

Academic Board of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol
Wednesday, 18 October 2017
Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University

Present:

Members (Coleg): Dr Hefin Jones (Chair and Dean), Dr Myfanwy Davies, Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Professor Eleri Pryse, Gwerfyl Roberts, Llŷr Roberts, Dr Prysor Williams

Members (Institutional): Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Dr Hywel Griffiths, Dr Gwawr Jones, Sioned Roberts, Daniel Tiplady, Sara Whittam, Dr Catrin Haf Williams

Members (Students): Laura Beth Davies

Members (ColegauCymru): Llinos Roberts

Officers: Dr Ioan Matthews (Chief Executive), Dr Dylan Phillips (Senior Academic Manager), Dr Gwennan Schiavone (Senior Academic Manager), Dr Dafydd Trystan (Registrar), Dr Lowri Morgans (Academic Planning Projects Manager), Nia Brown (Development Officer: Secretariat)

Apologies: Professor Siwan Davies, Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Professor Mererid Hopwood, Professor Carwyn Jones, Professor Lisa Lewis, Professor Emeritus Densil Morgan, Delyth Murphy, Dr Elin Royles, Carys Swain, Professor Enlli Thomas, Dylan Davies, Gwenllian Jones, Siôn Lewis, Lois Nash, Steffan Nicholas, Tomos Watson

Item	Main points of discussion	Action	Timeline
<p>1. Welcome and Opening Remarks</p>	<p>1.1. The Dean formally welcomed members to the meeting, including Dr Hywel Griffiths on behalf of Dr Elin Royles, and Dr Gwawr Jones on behalf of Professor Lisa Lewis.</p> <p>1.2. Dr Lowri Morgans was welcomed to her first meeting following her appointment as Academic Planning Projects Manager.</p> <p>1.3. Dr Prysor Williams was welcomed to his first meeting following the retirement of Professor Emeritus Deri Tomos.</p> <p>1.4. It was noted that Professor Siwan Davies (who is on sabbatical), Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones and</p>		

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	<p>Professor Gwynedd Parry were appointed for a further term.</p> <p>1.5. A verbal report was given on student representation on the Academic Board for the 2017/18 academic year. It was noted that the following had been appointed:</p> <p>1.6. Representatives for south-east universities – Gwenllian Jones, Cardiff University and Siôn Lewis, Cardiff Metropolitan University Representatives for south-west universities – Tomos Watson, Swansea University and Dylan Davies, University of Wales Trinity Saint David Representatives for north-west universities – Lois Nash, Aberystwyth University and Steffan Nicholas, Bangor University Postgraduate Representative – Laura Beth Davies, Cardiff University (second term) NUS Wales Officer – no name</p> <p>1.7. Adam Jones, Employer and Student Development Officer, was thanked for arranging the student induction day on 15 September 2017.</p> <p>1.8. Dr Dylan Foster Evans was congratulated on his appointment as Head of the School of Welsh at Cardiff University, following the retirement of Professor Sioned Davies.</p> <p>1.9. Professor Lisa Lewis was congratulated on being given a personal chair.</p> <p>1.10. Gwerfyl Roberts was congratulated on winning a Welsh Government More than Just Words Lifetime Achievement award.</p> <p>1.11. Sara Whittam, one of the Coleg-funded academic staff in the field of Medicine, was congratulated as a member of the Cardiff University Welsh Language Scholarship and Education Network, who won the Welsh Government More</p>		

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	than Just Words Innovation award for their work in preparing the bilingual workforce of the future.		
2. Apologies and declarations of interest	<p>2.1. Apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>2.2. Since only one student representative was present, a question was raised about whether the meeting was quorate. It was explained that the number of students present did not affect the quorum. It was also noted that a review of Coleg Governance was planned and that revised terms of reference would be prepared in due course.</p> <p>2.3. There were no declarations of interest to note.</p>		
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2017	3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.		
4. Update from the Chief Executive	<p>4.1. The Chief Executive gave an update on matters involving the Coleg. It was reported that the current discussions suggest that the Coleg's budget would be stable for the next three years. Consequently, the Coleg was modelling subject grants until 2020/21.</p> <p>4.2. Dr Gwennan Schiavone gave a verbal report on the development of the Language Competency Certificate for Teachers. The Coleg would submit evidence to the Welsh Government's consultation on aspects of Welsh-medium initial teacher training.</p> <p>4.3. Dr Gwennan Schiavone gave a further report on the Higher Education Work Welsh scheme. Every higher education institution is taking part in the scheme, which is funded by the National Centre for Learning Welsh.</p> <p>4.4. A report was given on the Coleg's response to the consultation on the new regulatory body for post-compulsory education and training (PCET) that would</p>		

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	replace the Funding Council and incorporate some of the functions of the Welsh Government.		
5. Review of the Coleg's activities	<p>5.1. The Chief Executive gave an update on the Coleg's response to the recommendations made in the report of the Task and Finish Group that considered the Coleg's activities, including an update on developments.</p> <p>5.2. It was noted that the Board of Directors' meeting on 19 September 2017 had discussed and agreed the initial response of managers to the report's recommendations.</p> <p>5.3. The report's main recommendations focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing – The review's recommendations will be reflected in the Marketing and Promotion Plan for 2018/19. • Coleg Governance – The Constitution Working Group has already met, chaired by Professor Iwan Davies, to review the Coleg's constitution and governance, including changes to its statutory committees and their terms of reference. • Extending the Coleg's role so that it has a more wide-ranging role as a national strategic body – A report on the current discussions was given, and a formal announcement is expected from the Cabinet Secretary before Christmas. <p>5.4. A number of the other recommendations are already in place or being dealt with, and a review of the undergraduate and masters scholarships will be undertaken during the next few months. It was agreed to place this on the agenda of the next meeting of the Academic Board.</p>	Place the review of scholarships on the agenda	7 February 2018

