Nate Pidcock, AberSU President; and Moc Lewis, UMCA President, had commenced as sabbatical officers, and consequently as members of the University Council, on 01 July 2020. In welcoming them to the governing body, members also expressed their gratitude for the contribution made to the Council by their predecessors, Dhanjeet Ramnatsing and Tomos Ifan, whose terms had ended on 30 June 2020.

#### 2. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the deaths of:

1. Joshua King, Facilities Porter;
2. Dr Tedi Milward, former lecturer in Welsh;
3. Martin Nelms, Associate Lecturer at the Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences; and
4. Bruce Tyler, former Head of the Plant Genetic Resources Unit.

#### 3. Congratulations

The following Aberystwyth University (AU) colleagues were congratulated on being conferred with Fellowships of the Learned Society of Wales:

1. Professor Glyn Hewinson, Sêr Cymru II STAR Chair and Director of the Centre of Excellence for Bovine Tuberculosis;

2. Professor Emyr Lewis, Professor of Law and Head of the Department of Law and Criminology;
  3. Professor Ryszard Piotrowicz, Professor of Law, Aberystwyth University;
  4. Professor David Rabey, Professor of Theatre & Theatre Practice, Department of Theatre, Film and Television; and
  5. Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar, Head of the Graduate School.
4. Covid-19
1. On 15 June 2020, an additional conference call had been held for Council members on the institution's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. There would be a further update during the meeting on more recent developments.
  2. Since the last Council meeting, a small informal group had been convened to offer support and advice to the Vice-Chancellor and the University Executive. This group had been formed of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Council, the chairs of the three main sub-committees, and Professor Sir Robin Williams.
  3. HEFCW had formed a 'Looking Forward' Group of which the Vice-Chancellor was a member. This group was developing a bid to the Welsh Government (WG) for a share of Barnett consequentials available as a result of the Westminster Government's response to Covid-19. This bid was currently being considered by WG. The Chair advised members that, as Chair of the Chairs of Universities Wales (ChUW), he had been working with fellow ChUW members and Universities Wales to input into this bid. Members welcomed the collaboration amongst Welsh universities on this matter

3. Meeting Conduct

In order to ensure an effective online meeting, members had been asked to provide advance warning should they wish to discuss any item marked with an asterisk on the agenda. There have been no such requests, and the items in question would therefore be approved or noted in accordance with the recommendation set out on the coversheet.

**77. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

NOTED

Meri Huws reminded members that she was a Director of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC). Council was not being asked to take any decisions of relevance to the CCC during the meeting, although progress made by AU against the CCC's targets would be considered as part of the report on Key Performance Indicators. It was not considered necessary for Meri Huws to recuse from this discussion.

**78. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2020 (COU1920-124).

## RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

## 79. 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 (COU1920-125).

### NOTED

1. Pantycelyn (minute 4.1.3)

The project was now reaching completion, and the action could therefore be marked as completed (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

2. Health and Safety Update (minute 65.2)

Due to their increased workloads as a result of Covid-19, colleagues from the Health, Safety and Environment department had not been able to submit a report on business continuity arrangements to the Governance and Compliance Committee (GCC) meeting held on 11 June 2020. This report would now be presented to GCC in the autumn.

3. Estates Strategy (minute 57.2.1)

1. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services advised members that the work to make the campus Covid-ready was requiring adjustments to estate utilisation, including the reopening of the Llanbadarn campus, and temporarily converting some administrative space to enable teaching and research to be undertaken in compliance with social distancing requirements.
2. The University had agreed with the external consultants to delay the production of the final Estate Strategy until the autumn, and to expand the remit to include the institution's residential portfolio. There would also be an opportunity to consider potential long-term implications of the hybrid model of teaching which was being developed for the start of the 2020–21 academic year.

4. The other updates provided in the decisions log.

## 80. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

### RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1920-126).

### NOTED

1. The report detailed the instances since the last Council meeting where matters had been approved by members via correspondence, or by the Chair on behalf of Council.

