

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Academic Board
Wednesday, 8 May 2019
Cardiff University

Present:

Members (Coleg): Dr Hefin Jones (Chair and Dean), Professor Siwan Davies, Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Dr Awen Iorwerth, Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Delyth Murphy, Professor Eleri Pryse, Dr Euryng Roberts

Members (Institutional): Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Professor Mererid Hopwood, Dr Cerys Jones, Dr Jonathan Morris, Dr Paula Roberts, Dr Rhiannon Williams

Members (Student): Llion Carbis, Cerys Griffiths, Anna Wyn Jones, Cathrin Jones

Members (Further Education): Carys Swain

Officers: Dr Haydn E Edwards (Coleg Chair), Dr Ioan Matthews (Chief Executive), Dr Dylan Phillips (Senior Academic Manager), Dr Dafydd Trystan (Registrar), Mari Fflur (Academic Manager), Rhian Jones (Academic Manager), Dr Lowri Morgans (Academic Manager)

Present: Dr Huw Williams

Apologies: Nia Brown, Professor Lisa Lewis, Bryn Hughes Parry, Llŷr Roberts, Daniel Tiplady, Dr Catrin Haf Williams, Dr Prysor Williams, William Chidley, Rebecca Martin, Gethin Morgan

Item	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
1. Welcome and opening remarks	1.1 The sad news of the death of Julie Brake was reported. The Chair paid tribute to Julie, and the Academic Board extended its sympathy to her family and friends, and Glyndŵr University.		

	<p>1.2 Members were welcomed to the meeting, and particularly Dr Cerys Jones, Aberystwyth University, the new Chair of the branch, as well as Dr Jonathan Morris, Cardiff University, new chair of the branch, who were attending their first meeting.</p> <p>1.3 Dr Rhiannon Williams was welcomed to the meeting on behalf of Professor Lisa Lewis, University of South Wales, and Professor Mererid Hopwood on behalf of Dr Catrin Williams, from the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David.</p> <p>1.4 A special welcome and congratulations were extended to Dr Huw Williams, Cardiff University, on being appointed as Dean of the Welsh Language at the University.</p> <p>1.5 Members noted their appreciation for the contribution made by Dr Elin Royles as Chair of the Branch at Aberystwyth University and for her contribution to the Academic Board.</p>		
2. Apologies and declarations of interest	<p>2.1 Apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>2.2 There were no declarations of interest to note.</p>		
3. Presentation by Dr Huw Williams, Cardiff University	3.1 Dr Huw Williams gave a verbal presentation on his work as Dean at Cardiff University.		
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019	4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.		
5. Update from the Chief Executive	5.1 The Chief Executive gave a general update on developments. It was reported that the Coleg is aware of the challenges facing		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coleg officers' visit to the Basque Country, March 2019 	<p>universities and the Coleg had met with some to discuss specific situations.</p> <p>5.2 It was reported that Welsh-medium provision is being maintained, but there is concern that the universities are losing key people in specific situations. The Coleg will report on the situation to the Board of Directors.</p> <p>5.3 It was noted that the Welsh Government has given HEFCW direction, in the latest grant letter, that the institutional targets should be agreed by the Coleg and that this would focus on converting a percentage of the Welsh speakers at a university to Welsh-medium study rather than having a figure as the target.</p> <p>5.4 It was reported that an Associate Lecturer conference would be held in Aberystwyth on 26 June. It was noted that a panel had met to discuss Associate Lecturer awards. The shortlist has been agreed by an external panel that includes student representation. Details of the conference have been circulated in the Associate Lecturer newsletter.</p> <p>5.5 It was noted that the Welsh Government would announce over £100,000 for the Coleg to promote Welsh as a subject – at university Welsh departments, and for schools to maintain A Level provision.</p> <p>5.6 Dr Lowri Morgans was congratulated on her appointment as Further Education Academic Manager.</p> <p>5.7 It was noted that Gwenllian Owen had been appointed as Higher Education Academic Manager to start in July.</p>		
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	<p>5.8 It was reported that developments in Further Education had seen significant progress. The intention of establishing a Board / Committee to discuss the post-16 sector was discussed. Everyone was reminded of the 'pyramid' and the fact that we are targeting every learner in the post-16 sector.</p> <p>5.9 It was reported that the work of creating the Coleg's Strategic Plan had begun. The Academic Board and the Branches will have an opportunity to contribute to the consultation in the autumn, with the intention of having the plan in place by the end of the year.</p> <p>5.10 It was noted that discussions were ongoing about the Coleg's role in teacher training. It was noted that the Language Competency Certificate for Teachers would no longer be offered and that the universities would be expected to offer something similar.</p> <p>5.11 The Coleg's role in engaging with students beyond Wales was noted.</p> <p>5.12 It was reported that the Chief Executive had been to the Basque Country during the autumn term on a visit that focused on the post-16 sector. It was decided that Coleg officers should go on a similar visit to the Basque Country to learn more about developments in higher education there. Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones was thanked for arranging and co-ordinating the visit.</p> <p>5.13 Rhian Jones gave a presentation on the Coleg officers' visit to the Basque Country on 24-28 March 2019. It was noted that the</p>		
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	<p>Basque Country is in a similar situation to Wales in terms of geography and population. It was explained that the officers had learned about vocational training, and visited various universities, Basque language promotion organisations, research institutions, a newspaper and the Government's education department during the visit. It was noted that the next steps would be to establish a formal partnership with the University of the Basque Country, explore training opportunities, share good practice, research and mapping, consider Innovation Grant applications in light of the visit and create a database of global links (Welsh speakers and Celtic Studies departments). It was noted that the Basque Country teaches the sciences through the medium of Basque and had done so from the beginning. There has been no separation between the Humanities and Science subjects as we have had in Wales.</p> <p>5.14 A report on the research scholarships was given. A panel had been held in April. There were 19 applications altogether – 14 applications were recommended with two reserves. The universities have been informed about which ones have been awarded. Seven scholarships have a candidate and have been accepted, and a further seven do not yet have a candidate and are currently being advertised.</p>		
6. Discussion paper on strengthening the	6.1 The students' discussion paper was presented by Anna Wyn Jones. It was noted		

