

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Academic Board
Wednesday, 14 October 2015
Management Centre, Bangor University

Present:

Members (Coleg): Dr Hefin Jones (Chair and Dean), Dr Myfanwy Davies, Professor Siwan Davies (morning), Dr Mererid Hopwood, Professor Carwyn Jones, Delyth Murphy, Professor Eleri Pryse, Gwerfyl Roberts, Llŷr Roberts, Professor Deri Tomos

Members (Institution): Julie Brake, Gwawr Jones, Dr Elin Royles, Daniel Tiplady, Professor Enlli Thomas, Dr Catrin Haf Williams

Members (Students): Rhydian Birkinshaw, Poppy Evans, Aled Thomas

Members (Colegau Cymru): Llinos Roberts, Linda Wyn

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

Apologies: Jacob Ellis, Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Catrin Howells, Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Gwyndaf Lewis, Dr Lisa Lewis, Professor Densil Morgan, Carys Swain, Gaynor Williams

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
1. Welcome and Opening Remarks	1.1. The Dean formally welcomed members to the meeting. 1.2. Bangor University were thanked for hosting the meeting. 1.3. Dr Mererid Hopwood, Dr Elin Royles, Daniel Tiplady and Dr Catrin Haf Williams were welcomed to their first meeting. 1.4. A welcome was also extended to Gwawr Jones, South Wales University (standing in for Dr Lisa Lewis). 1.5. Rhydian Birkinshaw, Poppy Evans and Aled Thomas were welcomed as student representatives for 2015/16. 1.6. Thanks were expressed to those staff members responsible for the success of Coleg events at this year's		

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	<p>National Eisteddfod.</p> <p>1.7. The Chief Executive expressed his appreciation to the Dean for his support over the last few weeks and extended condolences on the death of his mother.</p>		
<p>2. Apologies and declarations of interest</p>	<p>2.1. Apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>2.2. The following declarations of interest were made in relation to issues on the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Llŷr Roberts – member of the National Eisteddfod Board of Management • Dr Elin Royles – member of the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University 		
<p>3. Report on the Coleg's future and budgetary situation</p>	<p>3.1. The Chief Executive and the Registrar gave an update on the current discussions regarding the Coleg's budgetary situation after 31 July 2017.</p> <p>3.2. Reported that there would be a reduction in the Coleg's budget during the next two years, but that this is not unexpected in the current financial context. The Coleg Directors discussed that matter on 22 and 23 September 2015 and a revised budget will be considered at their meeting on 25 November 2015.</p> <p>3.3. Reported that a number of savings would be identified within the budget for this academic year in order to safeguard other elements of the Coleg's work in the medium term, until the long-term financial situation becomes clearer. There is also an expectation that institutions will be responsible for maintaining the levels of Welsh-medium provision in those cases where the funding periods of posts by the Coleg come to an end.</p> <p>3.4. In view of the current challenges, it was agreed that good news regarding the Coleg's achievements should continue to be disseminated so as to assist with the</p>		

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	awareness raising campaign. Reported that the Coleg had plans in place to intensify this work.		
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2015	4.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record.		
5. Membership	5.1. Noted that the correct procedures had been followed to fill the gaps on the Academic Board and the current membership table of the board was received. 5.2. Noted that Llŷr Roberts was a joint lecturer between University of South Wales and Cardiff Metropolitan University. 5.3. Following a question raised by a member, the background to organising student representation on a regional basis was explained.	NB to amend the membership table	October 2015
6. Academic matters (BA/15/03/06)	6.1. The Chief Executive and the Registrar presented a report on academic planning work. 6.2. Reported that the Coleg was deferring some of the subject reviews outlined at the summer meeting until later on in the year. It will be more appropriate for them to be held when more information has been obtained about future funding levels. 6.3. Reported that a new Academic Plan will be drawn up and approved during the next two years. 6.4. Operational subject plans will be created, including information on provision for the post-16 sector. 6.5. Dr Gwennan Schiavone gave an oral report on the Politics subject review. She reported on the recommendations agreed by the review panel which met on 1 July 2015. Implementing the recommendations will be dependent on the Coleg budget. Noted that the Coleg cannot at present commit to providing grants in any area		

