

Joint Meeting of the Councils

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the virtual meeting held at 4.00 p.m. on Thursday 24 November 2022 via Zoom

Present:

Venerable Randolph Thomas (Chair)
Justin Albert
Siwan Davies
Taya Gibbons
Professor Medwin Hughes
Uzo Iwobi
Rowland Jones
Arwel Ellis Owen
Matthew Peake
Victoria Provis

Dr Conny Matera Rogers
Dr Stuart Robb
Geraint Roberts
Nigel Roberts
Dr Liz Siberry
Emlyn Schiavone
Dr Peter Spring
Maria Stedman
Dr Kerry Tudor
Deris Williams

In attendance:

Sarah Clark, Clerk to Council
Professor Elena Rodriguez-Falcon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Dylan Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Mirjam Plantinga, Pro Vice-Chancellor
Steve Baldwin, Director of Resources and Business Planning
Gavin Bessant, Director of Financial Services (via Teams)

Jane O'Rourke, Executive Director of Human Resources
Iestyn Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor (for item 22.55)
Rebecca Doswell, Head of Policy and Planning
Catrin Beard (Translator)
Margaret Williams (Secretary)

The meeting was preceded by a short refresher session by Claire Godden, Policy and Planning Officer, on using the KPI dashboard.

Minute Number	Main discussion points	Action/decision
22.51 Apologies for absence and welcome	<p>Apologies for absence were RECEIVED from Vanessa Liverpool and Dr Andrew Cornish.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Professor Elena Rodriguez-Falcon to her first meeting</p>	
22.52 Declarations of interest	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in the Clerk's report (JCO167).</p>	
22.53 Chair's Report	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Chair's report (JCO168).</p> <p>The Chair reported that the Vice-Chancellor had written to confirm his intention to retire at the end of the current academic year. The Chair had acknowledged the letter and thanked him for his enormous contribution. The process to recruit a new Vice-Chancellor would now commence and, in accordance with Ordinance, proposals for the establishment of an Appointment Committee would be made. Members AGREED that the Executive Director of Human Resources could commence the process of identifying recruitment consultants.</p> <p>The Vice-Chair of UW provided an update on the recent CUC plenary which he had attended on behalf of the Chair. The conference had discussed the challenges facing HE for the next ten years, including the impact of significant increases in international students on the sector and the risk of dependency on certain countries.</p> <p>The Chair reported that ChUW was scheduled to meet the Minister on 30 November. Items for discussion included the cost of living crisis on staff and students, and the establishment of the new TERC.</p> <p>The Councils APPROVED the appointment of Nia Morgan as a co-opted member of ARC from 1 January 2023 to 31 July 2026.</p>	
22.54 Vice-Chancellor's report	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Vice-Chancellor's report, which covered a range of areas (JCO169).</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor referred to the developments with the National Library of Wales and reported that officers were preparing a development plan which would be finalised for the new year. It was proposed that a formal launch would be arranged in February/March 2023.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor reported that he had instigated several modelling reviews to focus on planning assumptions for future sustainable growth and future-proofing. He noted the shift in demographics and the significant growth over the next ten years in 18-year-old students seeking HE. The Senior Directorate was working on enhancing the offer for 18-year-olds, strengthening the "missing middle" portfolio, enhancing PG and international programmes, development of the confederal / vocational model and adult education. The DVC (Academic) had</p>	

