

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Board of Directors

Wednesday, 28 November 2018

11.00 - 14.50

Swansea University

Present:

Directors:

Professor Iwan Davies (in the chair)
William Callaway
Nia Elias
Professor Jerry Hunter
Gwilym Dyfri Jones
Dr Hefin Jones
Pedr ap Llwyd
Gareth Pierce
Llinos Roberts
Professor Hywel Thomas
Ieuan Wyn

Observers:

Dr Cliona O'Neill, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
Angharad Lloyd Williams (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai)

Officers:

Dr Ioan Matthews, Chief Executive
Dr Dylan Phillips, Senior Academic Manager
Catherine Rees, Secretary
Dr Dafydd Trystan, Registrar
Nia Brown, Development Officer: Secretariat

Apologies:

Dr Haydn E Edwards
Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan
Gethin Morgan (NUS Wales)
Gwyneth Sweatman (NUS Wales)

Item	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
1. Welcome and introduction	<p>1.1 Dr Hefin Jones, Dean of the Coleg, welcomed members to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received for inclusion in the minutes.</p> <p>1.3 The Board's best wishes were sent to Dr Haydn Edwards and his spouse, who had both had surgery recently.</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 Item 12 – Initial Teacher Training, since he is employed by an institution operating as a teacher training centre.</p> <p>At this point, Professor Iwan Davies arrived to chair the meeting.</p>		
3. Appointments and Governance Standards Committee (Items 6 A/B) CONFIDENTIAL	<p>Minutes of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee</p> <p>3.1 The minutes of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee meetings held on 12 October and 6 November 2018 were noted and received.</p> <p>3.2 Following the Directors' Evaluation Report, a question was asked about facilitating the engagement between the Directors and Court members. Directors were reminded</p>		

	<p>that they would be welcome to network with members following the meeting of the Court.</p> <p>Appointment of Directors</p> <p>3.3 Following a presentation by the Secretary on the Appointment and Governance Standards Committee's recommendation, the following appointments to the Coleg's Board of Directors were discussed and approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gareth Pierce and Nia Elias from 28 November 2018 to fill two vacancies • Angharad Lloyd Williams from 1 March 2019 at the end of Professor Iwan Davies' period • Meri Huws from 1 April 2019 at the end of Ieuan Wyn's period. <p>3.4 During the discussion, the need for legal expertise on the Board was noted following the end of Professor Iwan Davies's term.</p> <p>At this point, Nia Elias and Gareth Pierce joined the meeting and were welcomed as new members of the Board; and Angharad Lloyd Williams as an observer at this meeting.</p>		
<p>4. To receive and consider the minutes of the 20 June 2018 meeting</p> <p>(Item 3)</p>	<p>4.1 The minutes were received as an accurate record of the meeting held on 20 June 2018.</p>		
<p>5. Matters arising</p>	<p>5.1 <u>Item 6.2 – Procedure for appointing a Chair</u> It was reported that the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee had revisited the process for</p>		

	appointing a Chair and had decided that they did not favour changing the current process.		
6. Constitutional Matters (Item 5)	<p>Arrangements for the Court and Annual Congregation</p> <p>6.1 It was noted that the Coleg's annual meeting (the Court) would be held on 19 March 2019 at 4pm at Bangor University.</p> <p>6.2 The Annual Congregation would be held on 19 March 2019 at 6pm at Powys Hall, Bangor University.</p> <p>Terms of reference</p> <p>6.3 The amendments to the following terms of reference, originally discussed at the individual committees, were discussed and approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointments and Governance Standards Committee • Audit and Risk Committee • Academic Board <p>6.4 Some improvements were recommended for the Finance and General Purposes Committee's terms of reference, which were approved.</p> <p>6.5 It was agreed to circulate the Coleg's draft Marketing and Communication Strategy to Board members. It was reported that additions would need to be made dependent on the Welsh Government's requirements in relation to the apprenticeship and further education sector.</p>	<p>Amend FGPC terms of reference</p> <p>Circulate Marketing Strategy</p>	<p>December 2018</p> <p>December 2018</p>
7. Finance and General Purposes Committee (Item 7i)	Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes		