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	or subject for the post- 2016/17 period.		
7. Staffing Scheme	<p>7.1. Dr Dylan Phillips gave an oral report on the current situation regarding the Staffing Scheme.</p> <p>7.2. He reported that the last cycle of Staffing Scheme appointments started in post on 1 September 2015. The programme of appointments derived from Professor Robin Williams Report has now ended.</p> <p>7.3. Reported that some universities had already committed to fund some posts whose Coleg funding period ends in 2016.</p> <p>7.4. The situation in relation to individual posts can be sensitive, but it was important to keep in mind student needs, the needs of the public sector and of employers.</p> <p>7.5. Following a question raised by a student representative, and explanation was given of the latest situation regarding filling a Nursing post at Swansea University.</p>	DP to monitor the situation regarding the appointment of a Nursing lecturer	Autumn Term 2015
8. Alternative funding sources for the Coleg	<p>8.1. The Chief Executive gave an oral report on possible funding sources. He explained that the Funding Council was encouraging the Coleg to investigate the possibility of alternative funding sources. A discussion ensued on the practical considerations of making a bid for European funding.</p> <p>8.2. Following the discussion, reference was made to the agreement between the Coleg and the National Eisteddfod to co-ordinate the Science and Technology Pavilion for three years, commencing in Monmouthshire in 2016.</p>		
9. Academic Collaboration Committee	<p>9.1. The draft minutes of 16 September 2015 were noted for information, with a correction to item 5.3.</p> <p>9.2. Noted that the Coleg would be drawing up a summary report of the co-operative projects approved by the committee during 2014/15 in time for the next committee</p>		

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	meeting on 20 January 2016.		
10. Research Scholarships Scheme	<p>10.1. Dr Dylan Phillips gave a verbal update on the Coleg's Research Scholarships Scheme.</p> <p>10.2. Noted that the Coleg currently has 40 doctoral students and that there is no certainty that there would be opportunities for new applications this year.</p> <p>10.3. Following an enquiry by a member of the Academic Board regarding the use of Welsh outside school in the area of Sports, recommended that information be provided on the Dilyniant project and on Sgiliaith.</p>	Officers to provide CJ with Dilyniant information	October 2015
11. Review of Undergraduate Scholarships	<p>11.1. The Registrar gave a presentation on the review of Undergraduate Scholarships. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Government had given an assurance that the budget for the Scholarships would continue.</p> <p>11.2. The Coleg had commissioned the review following the recommendations of the Old Bell 3 report. This was carried out during the 2015 Summer term by Dylan Bryn Roberts, Gweriniaith. The review's recommendations had been discussed at the Coleg Consultative Group.</p> <p>11.3. The long-term recommendations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the Scholarships budget • Prioritise some Main Scholarship subjects, e.g., Health and Science <p>11.4. The medium-term recommendations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of Main Scholarships • Closing dates for the Incentive Scholarships <p>11.5. The following operational recommendations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An electronic form • Promote employability advantages • Use of technological channels to promote and publicise 		

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend to 'new' audiences. <p>11.6. The following items were discussed (i) should the number of Main Scholarships be reduced, (ii) should the awarding process be transferred to individual universities and (iii) are two closing dates necessary for the Incentive Scholarships? Recommended that two closing dates should be set for the Incentive Scholarships.</p>		
12. Presentation by Bangor University	12.1 Dr Llion Jones and Dr Lowri Hughes gave a presentation on the 'Seven Wonders of the Bangor Branch'. They were thanked for their presentation on the relationship between the branch, the university and the community.		
13. Research Strategy	<p>13.1 The draft minutes of the Research and Publication group meeting, held on 3 June 2015, were noted for information.</p> <p>13.2 The Board of Directors received the Research and Publication Strategy at their meeting on 17 June 2015.</p> <p>13.3 It was noted that the <i>Gwerddon</i> Prize has been awarded for the first time to Nia Blackwell for the best article during 2014. The prize is sponsored by the Learned Society of Wales.</p> <p>13.4 The Dean reported on a meeting with the University of Wales Press on 14 September 2015 to discuss issues relating to the relationship between the Coleg and the Press.</p>		
14. Widening access and participation	<p>14.1. The draft minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting held on 4 June 2015 were presented for information.</p> <p>14.2. Delyth Murphy, Chair of the committee, gave an update on the committee's work. Reported that the committee had no student representatives, and Aled Thomas volunteered to be a member.</p>	DM and AT to communicate	October 2015