<p>Academic Board's student representation</p>	<p>that it was not possible to move forward to create a sabbatical officer within the Coleg's structure, as had been discussed at the last meeting.</p> <p>6.2 It was proposed that union Welsh language officers/Welsh-language student union presidents would represent students on the Coleg's Academic Board.</p> <p>6.3 It was noted that the student representation structure was in development and that the paper proposed a solution. The need to ensure the representation of students from all institutions on the Academic Board was noted.</p> <p>6.4 It was agreed to approve the paper and this structure as a way forward and to monitor the new procedure.</p> <p>6.5 It was agreed that the Coleg Dean would present a recommendation to amend the Academic Board's terms of reference, in line with the paper's recommendation, at the Board of Directors meeting on 25 June.</p> <p>6.6 It was noted that student representation would also need to be considered in full in developing suitable structures for the post-16 sector.</p> <p>6.7 The student representatives were thanked for their work and the papers they had submitted to the Academic Board this year.</p>	<p>Coleg Dean to present the paper and terms of reference to the Board of Directors</p> <p>DT/LM to consider this when developing the post-16 work</p>	<p>June 2019</p> <p>October 2019</p>
<p>7. National targets: update (verbal)</p>	<p>7.1 It was reported that HEFCW had asked the universities to hold a discussion with the Coleg about the institutional target before submitting it to HEFCW. A discussion had</p>		

	<p>been held with each institution about their targets.</p> <p>7.2 It was noted that a high number of students are leaving Wales to study and the demographic decline is presenting an additional challenge for universities in reaching the 5cr and 40cr targets.</p> <p>7.3 It was reported that the Coleg had moved towards a model of converting a percentage of the Welsh-speaking students at each university to Welsh-medium study. The Coleg had looked at the conversion rates for the previous three years and had raised the bar a little, resulting in the institutional targets agreed in the 2020/21 fee plans. The total targets are 5,930 to study 5 credits and 2,790 to study 40 credits.</p> <p>7.4 It was noted that targets by subjects had been set through the subject grants, and that those departments would need to look at increasing the conversion rates if these are low.</p>		
<p>8. Developing links with students studying outside Wales paper</p>	<p>8.1 To introduce the item, the Chief Executive noted that the Government were including the Seren Project in a piece of research on the impact of higher education policies in light of the Diamond recommendations.</p> <p>8.2 The Dean gave a report on his visits to universities on the other side of the border and the constructive discussions held with students at Oxford, Cambridge, London, universities and music colleges, representatives of Darogan and the Offa's Dyke Association.</p>		