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6. Academic Planning (Items 6.1/6.2a/b/c)	<p>6.1. Dr Dylan Phillips gave an outline of the academic planning process, including the timetable for submitting the subject plans to the Academic Board.</p> <p>6.2. The Registrar presented the following subject plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography, Agriculture and the Environment • Sports Science • Business and Management <p>6.3. Following a full discussion, the plans were approved with minor amendments.</p> <p>6.4. Data about student linguistic fluency, as well as the consistency of such data, was discussed.</p> <p>6.5. It was noted that it had been announced on 17 October 2017 that the next round of the Teaching Excellence Framework would include three credit thresholds – at least 40 credits, 5 to 40 credits and fewer than 5 credits – when categorizing Welsh language provision. This is a new development that is consistent with the aspirations of the Academic Board.</p> <p>6.6. It was reported that the plans would be in place once approved, and it was foreseen that each plan would continue to be amended from time to time in light of developments. The panels will be part of that process, and any significant changes would be reported to the Academic Board.</p> <p>6.7. The Board noted recent decisions by the Coleg, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised arrangements for situations where lecturers funded through the Staffing Scheme leave before the end of the funding period. The Coleg will discuss offering a subject grant rather than filling a vacancy. • Categorization of Journalism as a category 2 subject. • Providing a subject grant for Healthcare Studies at Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. 	LM to amend the plans	November 2017

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7. Presentation by Bangor University	<p>7.1. Dr Myfanwy Davies and Dr Llion Jones gave a presentation on Bangor University's Teaching Excellence Framework and aspects that involve the Welsh language specifically.</p> <p>7.2. They were thanked for their presentation, which included impressive statistics about the employability of students who had studied through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>7.3. The Board noted the need to feed the statistics into the Coleg's communication materials.</p>	Communicate the data in promotion materials	2017/18
8. Academic Collaboration Committee (Items 7a/b)	<p>8.1. The Board noted the draft minutes of the Academic Collaboration Committee meeting of 11 May 2017, for information.</p> <p>8.2. Tony Platt's report on arrangements and documentation involving collaborative provision (modules) was received.</p> <p>8.3. Some comments regarding examination timetables were noted for the Committee's attention.</p> <p>8.4. The committee was authorised to approve the recommendations at its next meeting on 8 November 2017.</p>	Comments to the Committee	By 8 November 2017
9. Research and Publications (Item 8)	<p>9.1. The draft minutes of the Research and Publication Group meeting of 7 June 2017 were noted for information.</p> <p>9.2. It was reported that the future of the Research and Publication Group was being considered as part of the Coleg's Governance review.</p> <p>9.3. Professor Eleri Pryse, Chair of the Editorial Board of <i>Gwerddon</i>, encouraged contributions to the journal.</p>		
10. Student discussion paper (Item 9)	<p>10.1. The students' discussion paper on raising awareness of the work of Coleg branches within the universities was presented by Laura Beth Davies.</p> <p>10.2. Following a discussion, it was agreed that a student representative should be invited to the next meeting of the Branch Officers.</p>	Student representative to attend the Branch Officers' meeting	Next meeting of Branch Officers

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	<p>10.3. It was noted that the Dean would discuss the role of Branches with the Branch Officers on his annual tour this year.</p> <p>10.4. Students were reminded that they would need to decide on a topic and present a discussion paper to the next meeting on 7 February 2018.</p>	<p>Dean to discuss the role of Branches</p> <p>NB to remind the students</p>	<p>Annual tour</p> <p>By January 2018</p>
11. Matters arising	<p>11.1. <u>Item 8: Research Scholarships</u>. It was confirmed that a list of the research scholarships had been circulated to members.</p> <p>11.2. <u>Item 12.1: Widening Access and Participation</u>. No update was given on widening access and participation, as Delyth Murphy was not present. This will be an item at the next meeting.</p> <p>11.3. It was noted that the Coleg would invite Siôn Jones to give a presentation on his research into students from disadvantaged backgrounds and the implications for the Coleg's work.</p> <p>11.4. <u>Item 12.3: QAA</u>. It was reported that officers were still awaiting a date for a meeting with the QAA.</p> <p>11.5. The needs of assessment in the original language were discussed, and Swansea University agreed to share good practice. It was noted that the Dean should contact each institution about their practices.</p> <p>11.6. <u>Item 13.5 – the National Eisteddfod</u>. Everyone who was a part of the Coleg's presence at the National Eisteddfod were thanked for their contribution. It was reported that there would be a number of considerations for the Cardiff Eisteddfod in 2018. The Annual Lecture would be given by Professor Bill Jones.</p>	<p>Specific item</p> <p>The Dean to contact each institution</p>	<p>7 February 2018</p> <p>By 7 February 2018</p>
12. Any other business	<p>12.1. In considering student representation, the subject panels are encouraged to ensure student representation.</p>		

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	<p>12.2. In response to an enquiry about the way in which the Coleg invests, reference was made to the appropriate sections in the Annual Report.</p> <p>12.3. Nominations for the Eilir Hedd Morgan Award were encouraged.</p> <p>12.4. It was noted that the Dean had spoken at the biennial dinner of Cronfa Glyndŵr, who fund work in schools, where he spoke about the Coleg's work.</p> <p>12.5. It was noted that a letter was received from the Isle of Anglesey County Council about the numbers of Religious Education students, and the implications for the supply of subject teachers.</p>		
<p>13. Dates of the next meetings</p>	<p>13.1. The following dates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 February 2018, Swansea University • 2 May 2018, Cardiff Metropolitan University <p>13.2. Bangor University was thanked for the welcome and for hosting the meeting.</p>		