

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Board of Directors

Tuesday, 25 June 2019

11.00 - 16.00

Aberystwyth University

Present:

Directors:

Dr Haydn E Edwards
William Callaway
Nia Elias
Professor Jerry Hunter
Gwilym Dyfri Jones
Dr Hefin Jones
Pedr ap Llwyd
Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan
Gareth Pierce

Observers:

Gethin Morgan (UCMC/NUS Wales)
Dr Cliona O'Neill, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)

Officers:

Dr Ioan Matthews, Chief Executive
Dr Dylan Phillips, Senior Academic Manager
Catherine Rees, Secretary
Dr Dafydd Trystan, Registrar
Dr Lowri Morgans, Further Education Manager (afternoon)
Nia Brown, Development Officer: Secretariat

In attendance:

Meirion Prys Jones, Chair, Appointments and Governance Standards Committee (until item 6)

Apologies:

Meri Huws
Llinos Roberts
Professor Hywel Thomas
Angharad Lloyd Williams

Item	Main points of discussion	Actions	Timescale
1. Welcome and introduction	<p>1.1 The chair welcomed everyone present at the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received for inclusion in the minutes. The Board sent good wishes to Professor Hywel Thomas who was absent due to illness.</p>		
2. Declarations of interest	<p>2.1 Members were reminded of the procedure by which they are asked to note on the attendance signature sheet any declarations of interest additional to those already noted in the Register of Interests.</p> <p>2.2 Gwilym Dyfri Jones declared an interest in the Initial Teacher Training discussions since he is employed by an organisation that operates as a teacher training centre.</p>		
3. To receive and consider the minutes of the 20 March 2019 meeting (Item 3)	<p>3.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 20 March 2019.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>3.2 It was reported that the actions identified in the minutes had either been completed or that the item appeared on the agenda.</p> <p>3.3 <u>Item 9.2 – Coleg Court Membership</u></p> <p>The Chief Executive reported that officers would seek legal advice from the Coleg's new solicitors on extending the Coleg Court's membership. A report will be provided at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Provide a report on the Coleg's membership after receiving legal advice</p>	<p>27 November 2019</p>

<p>(Item 6c)</p>	<p>following comments were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board skills matrix to include experience and qualifications • The committees need specific skills • The importance of diversity characteristics • Opportunities to hold a less formal discussion <p>5.4 It was noted that the Chair would hold meetings with individual directors and undertake an assessment of skills before the end of the summer.</p> <p>Vacancies on Coleg committees</p> <p>5.5 It was reported that arrangements were underway to identify suitable individuals for the vacancies on the Audit and Risk Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee.</p> <p>Minutes of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee</p> <p>5.6 The minutes of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee meeting held on 22 May 2019 were noted and accepted.</p> <p><i>At this point, Meirion Prys Jones left the meeting.</i></p>		
<p>6. Finance and General Purposes Committee</p> <p>(Item 7a)</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes</p> <p>6.1 The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10 April 2019 were noted and accepted.</p> <p>6.2 A summary of the main points arising from the 10 April 2019 meeting was given by the Chair, Pedr ap Llwyd.</p>		

	<p>2018/19 Budget</p> <p>6.3 Dr Dylan Phillips gave a verbal report on the Coleg's budget for 2018/19.</p> <p>6.4 He noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the books were now closed and that there were some minor variations to the original funding decisions • the variation by the External Auditors that incorporates the deficit in the Coleg's contributions in light of changes to the USS pension scheme. Every university will also face the same increase in their contributions. • The final accounts for 2018/19 will be presented to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 25 September 2019 and to the Board at its next meeting. 		
<p>(Item 7bii)</p>	<p>The Coleg's investment monitoring arrangements</p> <p>6.5 The Registrar gave a presentation on the possible arrangements for monitoring the Coleg's investments. Following a discussion, it was agreed to appoint a consultant to advise the Coleg on the management of its investments.</p> <p>6.6 It was reported that responsibility for the investment policy lay with the Finance and General Purposes Committee.</p>	<p>Appointment of investment consultant</p>	<p>Summer term</p>
<p>(Item 7bi)</p>	<p>Investment Policy</p> <p>6.7 The Coleg's investment policy was presented. Following a full discussion, it was agreed to amend some clauses to include environmental awareness and the requirement for the consultant to give a presentation on the investors to the Board each year.</p>	<p>DT to amend the policy</p>	<p>Immediately</p>

<p>(Item 8bii)</p>	<p>with the recommended amendments.</p> <p>The Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report</p> <p>7.6 An annual report by the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee was received.</p>		
<p>8. Academic Board</p> <p>(Item 9a)</p>	<p>Academic Board</p> <p>8.1 The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 8 May 2019 were noted and accepted.</p> <p>8.2 A summary of the main points of the 8 May 2019 meeting was given by the Dean, Dr Hefin Jones.</p> <p>Welsh-medium Provision</p> <p>8.3 There is a concern that universities are losing key Welsh-medium individuals. (For discussion by the Board at Item 13).</p> <p>National targets</p> <p>8.4 A full discussion had been held on national targets. (For discussion by the Board at Item 12).</p> <p>Students outside Wales</p> <p>8.5 The Dean reported on the initial recommendations to establish a network of students studying outside Wales. During the discussion on the recommendations, members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implications of the Seren Network for Wales • The impact of changing the fee system in England • The need to encourage students to return to Wales (perhaps through postgraduate scholarships) 	<p>The Coleg's position to be discussed as</p>	<p>July 2019</p>