2. The matters approved by members via correspondence were:
  1. Strategic Equality Plan 2020–24, for publication on the University’s website by 31 March 2020; and
  2. Annual Equality Report 2018–19, for publication on the University’s website by 31 March 2020.
3. The matter approved by the Chair of Council on behalf of the governing body was:
  1. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, for submission to HEFCW by 26 June 2020.

## **81. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Governing Body Annual Assurance return regarding Quality

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary, incorporating a letter from the HEFCW Chief Executive (COU1920-127).

NOTED

On 04 June 2020, the Chair of Council had received a letter from the Chief Executive of HEFCW, Dr David Blaney, to advise that the funding council’s Quality Assessment Committee had considered and were content with the University’s responses to the statements.

2. 2021–22 Fee and Access Plan

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary, incorporating a letter from the HEFCW Chief Executive (COU1920-156).

NOTED

On 27 May 2020, the Chair of Council had received a letter from the HEFCW Chief Executive who advised that, while the funding council had approved the University’s application for a 2021–22 Fee and Access Plan, further information was requested on certain aspects of the Plan. A response was subsequently issued to Dr Blaney by the Chair of Council, which clarified the matters raised by the funding council.

## **82. VICE-CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor (COU1920-128).

NOTED

1. The report consisted of four key parts: a highlight report; report from Senate; a student recruitment and planning update; and a communications report.

2. Applications and acceptances for September 2020 entry remained higher than at the same point a year ago. However, there were growing indications that clearing would be extremely competitive, with universities which rarely enter clearing expected to do so this summer in response to declining international student numbers.
3. Members congratulated staff members who had been successful in recent processes to appoint Chairs and Heads of Departments. However, the Vice-Chancellor expressed her disappointment that the panel convened to consider applications for the Chair in Welsh and Celtic Studies had not been able to make an appointment. Options for the next steps with respect to this position were now being considered.
4. The endowment of the Woodrow Wilson Chair by the Davies siblings in 1919 had marked the founding of the University's Department of International Politics. Then, as United States President, Woodrow Wilson had been revered as the originator of the League of Nations. However, over recent decades, Wilson's historical reputation had dramatically deteriorated as historians had taken the full measure of his racism, which was out of kilter with the norms a century ago.
5. In light of this historiographical revisionism, the Department of International Politics had extensively debated its link to Wilson during its centenary year of 2018–19. Recent developments with the Black Lives Matter movement internationally had provided a further impetus for this discussion, and the Department was now advocating that the naming of the Chair be reviewed. This was discussed by members.
6. The University had previously assessed whether the institution had been founded on the profits of slavery and had concluded that it had not. However, in light of the Black Lives Matter movement, this assessment was being reviewed, alongside a broader review of the University's historic collections and holdings.

#### **RESOLVED**

7. To agree in principle with proposals to rename the Woodrow Wilson Chair in International Politics, subject to the outcome of a formal consultation with the Davies family of Llandinam and, where appropriate, with the Charity Commission (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).

#### **83. COVID-19: INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE**

##### RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development; and the University Secretary (COU1920-129).

##### NOTED

1. The report summarised the University's response, to date, to Covid-19; and was intended to supplement a series of previous verbal updates to Council, and to an informal group consisting of the chairs of Council and the sub-committees.
2. The comprehensive nature of the report was welcomed and discussed by members.

3. Members acknowledged the considerable effort made by University staff since lockdown started on 23 March 2020 to adapt to changed circumstances. This had involved adapting assessments and completing teaching for the current year while at times juggling working from home and caring responsibilities. Council expressed its appreciation, and requested that this be conveyed to the University by the Vice-Chancellor (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).

#### **84. HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

RECEIVED

Report by the Health, Safety and Environmental Manager; and the University Secretary (COU1920-130).

