



SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:15 on 12 JUNE 2024, in the Main Hall, International Politics Building.

Voting members: Professor Jon Timmis, Vice-Chancellor; Dr Otar Akanyeti; Dr Stephen Atherton; Mr Tom Bates; Dr Hanna Binks; Mr Paul Croft; Professor Hazel Davey; Dr Sarah Davies; Professor Iain Donnison; Professor Andrew Evans; Dr Patrick Finney; Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of AU Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Professor Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Professor Angela Hatton, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation); Professor Mererid Hopwood; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Professor Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Dr Ffion Jones; Dr Alex Mangold; Professor Louise Marshall; Dr Julie Mathias; Ms Jen Phipps; Dr Alexander Pitchford; Professor Phillipp Schofield; Miss Anna Simpkins, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience). Mr Bayanda Vundamina, SU President. Miss Elain Gwynedd, UMCA President;

Non-voting members: Professor Iain Barber; Professor Nigel Copner; Professor Simon Cox; Professor Nigel Holt; Dr Thomas Jansen; Professor Emyr Lewis; Professor Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence and Impact; Dr Anoush Simon; Dr Steve Thompson; Dr Lucy Trotter and Professor Catrin Webster

In attendance: Mr Tim Davies, Head of Information Services; Dr Gwawr Taylor, University Secretary; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Mr Ian Munton, Director of Student Services; Mr Daniel Taylor; Dr Gethin Rhys, Interim Academic Registrar; Mr Will Parker, incoming AberSU Academic Affairs Officer.

Apologies for absence had been received from Ms Jackie Sayce; Dr Kim Knowles; Professor Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences).

41. WELCOME

Daniel Taylor of IGG, in attendance as part of the external Governance Review, and Professor Nigel Copner, as non-voting Head of Department, both attending their first meeting of Senate.

42. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

43. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2024 (SEN2223-048).

RESOLVED

1. That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.
2. To record the apologies for absence from Professor Qiang Chen.

44. 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 (SEN2324-050).

45. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Vice-Chancellor's Report (SEN2324-051)

NOTED

1. The report consisted of three key parts: a highlight report; a planning and student recruitment report; and a communications report.
2. The preparation for the Learning and Teaching conference in September 2024.
3. The continued work on the Transformation Project, and the development of a new University Strategy through staff consultation workshops.

46. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

1. Report by Lisa Fisher, Research Ethics and Integrity Officer (SEN2324-052)

NOTED

2. The on-going discussion regarding research contract type transitions.

47. ACADEMIC BOARD

47.1 Report from Academic Board

RECEIVED

1. Report by Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (SEN2324-053).

NOTED

3. The OIA's published statement for Aberystwyth University, with case numbers remaining below the average figures for the band.
4. The updated Degree Outcomes Statement with updated data for 2022/23. The proportion of good honours were at a similar level to that seen before the pandemic.
5. A draft Learning and Teaching Strategy had been circulated for discussion.
6. The review of academic regulations in relation to time limits to clarify time limits for undergraduate degrees.

RESOLVED:

7. To approve the revised regulations in relation to time limits. [**Action:** Interim Academic Registrar to update Academic Quality Handbook.]

47.2 Proposed Fit to Sit Policy

RECEIVED

1. Report from Dr Gethin Rhys, Interim Academic Registrar (SEN2324-053)

NOTED

3. The proposals, to replace existing special circumstances processes with a 'Fit to Sit' policy, and the update in response to Senate feedback.
4. The proposed deferral of 'Fit to Sit' until September 2025 to allow for systems development.
5. The 'Window of Opportunity' would be removed for students starting Part Two from September 2024, and for PGT students starting from September 2024.
6. The proposal to replace the existing coursework extensions policy with an automated process, removing the need for individual decisions with restrictions on the number and duration of extensions.
7. The practical challenges relating to certain types of assessment, and the possibility of a further restriction on summer resits to address concerns about student performance and marking workload. These would need to be considered by the implementation group.

RESOLVED

8. To support the introduction of a 'Fit to Sit' policy from September 2025 and the removal of the Window of Opportunity for postgraduates and students entering Part Two from September 2024, subject to further consideration of Senate feedback by the implementation group, and final approval by Senate ahead of September 2024.

47.3 Dates of Term 2026-27

RECEIVED

Report from Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (SEN2324-055)

NOTED

1. The proposed dates which would follow the structure of previous years.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the Dates of Term for 2026-27. [**ACTION:** Academic Registry to update the Dates of Term online.]

47.4 AberSU Annual Report to Senate

RECEIVED

Report from Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrar (SEN2324-056)

NOTED

The reflections and recommendations of the report, which would be considered in further detail by the Academic Board, to include the operation of Unacceptable Academic Practice panels.

48. RECRUITMENT AND MARKETING ADMISSIONS BOARD

RECEIVED

Report from Kylie Evans, Head of Admissions Operations (SEN2324-057)

NOTED

1. The ongoing analysis of Widening Participation performance.
2. The forthcoming circulation of Clearing advice to the Faculties.

49. FACULTY STRUCTURES

49.1 Progress report from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

RECEIVED

Report from Professor Anwen Jones, Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor (SEN2324-058)

NOTED

The progress report on the operation of the School of Languages and Literature within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, previously requested by Senate.

The positive results to date following the establishment of the School in October 2023, and the measures taken to safeguard departmental identities, and to promote the Welsh language.

49.2 Change of Faculty Structures

RECEIVED

Report from Professor Jon Timmis, Vice-Chancellor (SEN2324-059)

NOTED

1. The proposal to move from the existing three Faculties to two new Faculties, one broadly aligned to Arts and Social Sciences, and the other Sciences.
2. The significant financial challenges facing the University, the need to examine academic structures as part of a transformation programme, and the aim of ensuring greater consistency and efficiency.
3. The constructive discussions held between the Vice-Chancellor and Senate representatives.
4. Final decision to move to two Faculties would be referred to Council, with changes to Ordinance 21 and the naming of the Faculties to be considered by Senate in November 2024, for subsequent approval by Council.
5. The proposed introduction of the new faculties by January 2025, and the need for careful planning of any changes to support structures.

RECOMMENDED

6. To Council that the University works towards a two-Faculty structure by January 2025. [ACTION: University Secretary]

50. ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY BRANCH OF COLEG CYMRAEG CENEDLAETHOL

RECEIVED

A report from Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of the Branch (SEN2324-060)

51. RESEARCH GRANTS

RECEIVED

A report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation) (SEN2324-061)

NOTED

The Research Grants awarded since the last meeting of Senate.

52. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

RECEIVED: Minutes from the following committees (SEN2324-062):

1. Research and Innovation Committee (28 May 2024)
2. Academic Board (5 June 2024)
3. Recruitment, Marketing and Admissions Board (29 May 2024)
4. Collaborative Provision Board (4 March 2024)
5. Council (12 March 2024 and 26 April 2024)

53. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, MEETING REVIEW, AND FUTURE BUSINESS.

Farwell

Senate extended its thanks to Professor Tim Woods, attending his final meeting of Senate as Pro Vice-Chancellor, and to Ms Anna Simpkins, attending her final meeting of Senate as SU Academic Affairs Officer.

Senate nominees on Council

The nomination of Senate members to attend Council would take place ahead of the 2024/25 session.

HGRh 4 July 2024