<p>(Item 9bi)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coleg Resources • The need to agree on the Coleg's position <p>Review the Academic Board's terms of reference</p> <p>8.6 Following a discussion, members approved the recommendations to revise the Academic Board's terms of reference to implement the change before the next academic year.</p>	<p>part of the Strategic Plan</p>	
<p>9. Chief Executive's Report (Item 10)</p>	<p>9.1 The Chief Executive gave a verbal summary of the written report on recent activities that had been circulated in advance.</p> <p>Higher Education – monitoring arrangements</p> <p>9.2 The Funding Council had directed institutions to consult with the Coleg on Welsh-medium metrics. A set of institutional and national targets had been agreed for 2020/21 that are based on the percentage of Welsh speakers that could reasonably be expected to study an element of their course through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Policy context</p> <p>9.3 The Chief Executive reported on the publication of the Augur Review Report on post-18 education funding in England. The implications for student fee policy in Wales were discussed. A liaison meeting between the Coleg and the Funding Council's officers would be held on 3 July.</p> <p>Welsh Language Commissioner</p> <p>9.4 It was reported that the Welsh Language Commissioner's intention is to announce his vision for his period in post at</p>		

	<p>the National Eisteddfod this year.</p> <p>Initial Teacher Education (ITE)</p> <p>9.5 Changes made in this area for 2019/20 were noted. The Language Competency Certificate for Teachers developed by the Coleg will not continue, but the Coleg has received a request from the Welsh Government to ensure consistency nationally in terms of the training provided.</p> <p>9.6 A discussion was held on the implications of the fact that the low numbers following ITE courses through the medium of Welsh will not meet future workforce needs. It was recommended to put steps in place in the Strategic Plan to meet ITE numbers.</p> <p>Welsh as a Subject</p> <p>9.7 The Coleg had received an additional grant for activities involving Welsh as a Subject. At the Welsh Government's request, the Coleg has appointed an officer to promote Welsh as a Subject. Members discussed the changes to education in years 12 and 13 in some counties and the implications for linguistic provision.</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>9.8 Meetings had been held with the Chief Executives of a number of other bodies, including ColegauCymru and the National Centre for Learning Welsh; Assembly Members; and the Welsh Language Commissioner.</p> <p>Basque Country Link</p> <p>9.9 The Chief Executive reported on officers' visit to the Basque Country in March 2019 to learn about higher</p>	<p>Recommendation for the Strategic Plan</p>	<p>July 2019</p>
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	<p>discussion, if needed, before consulting formally on the Plan from mid-September to late October.</p> <p><i>At this point, Pedr ap Llwyd left the meeting.</i></p>		
<p>11. Targets and numbers (Item 12)</p>	<p>11.1 Dr Dylan Phillips presented a report establishing a new procedure for discussing and agreeing targets with universities for their fee plans from 2019/20.</p> <p>11.2 During the discussion, it was recommended to note in the metrics the number of fluent Welsh-medium students at each institution. The challenges at the various institutions were noted as well as the need to manage expectations.</p> <p><i>At this point, Professor Jerry Hunter left the meeting.</i></p>		
<p>12. Academic Planning (Item 13)</p>	<p>12.1 Dr Dylan Phillips presented a report on changes in Welsh-medium provision at the universities.</p> <p>12.2 The current situation in the sector was discussed, including added pressures on Welsh-medium staff; the challenges of maintaining provision; and the work undertaken to solve difficult situations.</p>		
<p>13. Further Education (Item 14)</p>	<p>Further Education Action Plan</p> <p>13.1 Members noted the Further Education and Apprenticeships Action Plan published by the Welsh Government in January 2019 and circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>13.2 Dr Lowri Morgans and Dr Dafydd Trystan gave a</p>		

	<p>presentation on developments in further education.</p> <p>13.3 It was noted that work was underway on developing the priority areas; student experience; resource commissioning; qualifications; and employers, but there is a need to identify medium-term staffing needs.</p> <p>13.4 Members discussed feedback from the Industry Dialogue Event, where there was a clear demand for apprenticeships from a wide range of stakeholders; and where work to increase awareness and understanding of the Coleg and its support for the sector was undertaken.</p> <p>Establishment of a standing committee for the post-16 sector</p> <p>13.5 Following a discussion, it was agreed in principle to establish a standing committee for the post-16 sector, to match the Coleg's Academic Board. It was agreed in principle to ask Meri Huws to chair the committee. The committee's name and its terms of reference would be presented to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Post-16 committee's terms of reference to the next Board</p>	<p>27 November 2019</p>
<p>14. Chair's Matters</p>	<p>Meetings</p> <p>14.1 The Chair noted that he and the Chief Executive had met the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University to discuss fees and the Seren network.</p> <p>14.2 He noted that he was arranging individual meetings with Directors during July.</p> <p>14.3 He noted that he had attended the meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Academic Board, the Audit and Risk Committee, and the</p>		

	<p>Appointments and Governance Standards Committee.</p> <p>Self-evaluation</p> <p>14.4 At the end of the afternoon, each member and officer present were given the opportunity to evaluate the meeting. Positive feedback was received about the quality and range of the Coleg's work, the sense of purposeful teamwork, and the supportive and comprehensive discussion.</p> <p>Associate Lecturers award evening</p> <p>14.2 Members noted the arrangements for the Associate Lecturers awards evening which would follow later that evening.</p>		
<p>15. Dates and locations of the next meetings</p>	<p>15.1 The dates of the next meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 November 2019, Carmarthen • 25 March 2020, Cardiff • 24 June 2020, Pontypridd <p>15.2 The simultaneous translators were thanked for their work.</p> <p>15.3 Aberystwyth University staff were thanked for their assistance in arranging the meeting.</p>		