NOTED

1. The report provided a summary update on health and safety activity, drawing on aspects of the fuller report presented to the Governance and Compliance Committee (GCC) on 11 June 2020, and with a particular focus on the health and safety aspects of the institution's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. While some business-critical activities and those which could not be undertaken remotely had continued on campus during the lockdown period, the majority of staff had been working from home. It was also likely that professional services staff would continue working remotely for the remainder of the calendar year to free up additional space for socially distant teaching and learning activities for the autumn term.
3. At their meeting on 11 June 2020, GCC members had requested that an updated Health, Safety and Environment Annual Plan be produced and circulated to all Committee members via e-mail by mid-July 2020. This revised plan would guide any decision on additional resources to support the Health, Safety and Environment team during the current period.

#### **85. REPORT BY ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION**

NOTED

1. The new sabbatical officers had been in post for 10 days at Aberystwyth University Student's Union (AberSU). The Student Members therefore provided a verbal summary of what they and their fellow officers hoped to achieve over the coming year.
2. Members expressed disappointment that some private landlords had continued to be unreasonable with student tenants during the lockdown, with some requiring that students vacate their accommodation with no reduction in the rent payable.

#### **86. FINANCE MATTERS**

1. Financial Update

RECEIVED

Report by the Deputy Director of Finance (COU1920-131).

## NOTED

1. The report set out the University's financial performance to the end of Quarter 3 (30 April 2020), and included the forecast impact of Covid-19 on the University's financial outturn for the current financial year.
  2. The report had been considered in detail by the Resources and Performance Committee (RPC) at its meeting on 11 June 2020.
2. Budget for 2020–21, with financial forecasts for outyears to 2023–24

## RECEIVED

Report by the Deputy Director of Finance, incorporating the draft budget for 2020–21 (COU1920-132).

## NOTED

1. A prudent deficit budget for 2020–21 was proposed, reflecting the forecast impact of Covid-19 on the University. The scenario planning undertaken by the University during May and early June 2020 had informed the development of the draft budget, as had the forecast student numbers for September 2020.
2. HEFCW was requiring universities in Wales to model two scenarios under which there would be reductions in student numbers compared to 2019–20. While that the University's applications and acceptances for September 2020 entry remained higher than at the same point a year ago, the University was nevertheless adopting a very prudent approach in the draft budget, which was based on a reduction in student numbers.
3. As a further precaution, an additional Council meeting had been scheduled for 27 August 2020. This meeting would only be held if student numbers were worse than what had been budgeted for, resulting in an urgent need to revise the 2020–21 institutional budget.
4. The draft budget had been considered and endorsed at a Special Meeting of RPC on 26 June 2020.

## RESOLVED

5. To approve the budget for 2020–21 and notes the financial forecasts for the outyears to 2023–24 (**ACTION:** Deputy Director of Finance).
3. Additional Financial Considerations

## RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services (COU1920-134).

## NOTED

1. As part of the preparation of the Budget for 2020–21 and three-year forecast, the University has assessed the potential requirements for external cash flow support because of the impact of Covid-19 on the institution's finances. This paper set out several options that had been considered for ensuring sufficient cash is available

to meet the University's commitments, particularly during the pinch points of August and September 2020. The report was discussed in detail.

2. To safeguard cashflow, the University was accessing or intended to access a range of government support packages, including: the Coronavirus Job Retention (Furlough) Scheme, the HMRC VAT deferral scheme, and the HMRC Time to Pay scheme for employment taxes. A rent deferral had also been agreed with Legal and General (L&G) with respect to Fferm Penglais. Members noted that additional interest would be payable as a result of deferring some of these payments.
3. While capital funding would be provided in the budget to progress existing commitments, there would be a reduction in the 'Protect and Stabilise' capital expenditure programme in 2020–21 to prioritise cash preservation.
4. It was also proposed that the University access the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) as part of actions being taken to safeguard operating cashflow. This would be considered as part of the next item on the agenda.
5. As a further precaution, the report proposed accessing some of the University's investments to provide cash cover should this become necessary. This proposal had been debated at length at RPC on 26 June 2020. As a result of that discussion, it was proposed that the University retain as cash the proceeds of investments which were currently in the process of being liquidated for investment in other funds. This revised proposal was set out in detail in the report.