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
<p>15. Mwy na Geiriau</p>	<p>15.1. The Chief Executive and the Registrar gave an oral report on 'Mwy na Geiriau'.</p> <p>15.2. Noted that discussions between the Coleg and the Government were ongoing to ensure that the Coleg's work in the field of Health accords with the Government's Health strategy.</p> <p>15.3. Also noted that the Coleg had proposed a method of action related to bilingual electronic resources for the Health Service.</p> <p>15.4. The Coleg officers and Gwerfyl Roberts were thanked for their leadership in this area.</p>		
<p>16. Welsh Standardisation Panel (BA/15/03/14)</p>	<p>16.1. Dr Gwennan Schiavone gave a report on developments in relation to the establishment of a Welsh Standardisation Panel.</p> <p>16.2. The panel had been established at the request of the Welsh Language Commissioner and a chair and panel members will be appointed in due course. The draft remit and discussion paper were received, for information.</p>		
<p>17. Students' discussion paper (BA/15/03/15)</p>	<p>17.1. Poppy Evans, on behalf of Jacob Ellis, gave a presentation on the students' discussion paper, 'Lack of lecturers in some areas'.</p> <p>17.2. Arising from concerns voiced in the paper and verbally, it was agreed that the Chairs of the Trinity Saint David, Cardiff University and Aberystwyth University branches should draw up brief reports in response to the students' requests.</p> <p>17.3. Arising further from the discussion, it was recommended that the Academic Board should prepare a good practice process and share resources relating to students with special needs. It would be possible to co-operate with</p>	<p>NB to co-ordinate responses</p>	<p>Autumn Term 2015</p>

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	<p>further education in this regard, bearing in mind their experience in this area.</p> <p>17.4. In addition, it was noted that the student forum could be fully utilised as a means of expressing opinions and establishing processes to gain information.</p> <p>17.5. Noted that a student training session would be held this year on 30 October 2015.</p> <p>17.6. Students were reminded that they would be expected to decide on a topic and to present a discussion paper to the next meeting on 3 February 2016.</p>	NB to remind students	By January 2016
18. Matters arising	<p>18.1. <u>Item 6: Modern Languages</u> A national co-ordinator has been appointed to lead on this collaborative activity.</p> <p>18.2 <u>Item 16.2: Coleg's relationship with the further education sector</u> Reported that discussions are continuing between the Coleg and the further education sector to find opportunities for collaborative working following the Coleg's Remit Letter from the Funding Council.</p> <p>18.3 <u>Item 16.3: Merêd Award</u> The Merêd Award was awarded at the National Eisteddfod in Meifod for the first time this year, to Trystan ap Owen. It was further noted that an additional award will be set up in memory of John Davies.</p> <p>18.4 <u>Item 16.4: Glyndŵr University</u> Noted that the Chief Executive had met the Vice-Chancellor of Glyndŵr University to discuss steps to strengthen the Coleg's relationship with Glyndŵr University.</p>		
19. AOB	19.1. Noted that Gwerfyl Roberts, with the Nursing Panel's support, had lodged a complaint with the Welsh		

Item	Main discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	<p>Language Commissioner regarding the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and that the Commissioner had published a report criticising the Council.</p> <p>19.2. Noted that the Swansea and Cardiff branches had met jointly to share comments and ideas.</p> <p>19.3. Noted that the Medical Society will hold a Welsh-medium conference in Cardiff on 24 and 25 October 2015.</p>		
20. Dates of next meetings	<p>20.1. The following dates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 February 2016, Swansea University • 11 May 2016, Cardiff 		