

## SENATE

**Minutes of the meeting held at 14:00 on 24 JUNE 2020, via Microsoft Teams.**

Voting members: Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Dr Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Prof Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation); Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience); Dr Cathryn Charnell-White; Dr Hazel Davey; Mr Prysor Davies; Dr Sarah Davies; Prof Iain Donnison; Dr Rebecca Edwards; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Patrick Finney; Dr Sarah Higgins; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Mr Penri James, Chair of AU Branch of the CCC; Mr Chris Loftus; Dr Alex Mangold; Dr Louise Marshall; Prof Robert Meyrick; Mr John Morgan; Mr David Moyle; Prof Phillipp Schofield; Dr Anoush Simon; Miss Chloe Wilkinson-Silk, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Dr Victoria Wright; and Prof Reyer Zwiggelaar, Head of the Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Prof Simon Cox; Dr Andrew Davies; Prof Emyr Lewis; and Prof Andrew Thomas.

In attendance: Mr Tim Davies, Director of Information Services; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; and Ms Emma Williams, Academic Registrar.

Apologies for absence had been received from Prof Simon Banham; Dr Guy Baron; Prof Andrew Evans; Prof Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Prof Nigel Holt; Dr Thomas Jansen; Dr Ffion Jones; Prof Eleri Pryse; Prof Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences); and Dr Sarah Wydall.

### 43. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

#### 1. Condolences

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

#### 2. Briefing session

An informal briefing session on the institutional response to the Covid-19 pandemic – including the implications to teaching, learning, research, and finances – had been held for Senate members in advance of the formal meeting.

### 44. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

**45. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meetings held on 01 April 2020 (SEN1920-060).

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record, subject to minor amendments to the list of those present at the meeting (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

**46. 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 (SEN1920-061).

NOTED

The updates provided in the decisions log.

**47. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN1920-062).

NOTED

1. The report detailed an instance since the last Senate meeting where a matter had been approved by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Senate.
2. The matter approved by the Vice-Chancellor related to additional amendments to regulations in response to Covid-19. A copy of the further amendments proposed had been circulated to Senate members for information prior to their approval by the Vice-Chancellor.

**48. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

**49. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

RECEIVED

Report by the Vice-Chancellor (SEN1920-063).

NOTED

1. The report consisted of three key parts: a highlight report; a planning and student enrolment report; 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. The Westminster Department of Education's Minister for Universities, Michelle Donelan MP, had announced the previous day that students from the European Union (excluding the Republic of Ireland) would be classed as international students from September 2021 in England. Wales was likely to follow suit. September 2020 was therefore the last opportunity for such students to be eligible for the same £9k fee charged to Home students.
4. Members congratulated colleagues who had been successful in recent processes to appoint Chairs and Heads of Departments. It was clarified that the report had incorrectly omitted Prof Simon Banham's new title following his promotion to a Chair as part of his appointment as Head of Department.

## 50. REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC BOARD

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick (SEN1920-064).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the main items discussed during the Academic Board meetings held on 09 June 2020. The report was discussed in detail by Senate members.
2. Degree Outcomes Statement

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick, incorporating the draft Degree Outcome Statement (SEN1920-065).

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 sent to the Senate External Reviewer for comment, and subsequently discussed at Academic Board on 05 March and 09 June 2020.

**RESOLVED**

3. To recommend that Council approves the Degree Outcome Statement for publication (**ACTION:** University Secretary).
3. Office of the Independent Adjudicator Annual Statement

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick, incorporating the Annual Statement for 2019 (SEN1920-066).

NOTED

The Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA) had now published its Annual Statements to higher education providers for the calendar year ended 31 December 2019. A copy of the University's Annual Statement was appended to the report, and would be presented to Council for information.

4. Degree Regulations and Conventions

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick (SEN1920-067).

NOTED

1. At its meeting on 09 June 2020, the Academic Board had recommended that Senate agree revisions to the Degree Regulations and Conventions to include two new schemes which had recently been approved by the University Executive and the standing Scheme Approval Panel.