#### **RESOLVED**

6. To approve the suspension of the Protect and Stabilise programme for the coming academic year (except for work related required for Health and Safety or Disability Discrimination Act compliance) (**ACTION:** Director of Finance and Corporate Services).
  7. That the University retain as cash the proceeds of funds being divested from L&G for a short period until it can be established that there is no need for a further cash injection; with these proceeds to be reinvested in the Northern Trust funds at the earliest opportunity (**ACTION:** Director of Finance and Corporate Services).
  8. That the Vice-Chancellor write to the Chief Executive of the Funding Council, as required by the Financial Management Code, to formally advise that the University was forecasting low levels of liquidity and was taking appropriate actions in this respect (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).
4. Proposal to extend Financial Borrowing

#### **RECEIVED**

1. Report by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services (COU1920-133); and
2. Letter from the HEFCW Chief Executive agreeing in principle to the University increasing its financial commitments threshold (COU1920-157).

#### **NOTED**

3. As part of the proposed actions to safeguard operating cashflow, the University was in discussion with the provider of the institution's current Revolving Credit Facility (RCF) with a view to agreeing a further RCF under the CLBILS. Under the terms of this scheme, the additional borrowing would be 80 per cent underwritten by the UK Government.
4. Initial feedback from the lender was positive, although the University's application for a further RCF would require final credit sanctioning in line with the lender's internal processes. Indicative pricing was therefore included in the report, and final terms would be circulated to Council for agreement by correspondence once received from the lender.
5. At its meeting on 26 June 2020, RPC had agreed to the Director of Finance and Corporate Services sharing a copy of the draft University budget for 2020–21 with HEFCW. In advance of the Council meeting, the HEFCW Chief Executive had formally written to the Chair of Council to advise that the funding council had agreed in principle to the University increasing its financial commitments threshold in order to acquire an additional RCF. In the letter, the funding council set out the steps now required of the University to comply with the requirements of the Financial Management Code.

**RESOLVED**

6. To agree in principle an increase in borrowing of up to £5m, subject to members being provided with details of the full terms and conditions of the facility for approval by correspondence (**ACTION:** Director of Finance and Corporate Services).

**87. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

RECEIVED

Report by the Head of Planning (COU1920-135).

NOTED

1. The report presented current data points for the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which had been agreed by Council to monitor the delivery of the institutional Strategic Plan.

**RESOLVED**

2. That a more detailed report is presented to the next RPC meeting on the numbers of fulltime students studying 40 or more credits through the medium of Welsh (**ACTION:** Head of Planning).

**88. SUBSIDIARY COMPANY**

1. New Trading Subsidiary Company

RECEIVED

Report by the Assistant Director of Finance (COU1920-136).

## NOTED

1. Proposals to renovate the Old College were progressing, and the operations being proposed for the refurbished building would include non-charitable trading activities. While the University currently undertook minimal non-charitable trading activities, HMRC and the Charity Commission would not look favourably on the use of charitable assets to undertake more significant non-charitable trading activities.
2. The report set out the benefits and key considerations of establishing a new trading subsidiary to operate the non-charitable activities which would be offered at the Old College. While the initial focus would be on the Old College, there would be potential in future to use the new subsidiary for other trading activities, such as the Bunkhouse and the Arts Centre.
3. The report had been considered by RPC on 11 June 2020, where members had recommended that Council approve the proposals.

## RESOLVED

4. To approve the establishment of a new wholly owned subsidiary of Aberystwyth University to undertake the non-charitable trading activities relating to the refurbished Old College (**ACTION:** Assistant Director of Finance).
2. University Subsidiary Company Policy

## RECEIVED

Report by the Assistant Director of Finance; and the University Secretary; incorporating draft Aberystwyth University Subsidiary Company Policy and Procedures (COU1920-137).