<p>(Item 8iii)</p> <p>(Item 8iv)</p> <p>(Item 8v)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He also noted that the review and monitoring of the Coleg's investments would move to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in due course. <p>Coleg audited annual accounts 2017/18</p> <p>8.3 The audited annual accounts for 2017/18 were received for formal presentation to the Court on 19 March 2019.</p> <p>The Risk Register</p> <p>8.4 A report was given by William Callaway on the amendments to the Risk Register since the last meeting. The risks were discussed, and specifically the uncertainty in the higher education sector in general and the way this could impact Welsh-medium provision specifically. The Chief Executive reported that the Coleg is aware of these factors and that detailed discussions had taken place in the planning meetings with individual institutions. An annual report on changes in provision would be presented to the meeting in June. The Risk Register was received.</p> <p>Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee</p> <p>8.5 The committee's first annual report was received.</p>	<p>Note risk</p>	<p>December 2018</p>
<p>9. Academic Board</p> <p>(Item 9)</p>	<p>9.1 The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 10 October 2018 were noted and received.</p> <p>9.2 A summary of the main points of the 10 October 2018 meeting was presented by the Dean, Dr Hefin Jones.</p> <p>9.3 It was reported that a presentation and a discussion on Welsh-medium data had been given (For discussion by the Board at Item 11).</p>		

	<p>9.4 It was reported that student representatives had presented a paper on arrangements for submitting work in Welsh when teaching is through English. There would be opportunities to discuss the matter further at the branch meetings.</p> <p>9.5 It was noted that an annual conference in relation to the associate lecturers scheme would take place in June, with a number of awards being awarded for the first time to recognise innovation in teaching etc.</p> <p>9.6 It was noted that the Widening Access Strategy was now a standing item on the Academic Board's agenda.</p> <p>9.7 Professor Jerry Hunter, Chair of the Research and Publication Committee, reported on the importance of equality for Welsh and English in the Research Excellence Framework (REF). He also reported that the committee was in the process of developing research champions for the REF.</p> <p>9.8 The Chief Executive reported on a consultation with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) regarding the guidelines on Welsh-medium assessment. The Coleg's recommendations have been accepted. In this regard, the Welsh Language Commissioner's "I have the right" standards imposed on universities, colleges and educational institutions in Wales will be timely in protecting the rights of students to use the Welsh language. Dr Cliona O'Neill welcomed this work.</p>		
<p>10. Chief Executive's report (Item 10)</p>	<p>10.1 The Chief Executive gave a verbal summary of the written report that had been circulated in advance.</p> <p>Operational Plan 2018/19</p>		

	<p>10.2 A progress report on the targets noted in the Coleg's Operational Plan for 2018/19 was received (on the table).</p> <p>Welsh as a subject</p> <p>10.3 It was reported that the Coleg was leading the 'Y Gymraeg ar Daith' project [Welsh on tour] for the second time this year. The project engages with year 10/11 pupils.</p> <p>10.4 It was agreed to consider holding a discussion on the challenges of teaching Welsh as a subject in schools at a future meeting of the Board.</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>10.5 It was reported that the Coleg was awaiting an official invitation to become an associate member of ColegauCymru. The Chief Executive joined in on a trip arranged by ColegauCymru and the Welsh Government to the Basque Country on 23-25 October 2018.</p> <p>10.6 It was reported that the Chief Executive had given a lecture on the Coleg's work in Dublin on 13-14 November 2018. It is intended to formalise a partnership with University College Dublin in the future.</p> <p>Gwerddon</p> <p>10.7 It was reported that Professor Aled Gruffydd Jones had been invited to prepare an article on the history and contribution of <i>Gwerddon</i>. It was noted that the Coleg's archive would need attention in due course.</p>	<p>Board of Directors to discuss Welsh as a subject in schools</p>	<p>Future meeting</p>
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	<p>Academic Planning</p> <p>10.8 It was reported that the planning meetings with universities had been completed for this year. It is intended to undertake a feasibility exercise in order to encourage investment in subjects not included in the staffing scheme.</p> <p>10.9 The strategic benefit of the planning meetings were welcomed, and the challenging climate noted in terms of fee grants; demography i.e. a reduced younger population; Russell Group institutions attracting students; and Brexit. The Board agreed on the need for maintaining provision levels; promoting progression; and forecasting new subject areas to be promoted.</p> <p>10.10 The Chief Executive reported on the associate lecturer scheme which could mitigate the situation and reinforce the Welsh-medium academic community.</p> <p>Glyndŵr University Branch Officer</p> <p>10.11 A report was given on the intention to change the arrangements for the Coleg's Branch Officer at Glyndŵr University in order to increase the time allocated to Coleg Cambria.</p> <p>General updates on the Coleg's work</p> <p>10.12 Written reports were received in relation to Marketing and Communications; Academic Training and Staff Development; <i>Gwerddon</i> and other publication</p>		
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	projects; the Associate Lecturer scheme; and the Work Welsh scheme, for information.		
11. Data and targets (Item 11)	<p>11.1 The Chief Executive presented some of the context behind the item regarding data on students who are studying through the medium of Welsh. He noted that there had been some press coverage in July 2018 about the perception that there had been a reduction in the number of higher education students studying through the medium of Welsh in 2016/17. A Bulletin published by the Welsh Government had already been circulated to Board members. The Coleg submitted a report in September, at the Government's request, which included a number of recommendations. These have been agreed in principle by the Government.</p> <p>11.2 The Registrar gave a presentation on some of the points made in the report regarding data and targets.</p> <p>11.3 The Board noted the analysis on UCAS application patterns; students studying through Welsh; by subject and by 40 credits; and the recommendations to the Welsh Government.</p> <p>11.4 Following a discussion, the Board noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about data which is already dated • The importance of consistency in terms of record-keeping and meaningful targets • The implications of the Seren Project • Maintaining contact with students studying beyond Wales • Professionalising Welsh – soft skills 	Circulate the data to the Board of Directors	December 2018