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	<p>commenced a review of the academic portfolio. It was proposed to bring recommendations for the Councils' consideration at the appropriate time.</p> <p>The EDHR updated members on the effect of the current strike by UCU members and noted that at the current time the impact was low.</p>	
<p>22.55 Confederal structure</p>	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the update report on the confederal structure (JCO170).</p> <p>The report provided an overview of the steps taken to realise the structure and in particular the development of the network of Technical University Institutes. The financial and human resource implications for the establishment of the new structure were within the agreed budget allocation.</p> <p>Members sought clarification of the reporting process of the various committees established in relation to the confederal structure. The Clerk confirmed that the Deed established between the UW and the FE institutions established two committees – a Confederal Management Committee of the Principals, reporting to a Confederal Governance Committee of the Chairs. The intention was to present reports from the Confederal Governance Committee to the Councils and to the FE Boards respectively.</p> <p>The PVC reported that discussions with colleges in North Wales were progressing in a positive way and that members of those Colleges were involved in a Curriculum and Quality Group that had been established by the Confederal Management Committee.</p>	
<p>22.56 Determination of risk appetite</p>	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED and APPROVED the recommendations of officers in regard to the risk appetite to be adopted for 2022/23 (JCO171).</p>	
<p>22.57 Risk management</p>	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the Corporate Risk Register (JCO172). The Risk Register had been updated in consultation with strategic led risk owners and had been considered at the ARC in October 2022.</p> <p>The Councils APPROVED ARC's recommendation that Risks 9 and 10 (relating to senior management and Council respectively) be adjusted to ensure that impending leadership changes were appropriately reflected, together with the addition of risks relating to the confederal structure and student well-being.</p>	
<p>22.58</p>	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the report of the Nominations and Governance Committee meeting held on 7 November 2022 (JCO173).</p>	

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Nominations and Governance report	<p>The Councils APPROVED the recommendation of NGC that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Governance Effectiveness Review (GER), covering both Councils, be undertaken in spring 2023 with a final report being presented to Councils in July 2023. • An external consultant be appointed to lead the GER. • The focus of the GER be on culture, behaviours and impact. • The boards of appropriate subsidiary companies be asked to complete self-effectiveness and skills assessments in the next 12 months. <p>The Councils APPROVED the recommendation of NGC that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timothy J Llewelyn be appointed as an independent member of the UW and UWTSD Councils with effect from 1 January 2023. • Timothy J Llewelyn be appointed as a member of the Resources and Performance Committee from January 2023 to July 2025. 	
22.59 Chair-designate of Council	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the recommendation of NGC in respect of the role description for the appointment of a Chair-designate of Council (JCO174).</p> <p>Following discussion and a vote, the Councils AGREED that confidence in speaking Welsh would be an essential criterion for appointment and APPROVED the role description.</p> <p>Noting that under Ordinance the appointment process was a matter for NGC to determine, the Councils RECEIVED a report from the NGC Chair on the arrangements being made.</p>	
22.60 Development and retention plan	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the recommendation of NGC in respect of the proposed development and retention plan (JCO175).</p> <p>The Councils noted that the plan had been prepared by the Clerk following progress with the Advance HE work to support the sector in this area following the Camm review. The plan was, in part, an articulation and formalisation of the arrangements already in place for Council members.</p> <p>The Councils APPROVED the development and retention plan, subject to the addition of a reference to stakeholders within the induction programme.</p>	
22.61 Meetings protocol	<p>The Councils APPROVED, on the recommendation of NGC, the revised protocol on the use of translation and hybrid meetings (JCO176).</p>	

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22.62 Camm progress report	The Councils RECEIVED the Camm action plan progress report (JCO177).	
22.63 Minutes of the last meeting	The Councils CONFIRMED the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 as an accurate record (JCO178).	
22.64 Action points	The Councils RECEIVED the updated table of action points (JCO179).	
22.65 Prevent Duty annual report	The Councils APPROVED the Prevent Duty Annual Report for 2021/22 which included the Prevent Risk Register and Prevent Action Plan as appendices (JCO180). Members noted that the draft Accountability Returns to HEFCW would be presented at the individual Council meetings.	
22.65 Committee annual reports	The Councils RECEIVED the annual reports 2021/22 of the following standing committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Committee (JCO181a) • Nominations and Governance Committee (JCO181b) • Resources and Performance Committee (JCO181c) 	
22.66 Declarations of interest	There were no additional declarations of interest reported during the meeting.	
22.67 Date and time of next meeting	The next meeting would be held on 26 January 2023.	

Meeting terminated 17.45 p.m.