## NOTED

1. A review of the current non-charitable trading operations of the University, and the separate proposal to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary company to operate non-charitable trading operations, had highlighted the need to develop a Subsidiary Company Policy and Procedures.
2. The draft Policy and Procedure document set out the relevant requirements for the formation, governance, and dissolution of University subsidiary companies. It also outlined the responsibilities of the Directors of subsidiary companies, and financial management arrangements.
3. The draft Policy and Procedure document had been considered by RPC on 26 June 2020, where members had recommended that it be approved by Council.

## RESOLVED

4. To approve the Aberystwyth University Subsidiary Company Policy and Procedures document (**ACTION:** Assistant Director of Finance; and University Secretary).

## 89. OUTCOME OF COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

RECEIVED5

Report by the University Secretary (COU1920-138).

NOTED

1. Between 29 April and 21 May 2020, Council members had been invited to complete a questionnaire to provide constructive feedback on the governing body's operation during the current academic year. The results were set out in the report, and discussed by members during the meeting.
2. Members expressed their desire to return to the pre-lockdown arrangements whereby informal briefing and training sessions would be held immediately before formal Council meetings, and that a session be included during the 2020–21 academic year on how the University's finances are presented.

## 90. REVISIONS TO GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

RECEIVED

Report by University Secretary (COU1920-139).

NOTED

1. The University Secretary traditionally reviews the institution's governing documents and Standing Orders each spring. The report set out the outcome of the most recent review, with a number of revisions proposed to Ordinances as a result of the action plan agreed by Council on 27 April 2020 in response to the *A Review of Governance of the Welsh Higher Education Sector* report.
2. The revisions being proposed had been considered by GCC on 11 June 2020, and by Senate on 24 June. Both bodies had recommended that the revisions be approved by Council.

**RESOLVED**

3. To approve the proposed revisions to the Ordinances, to come into force on 01 August 2020 (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

## 91. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL AND THE SUB-COMMITTEES

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1920-140).

NOTED

1. There would be three vacancies for Independent Members to serve on Council from 01 August 2020 onwards, and one vacancy for an Independent Member to serve on the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (ARAC). The vacancies had been advertised between 27 March and 17 April 2020, and a shortlist of candidates interviewed on 01 June 2020.
2. The report set out the outcome of the interviews, and recommendations in terms of the appointment of new Independent Members to serve on Council and / or the

governance sub-committees. Changes to the sub-committee membership of some existing Independent Members were also being proposed, to better distribute sub-committee membership amongst the Independent Members, and to respond to vacancies for sub-committee Chairs.

3. Ian MacEachern currently served on both ARAC and the Resources and Performance Committee (RPC). The report was recommending that one of the incoming Independent Members also be appointed to serve on both ARAC and RPC. Given the increasing focus on financial viability within the sector, cross-representation of this nature was deemed essential so that the member could hear first-hand from the auditors at ARAC, and then relay to RPC as appropriate.
4. Council currently appointed an individual to serve as one of the employer nominated AUPAS Trustees. Since 2018, Ian MacEachern had served as an AUPAS Trustee in this capacity. It was proposed in the report that George Ashworth be appointed as replacement AUPAS Trustee for a four-year term 01 August 2020, thereby leading to him continuing to serve as an AUPAS Trustee after his term on Council has finished on 31 July 2021.

#### **RESOLVED**

5. To approve the appointments as set out in the report (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

#### **92. SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1920-141).

NOTED

1. During the most recent round of sub-committee meetings, each committee had considered proposals to revise their respective terms of reference. The proposed revisions were set out in the report, and had been endorsed by the committees in question.
2. In response to the *Camm Review of Governance of the Universities in Wales*, Council had agreed that the Nominations Committee be reinstated. Revised terms of reference had therefore been developed for this committee, and were included in the report.

#### **RESOLVED**

3. To approve the terms of reference (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

#### **93. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2020–24: ACTION PLAN**

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); and Communications and Equalities Officer (COU1920-142).

