

## SENATE

**Minutes of the meeting held at 14.00 on 20 SEPTEMBER 2017, at MedRus Mawr, Penbryn.**

Present: Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor (Chair); Ms Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Chief Operating Officer); Prof John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience and International); Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement); Prof Judy Broady-Preston, Director of IPD; Prof Neil Glasser, Director of IGHPP; Prof Qiang Shen, Director of IMPaCS; Prof Tim Woods, Director of IAH; Dr Hywel Griffiths, Deputy Chair of the Aberystwyth University Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC); Prof Reyer Zwigelaar, Head of the Graduate School; Dr Gordon Allison; Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara; Prof Paul Brewer; Dr Hazel Davey; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Christopher Finlayson; Mr Nigel Hardy; Dr David Ceri Jones; Dr Louise Marshall; Prof Robert Meyrick; Dr Ola Olusanya; Prof Maria Plotnikova; Dr Rachel Rahman; Dr Simon Rodway; Mrs Anne Uruska; Ms Emma Beenham, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Mr Gwion Llwyd Williams, UMCA President; and Mr Bruce Wight, AberSU Union Development Officer.

In attendance: Mrs Kim Broom, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Mrs Lucy Hodson, Director of Planning; Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; Ms Emma Williams, Director of the Academic Quality and Records Office (AQRO); and Mrs Jean Jones.

Apologies for absence had been received from Prof Richard Beardsworth; Prof Jo Crotty, Director of IBL; Mr Tim Davies; Prof Mike Gooding, Director of IBERS; Ms Louise Jagger; Dr Elin Royles, Chair of the Aberystwyth University Branch of the CCC; and Prof Chris Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).

### 1. PERSONAL MATTERS RAISED BY THE CHAIR

#### 1. Welcome

1. The elected staff and student representatives whose terms of office had started since the last Senate meeting were welcomed to their first meeting as members of the academic governing body.
2. Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara and Dr Hywel Griffiths were welcomed to the meeting as alternate members representing the Department of International Politics and the Aberystwyth University Branch of the CCC respectively.

#### 2. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the death of Emeritus Professor D J Bowen, former Chair in the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies.

### 2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared in relation to the business to be transacted during the meeting.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 (SEN1718-003).

## **RESOLVED**

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### RECEIVED

A log setting out the progress made in taking forward decisions and actions agreed at the most recent Senate meeting, and outstanding actions from previous meetings (SEN1718-004).

### NOTED

1. The update provided in the decisions log.
2. Teaching for Postgraduates at Aberystwyth University (AU) (minute 75)

### RECEIVED

Report by the Director of IPD (SEN1718-005).

### NOTED

The report set out the way in which the programme is currently structured. The second cohort of participants had commenced on the programme the previous day, and the intention was to offer the programme to more students in future.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

The University Secretary had not received any correspondence which had not otherwise been drawn to the attention of members.

## **6. ORDINARY DEGREES**

### RECEIVED

Report by the Academic Board (SEN1718-006).

### NOTED

1. At the meeting held 14 June 2017, Senate had resolved to approve in principle a proposal that the current regulations should be revised to remove the existing Ordinary Degree with effect from September 2018 for new students. This would be replaced with a 300-credit exit/fall back award of Ordinary Degree for those students who qualified for such an award.
2. At Senate's request, the implications of this change had been considered by the Academic Board at its meeting on 06 September 2017, where members had recommended that the new regulations come into force for new students from September 2018.
3. It was confirmed that the Department of Mathematics was content with the proposed new Ordinary Degree as a qualification.
4. Members debated the Academic Board's recommendation, and highlighted that an Ordinary Degree would be a fall-back qualification and not advertised to potential entrants. It was also clarified that in the case of Integrated Master's courses, the fall-back qualification would be an Ordinary Bachelor's Degree where Year 3 is not passed.

However, members queried whether the introduction of a new Ordinary Degree now meant that a Pass Degree was now redundant and could be withdrawn.

#### **RESOLVED**

5. To invite the Academic Board to further consider the queries raised by Senate members and the timetable for introducing the new Ordinary Degree qualification, with a recommendation made to the Vice-Chancellor for consideration on behalf of Senate (**ACTION:** Academic Board).

#### **7. FOUNDATION DEGREE (FDA)**

RECEIVED

Report by Academic Board (SEN1718-007).

NOTED

1. The introduction of the Foundation Degrees in Arts (FDA) at Coleg Cambria requires an addition to the Examination Conventions for 2017–18 to describe the progression requirements for students should they wish to progress to a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree awarded by AU.
2. While the University's current conventions describe progression requirements in relation to Foundation Degrees in Science (FDSc), it would not be appropriate to apply these progression requirements to the FDA since the FDA schemes at Coleg Cambria share common first and second years with their cognate BA schemes, unlike the FDSc schemes.
3. This matter was considered by the Academic Board on 06 September 2017 where members recommended that Senate approves the proposed revisions to the Regulation on Modular Initial Degrees and the Examination Conventions.

#### **RESOLVED**

4. To approve the proposed revisions to the Regulation on Modular Initial Degrees and the Examination Conventions (**ACTION:** Director of AQRO).

#### **8. DIRECTOR OF PLANNING'S REPORT**

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Planning (SEN1718-008).