	<p>11.5 Dr Cliona O'Neill reported that HESA data will be published earlier from 2021.</p> <p>11.6 It was agreed to hold a further discussion on student choice patterns at a future Board meeting.</p>	Student choice to be discussed	Future meeting
<p>12. Initial Teacher Education (Item 12)</p>	<p>12.1 The Chief Executive presented a report on the Review of Welsh-medium Initial Teacher Education.</p> <p>12.2 A report was given on a recent meeting between Coleg officers and Welsh Government officials in relation to the Coleg's future role in this area.</p> <p>12.3 The current situation was outlined, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Coleg supports the direction in which the Government is moving in terms of planning the ITE workforce • That the Coleg is willing to support in any appropriate way possible • That there is concern that abolishing current schemes and initiatives, including the Language Competency Certificate for Teachers, before an alternative framework is in place to maintain current language support as a minimum, could be counter-productive. <p>12.4 During the discussion, the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about introducing changes without considering the possible outcomes for the Welsh language • A disconnect with the Government's Welsh Language Strategy and targets for teacher numbers 		

	12.5 It was agreed that officers would continue to contribute to the discussions in relation to ITE.		
13. Post-16 developments (Item 13)	<p>13.1 The Registrar gave a presentation on post-16 developments. The current situation was explained in terms of resources to implement the Plan.</p> <p>13.2 The Coleg's leadership in the sector was welcomed. During the discussion, member comments were noted for inclusion in the Action Plan on 2019/20 activities. It was reported that the Action Plan would be submitted to the next meeting of the Board of Directors on 20 March 2019.</p> <p>13.3 It was agreed in principle that the Coleg should become an associate member of ColegauCymru, subject to agreement on the details.</p> <p>13.4 The Board noted the intention to formalise the Coleg's relationship with further education institutions, including the establishment of Coleg branches.</p>		
14. Honorary Fellows 2019 CONFIDENTIAL	14.1 The Board approved a proposal to invite Andrew Green, Professor Deri Tomos and Catrin Dafydd to receive a Fellowship during the Annual Congregation at Bangor on 19 March 2019. Board members were reminded that the names were to remain confidential until the official announcement.		
15. Dates and locations of the next meetings	<p>15.1 The dates of the next meetings were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court meeting, 19 March 2019, Bangor University • 20 March 2019, Bangor University • 25 June 2019, Aberystwyth 		

	<p>15.2 The simultaneous translators were thanked for their work.</p> <p>15.3 Swansea University staff were thanked for their support in arranging the meeting.</p> <p>15.4 The Chief Executive thanked Professor Iwan Davies for chairing the meeting, noting that this would be his last meeting as a Board member. He was thanked for his service and support over the years, and specifically in relation to the governance review.</p>		
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