	<p>8.3 The main findings from the visits were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How little the students knew about the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. • The students' enthusiasm for undertaking Welsh-medium activities e.g. conferences such as the health weekend at Glan-llyn, the Welsh Language Skills Certificate and a desire to establish a Welsh language society. • The students would welcome any information about Welsh-medium jobs. <p>8.4 Four recommendations were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a network of 'over the border' students. • Consider the possibility of extending the Welsh Language Skills Certificate to those students. • The Coleg to facilitate links for students over the border to receive career information etc. • Ensure a database of Welsh-medium academic staff. <p>8.5 It was agreed that the discussion should continue as the Coleg's Strategic Plan is developed.</p> <p>8.6 It was agreed that lines of communication should be established with students over the border and that they should be informed about any Welsh-medium opportunities that are appropriate for them.</p> <p>8.7 It was noted that the Coleg would be able to extend the Associate Lecturers scheme to include lecturers outside Wales as part of the scheme's next stage of development,</p>	<p>Officers to arrange and report to the Academic Board</p> <p>Officers to arrange and report to the Academic Board</p>	<p>Autumn term</p> <p>Autumn term</p>
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		including consultation with the Learned Society to strengthen this further.		
<p>9. Subject planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh language subject plan • Subject plan revision timescale 	<p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p>	<p>It was noted that the intention had been to present the Welsh language subject plan today, but due to the establishment of the Welsh language stakeholder group, which has created an action plan and has led to some new developments, it would be better to delay and present the plan in the autumn.</p> <p>As part of the action plan, which was discussed in a series of meetings chaired by the Chief Executive, it was reported that the Government had asked the Coleg to re-create the role of Welsh Language Subject Officer, which is currently being advertised. It was noted that Rhian Jones and Mared Jones had already undertaken significant work in order to implement some of the plans discussed in relation to the Welsh language.</p> <p>It was noted that work on reviewing the subject plans was proceeding in accordance with the timescales outlined in the paper.</p>		
<p>10. Presentation on resources commissioned by the Coleg, by Mari Fflur, Academic Manager</p>	<p>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p>	<p>Mari Fflur gave a presentation on resources commissioned by the Coleg.</p> <p>It was noted that the main projects were now being planned strategically, beginning with discussions at the subject panels about their needs, and working with them to prepare a specification in order to go out to public tender. The process of receiving and awarding tender applications, as well as monitoring their progress, was noted.</p>		

	<p>10.3 The Coleg's projects were shown, namely the Sociology Multimedia Resource Pack, <i>Cydymaith i Gerddoriaeth Cymru</i> [companion to Welsh music] and the <i>Esboniadur</i> [explainapedia].</p> <p>10.4 It was noted that issue 28 of <i>Gwerddon</i>, which includes the hundredth article that discusses the journal's establishment, was published in March this year. Members were encouraged to make contributions to the journal.</p> <p>10.5 A report was given on the resource work taking place in the post-16 sector. Members noted the end of the subject specialist project looking at eight priority areas to note the resources available and the gaps where new resources would need to be created. It was noted that around 70 new projects would be commissioned as a result of this project.</p>		
11. Research and Publications Committee	11.1 There was nothing to report, since the last meeting had been postponed.		
12. To receive, for information, an update on the Coleg's Marketing Strategy	12.1 The Marketing Strategy was noted.		
13. Matters arising from the minutes not already dealt with	13.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not already dealt with.		
14. Any other business	14.1 The Academic Board was asked to support the Aberystwyth University Branch in their discussions with UCAS in order to increase	CJ to send a copy of the Aberystwyth Branch's letter to the Coleg.	

	<p>the number of students choosing to communicate through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>14.2 Members noted the story that appeared in the news recently about the lack of Welsh-medium resources. It was reported that the Coleg is a member of the Government's Resources Group that is addressing the situation with regard to Welsh publications.</p> <p>14.3 The Branch Officers and staff who had arranged the Dean's tour this year were thanked for their work.</p> <p>14.4 The Dean thanked the Coleg staff and student representatives for their work.</p> <p>14.5 Since this was the last meeting of the academic year, the Dean wished Academic Board members well over the summer.</p>		
15. Dates and locations of the next meetings	<p>15.1 The following dates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 October 2019, Aberystwyth • 5 February 2020, Swansea • 13 May 2020, Bangor <p>15.2 Cardiff University were thanked for the welcome and for hosting the meeting.</p>		