NOTED

1. The report provided updates on recent developments, including: applications for 2017 entry; the National Student Survey (NSS), teaching quality, student satisfaction and employability indicators; and external factors including Home / EU undergraduate fee and maintenance changes, the Teaching Excellence Framework, the Research Excellence Framework (REF), and the Welsh Government's consultation on reforming post-compulsory education and training in Wales.
2. It was clarified that, with respect to the emerging parameters for the REF, discussions remained on-going on the number of outputs which eligible staff would need to submit as part of the process.

#### **9. NSS 2017 RESULTS**

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Planning (SEN1718-009).

NOTED

1. The report provided an analysis of the University's overall performance in NSS 2017, and the performance of individual academic departments in the 27 questions. However, the changes to the NSS for 2017 meant that comparison with historic results was not always appropriate.
2. Several trends identified in the NSS results had previously emerged during the earlier Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQs) conducted at AU. Some of these trends had not been identified early enough for them to be addressed in advance of the NSS. Detailed action plans were now being developed at Institute-level to respond to the feedback received through the NSS.

## **10. ACADEMIC BOARD KEY DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS**

RECEIVED

Report by the Academic Board (SEN1718-010).

NOTED

1. On 16 November 2016, Senate had agreed Key Deliverables for the Academic Board for the 2016–17 academic year. Progress against these Key Deliverables had been reviewed by the Academic Board at its meeting on 06 September 2017, as set out in the report. Senate members questioned whether the progress reported reflected the current situation, and remarked that more recent information was now available in some instances
2. New Key Deliverables for 2017–18 would be reviewed during the October round of committees, and considered by Academic Board on 25 October 2017 before submission to Senate.
3. Also at its meeting on 06 September 2017, the Academic Board had considered a proposed schedule of business for the Board during the 2017–18 academic year. Members agreed to recommend that this schedule be approved by Senate, subject to confirmation at the October meeting of the Board that the annual report on Peer Observation would be considered in May.

**RESOLVED**

4. To approve the Academic Board's proposed Schedule of Business for 2017–18 (**ACTION:** Academic Board).

## **11. ACADEMIC BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE**

RECEIVED

Report by the Academic Board (SEN1718-011).

NOTED

On 06 September 2017, the Academic Board considered proposed revisions to its terms of reference, as set out in the report.

**RESOLVED**

To approve the proposed revisions to the Academic Board's terms of reference (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

## **12. SENATE'S AWAY DAY**

NOTED

1. Senate had held a successful away day on the morning of 20 September 2017. The away day served as an opportunity for Senate members to have an in-depth conversation on the University's emerging Strategic Plan for 2018–23. This discussion had been preceded by a presentation by the Vice-Chancellor on the University's current performance and priorities.
2. The feedback received from Senate members would inform the development of the next draft of the Strategic Plan, to be considered by Council at its away day on 03 and 04 October 2017.
3. Copies of the documents considered during the away day would be made available via SharePoint (SEN1718-020 to SEN1718-022).

## **13. REPORT FROM THE COLEG CYMRAEG CENEDLAETHOL**

RECEIVED

Report by the Chair of the AU Branch of the CCC (SEN1718-012)

NOTED

The report updated members on developments at the AU Branch of the CCC since the last meeting.

## **14. OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADJUDICATOR: ANNUAL LETTER**

RECEIVED

Report by the Academic Board, incorporating the Annual Letter for 2016 from the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) (SEN1718-013).

NOTED

1. The letter outlined AU's performance in dealing with complaints and appeals during 2016. The letter had been considered by the Academic Board at its meeting on 06 September 2017.
2. Members welcomed the letter as confirmation that the systems now in place at AU were leading to fewer cases being referred to the OIA.

## **15. ACADEMIC PRIZES AWARDED DURING 2016–17**

RECEIVED

Report by Karen Morgan, Administrative Assistant, AQRO (SEN1718-014).

NOTED

1. Several academic prizes had been awarded on behalf of Senate to AU students during the 2016–17 academic year, on the basis of pre-determined criteria.
2. Some inaccuracies had been identified in the report relating to prizes being reported under incorrect academic departments. A revised version of the report would be made available on SharePoint (SEN1718-023) (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

## **16. SENATE REPRESENTATION AND ELECTIONS**

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN1718-015).

NOTED

The report set out the outcomes of elections held since the last meeting of Senate to appoint new members and / or alternates to the academic governing body.

## **17. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN1718-016).

NOTED

1. The report detailed the instances since the last Senate meeting where:
  1. members had approved matters by correspondence; or
  2. the Vice-Chancellor had approved matters as Chair of Senate, in line with the provisions of Standing Orders.
2. The matter approved by Senate members via correspondence was:
  1. the removal of 'Senate Guidance' on Electronic Submission from published guidance from September 2017.
3. The matter approved by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Senate was:
  1. the appointment of Prof Neil Glasser an alternate Senate member to the Wilson Chair in International Politics Advisory Board.

## **18. SUMMARY CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

RECEIVED

Report by the Director of Planning (SEN1718-017).

NOTED

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

## **19. RESEARCH GRANTS**

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN1718-018).

NOTED

A number of research grants had been awarded to members of staff at AU since the last meeting of Senate.

## **20. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

RECEIVED

A composite report covering the following reports (SEN1718-019):

1. Academic Board (06 September 2017); and
2. Council (23 June 2017).

NOTED

3. The reports received from the committees.