**RESOLVED**

2. To approve the revision of the Degree Regulations and Conventions to include the Executive Master of Business Administration in Management, and the Executive Master of Management in Management schemes (**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick).

**51. REPORT FROM THE COLLABORATIVE PROVISION BOARD**

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Judith Shepherd (SEN1920-068).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the main items discussed during the Collaborative Provision Board meeting held on 08 June 2020. The report was discussed by Senate members.
2. Annual Report on Collaborative Partnerships

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Judith Shepherd (SEN1920-069).

NOTED

1. The Annual Report set out the status of current partnerships between the University and other providers, those partnerships which had been ceased during the previous year, and those which were currently under development. The Report also provided an overview of the Global Opportunities remit following the restructure of the Marketing and Recruitment functions in 2019.

2. The report was welcomed by members, and a copy would be submitted to the next Council meeting for information.

**52. REPORT FROM THE RECRUITMENT AND MARKETING BOARD**

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Sarah Whitehead (SEN1920-070).

NOTED

The report summarised the main items discussed during the Recruitment and Marketing Board meetings held on 10 June 2020. The report was discussed by Senate members.

**53. REPORT FROM THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

RECEIVED

Report by the Research Impact Team (SEN1920-071).

NOTED

1. The report summarised the main items discussed during the Research Committee meetings held on 01 June 2020. The report was discussed by Senate members.

2. Research Due Diligence requirements

RECEIVED

Report by the Global Challenges Research Fund Institutional Strategy Officer (SEN1920-072).

NOTED

On 21 April 2020, the University Executive had approved a new Policy which set out the due diligence to be undertaken by the institution on overseas organisations involved in research projects. The scope of the policy, the processes for undertaking checks, and potential mitigating actions where required, were set out in the report.

**54. REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**

1. Annual Report on Research Ethics

RECEIVED

Report by the Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (SEN1920-073).

NOTED

1. The Annual Report related to the 2018–19 academic year, and built on the interim report developed in March 2019. The current iteration included updated research ethics application figures which had not been included in the previous report.

2. The report relating to the 2019–20 academic year would be produced during autumn 2020 and, in future, would cover whole reporting periods.

## 55. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

### 1. Outcome of Senate self-effectiveness questionnaire

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN1920-074).

NOTED

1. Between 29 April and 15 May 2020, Senate members had been invited to complete a questionnaire to provide constructive feedback on the academic 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. Some of the responses highlighted a perception that Senate did not sufficiently address research matters. It was acknowledged that academic governing bodies are typically focussed on learning and teaching matters due to regulatory requirements. However, the steps taken recently to make reports from the Research Committee more prominent on Senate agendas would hopefully help address any imbalance.

**RESOLVED**

3. That, in future, members be invited to submit any detailed questions in advance of Senate meetings to enable Executive leads to prepare more comprehensive responses for discussion (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

### 2. Revisions to governing documents

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN1920-075).

NOTED

1. The University Secretary traditionally reviews the institution's governing documents and Standing Orders each spring, with Senate invited to review any proposed revisions which relate to academic matters, prior to these revisions being considered by Council.
2. As a result of the review undertaken, revisions were being proposed to Ordinance 11 (The Council: Senate Members) to extend the term of office of Senate members on Council to four years.

**RESOLVED**

3. To recommend that Council approves the proposed revisions to Ordinance 11; with the revisions to come into force on 01 August 2020 (**ACTION:** University Secretary).

## 56. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Report from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (SEN1920-076);
2. Summary Corporate Risk Register (SEN1920-077).

NOTED

3. The contents of the reports presented for information.

## **57. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

RECEIVED

A report comprising the following (SEN1920-078):

1. Academic Board (09 June 2020);
2. Recruitment and Marketing Board (10 June 2020);
3. Collaborative Provision Board (30 April, and 08 June 2020);
4. Research Committee (01 June 2020); and
5. Council (27 April 2020).

NOTED

6. The reports received from the committees.