NOTED

1. In considering the draft Strategic Equality Plan 2020–24, GCC members had requested that an implementation plan be developed. This proposed action plan showed how the University intended to address each of the five strands of the Strategic Equality Plan over the period to 2024.
2. The proposed actions had been considered in detail and endorsed by GCC on 11 June 2020.

**RESOLVED**

3. To approve the proposed action plan (**ACTION:** Communications and Equalities Officer).

**94. DEGREE OUTCOMES STATEMENT**

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick, incorporating the draft Degree Outcome Statement (COU1920-143).

NOTED

1. In May 2019, the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment (UKSCQA) had published a Statement of Intent that providers should publish a Degree Outcome Statement analysing their institutional degree classification profile and articulating the results of an internal institutional review. The Statement should be approved by the governing body.
2. The draft Degree Outcome Statement had been considered and endorsed by Senate on 24 June 2020.

**RESOLVED**

3. To approve the Degree Outcome Statement for publication (**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick).

**95. SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT**

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences) and Environment; and the Environment and Sustainability Advisor (COU1920-144).

NOTED

1. The draft Sustainability Policy Statement outlined the steps that the University would take to protect the environment from the impact of its operations and activities, and to influence its staff, students and the wider community to minimise their impacts through the University's own actions, teaching and research.
2. The draft Policy Statement had been considered and endorsed by RPC on 11 June 2020.

**RESOLVED**

3. To approve the Policy Statement (**ACTION:** Environment and Sustainability Advisor).

## **96. CODE OF PRACTICE ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1920-145).

NOTED

1. Mid-June 2020, the Prevent Oversight Group had recommended that the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech be revised to reflect that more meetings were now taking place online.
2. Minor revisions to the Code of Practice were set out in the report. These had been endorsed by GCC members via correspondence on 29 June 2020.

**RESOLVED**

3. To approve the proposed revisions to the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

## **97. ABERSU RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT**

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (COU1920-146).

NOTED

1. HEFCW requires that universities and Students' Unions enter into a Relationship Agreement, which should be endorsed by the institution's Governing Body, reviewed annually in time for the new academic year, and signed by the incoming Student Officers.
2. Other than to update signatures, no changes were being proposed to the current Relationship Agreement, a copy of which was appended to the report. However, AberSU had indicated that it wished to develop a brand-new version in time for the 2021–22 academic year.

**RESOLVED**

3. To retain the current Relationship Agreement for the forthcoming academic year (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

## **98. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Summary Corporate Risk Register (COU1920-147);
2. Office of the Independent Adjudicator Annual Statement (COU1920-148);
3. Annual Report on Collaborative Partnerships (COU1920-149);

4. Summary of complaints received in relations to the Welsh Language Standards (COU1920-150); and
5. Documents affixed with the Common Seal (COU1920-151).

NOTED

6. The contents of the reports presented for information.

#### **99. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES**

RECEIVED

A composite report comprising the following reports (COU1920-152):

1. Governance and Compliance (11 June 2020);
2. Resources and Performance Committee (11 and 26 June 2020);
3. Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (26 June 2020);
4. Senate (24 June 2020); and
5. Investments Committee (12 June 2020)

NOTED

6. The reports received from the sub-committees.

#### **100. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, MEETING REVIEW, AND FUTURE BUSINESS.**

##### **1. Farewells**

Several members were reaching the end of their terms on the Council on 31 July 2020 and would be leaving the governing body at that point. The following were thanked by the Chair of Council for their considerable contribution, both collectively and individually, to the work of the governing body and its sub-committees over many years:

1. Anne Davies, who had served as an Independent Member since 01 August 2014;
2. Dr Hazel Davey, who had served as a Senate Member since 01 August 2016;
3. Richard John, who had served as an Independent Member since 01 August 2014; and
4. Ian MacEachern, who had served as an Independent Member since 01 August 2012.