



SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:00 on 13 NOVEMBER 2019, at the Main Hall, International Politics.

Voting members: Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Prof Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation); Prof Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences); Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience); Mr Simon Banham; Dr Cathryn Charnell-White; Dr Hazel Davey; Mr Prysor Davies; Dr Sarah Davies; Dr Rebecca Edwards; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Patrick Finney; Dr Sarah Higgins; Mr Tomos Ifan, UMCA President; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Dr Cerys Jones, Chair of AU Branch of the CCC; Dr Ffion Jones; Mr Chris Loftus; Dr Alex Mangold; Dr Louise Marshall; Prof Robert Meyrick; Mr David Moyle; Prof Eleri Pryse; Mr Dhan Ramnatsing, AberSU President; Prof Phillipp Schofield; Miss Chloe Wilkinson-Silk, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Dr Victoria Wright; and Prof Reyer Zwiggelaar, Head of the Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Dr Guy Baron; Prof Simon Cox; Prof Andrew Evans; and Dr Thomas Jansen.

In attendance: Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; and Ms Emma Williams, Academic Registrar.

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Tim Davies, Director of Information Services; Prof Iain Donnison; Prof Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Dr Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Prof Nigel Holt; Mr John Morgan; Dr Anoush Simon; and Dr Sarah Wydall.

14. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. Welcome

Heledd Davies was welcomed to the meeting following her appointment as a simultaneous interpreter at the University. Rhys Huws was thanked for his service to the institution as a freelance simultaneous interpreter over many years.

2. Briefing session

As requested by members at the last meeting, an informal briefing session on Transnational Education had been held for Senate members in advance of the formal meeting. A copy of the presentation would be made available via SharePoint for the benefit of those members not able to attend that session (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

15. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meetings held on 02 October 2019 (SEN1920-020).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, subject to a minor amendment so that Prof Ian Donnison is listed as a 'voting member' (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

17. 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 (SEN1920-021).

NOTED

The update provided in the decisions log.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

19. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor (SEN1920-022).

NOTED

1. The report consisted of two key parts: a highlight report; and a planning and student enrolment report.
2. Activity to prepare for the University's 150th anniversary in 2022 was now underway. Amongst the proposal was an intention to chart the institution's recent history (since the centenary in 1972) in 100 items. Academic departments would be approached in due course to seek their contributions towards this publication.
3. Members queried what preparations were being made to ensure that the University has a prominent presence at the National Eisteddfod when it is held in Ceredigion between 01 and 08 August 2020. The Vice-Chancellor would follow up on this with the Director of Welsh Language, Culture and External Engagement to ensure that all academic departments have appropriate input into the preparations (**ACTION:** Vice-Chancellor).
4. The figures in the planning and student enrolment update of the Vice-Chancellor's report did not include part time postgraduate students. Some departments recruited most of their postgraduate students on a part time basis, and members therefore felt that the figures in the report did not present an accurate picture. This would be reviewed for future iterations of this report (**ACTION:** Head of Planning).

20. ACADEMIC BOARD

1. Quality Assurance Statements

NOTED

1. The Quality Assurance Framework for Wales places an emphasis on the role of governing bodies for providing assurances about quality and standards matters. Council was therefore required to agree and submit an Annual Quality Assurance Statements to HEFCW during December 2019.
2. Council would be requested to agree the Quality Assurance Statements based on a detailed report produced by the Academic Registry. The timing of meetings this year were such that had not been possible to draft this report in time for advance circulation to Senate. Members were therefore invited to consider the report by correspondence, prior to its submission to Council.

2. Welsh-medium Academic Strategy

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), incorporating a draft Welsh-medium Academic Strategy 2019–23 (SEN1920-023).

NOTED

1. The draft Welsh-medium Academic Strategy had been produced to recognise the essential importance of the University's commitment to the development of Welsh-medium academic provision at the institution. It drew on similar documents, and had been the subject of consultation with various stakeholders, albeit in different forms.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the Welsh-medium Academic Strategy (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences)).

21. RESEARCH COMMITTEE

1. Research and Innovation Strategy

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation), incorporating a draft Research and Innovation Strategy 2019–24 (SEN1920-024).

NOTED

1. A new Research and Innovation Strategy had been developed, and had been subject to consultation with key stakeholders, including the Senate at its away day on 02 October 2019. Designed to complement the institution's Strategic Plan 2018–23, the draft Strategy identified five principles to improve the research culture at the University.
2. Members discussed the contents of the draft Strategy and accompanying Action Plan in detail. In doing so, the need to free up more time to enable academic staff

to undertake research was identified, as well as providing more staff development opportunities in relation to research at all stages of careers.

3. It was acknowledged that steps should be taken to reduce administrative burden as much as possible, and that such steps should include reducing the number of schemes offered at the University – including those schemes which had not recruited for a few years. However, it was equally recognised that reducing the number of schemes would not necessarily reduce the number of modules offered, since the content of some schemes could be similar at times.
4. The latest iteration of the draft Strategy had been considered by the University Executive the previous day, where members had suggested minor amendments prior to the Strategy being presented to Council. The proposed revisions included removing a proposal to have a Director of Research role in each academic department, so as not to reintroduce complex structures. This was discussed by members, who agreed that an alternative approach should be identified.

RESOLVED

5. To recommend that Council approves the Research and Innovation Strategy 2019–24, subject to minor revisions to reflect the feedback provided by Senate members (**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation)).

22. NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTHCARE PROVISION

RECEIVED

Report by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); and the Senior Projects Officer (SEN1920-025).

NOTED

1. As part of its civic mission, the University was seeking to find ways to support the healthcare needs of mid Wales by providing opportunities for quality training and education, and providing support for career development. In this context, the University was looking to work with the local health boards to develop education provision at Aberystwyth, as well as supporting the delivery of medical education with the local health boards and other universities.
2. The report provided an update on developments to date, and was discussed in detail by members. Senate welcomed the proposal that a BSc Nursing and Allied Healthcare provision be offered at the University by September 2022, and the steps now being taken to appoint an individual to further develop this proposal.

RESOLVED

3. To endorse the proposal as set out in the report.

23. NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY AWARDS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN1920-026).

NOTED

1. On 25 October 2019, the Honorary Awards Group had met to consider nominations for Honorary Awards of the University. The report outlined the Committee's recommendations for the conferral of Honorary Awards.

RESOLVED

2. To recommend that Council approves the proposed nominations for Honorary Awards (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

24. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Report from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (SEN1920-027);
2. Research Grants (SEN1920-028); and
3. Summary Corporate Risk Register (SEN1920-029).

NOTED

4. The contents of the reports presented for information.

25. COMMITTEE MINUTES

RECEIVED

A report comprising the following (SEN1920-030):

1. Council (11 October 2019).

NOTED

2. The reports received from the committees.