

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Academic Board
Wednesday, 20 May 2020
Microsoft Teams

Present:

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

Members (Institutions): Rebecca Bowen, Judith Davies, Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Penri James, Elan Mai Nefydd, Dr Paula Roberts, Daniel Tiplady, Dr Catrin Haf Williams

Members (Student): Megan Colbourne, Cerys Griffiths, Tomos Ifan, Lleucu Myrddin, Emyr Owen, Sara Patterson

Members (Further Education): Carys Swain

In attendance: Gareth Pierce (Coleg Chair)

Officers: Dr Ioan Matthews (Chief Executive), Dr Dylan Phillips (Senior Academic Manager), Dr Dafydd Trystan (Registrar), Mari Fflur (Academic Manager), Delyth Ifan (Academic Manager), Rhian Jones (Academic Manager), Gwenllian Owen (Academic Manager), Nia Brown (Development Officer: Secretariat)

Apologies: Professor Jerry Hunter, Meri Huws, Dr Jonathan Morris, Elis Alsopp, Llio Alun

Item	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
1. Welcome and opening remarks	1.1. Members were formally welcomed to the meeting by the Dean. 1.2. A special welcome was extended to Penri James, Chair of the Aberystwyth University Branch, who was attending his first meeting. 1.3. Also welcomed was Delyth Ifan, who joins the Coleg's staff to cover Mari Fflur's maternity leave.		

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	1.4. Gareth Pierce, the Coleg's new Chair, was also welcomed.		
2. Apologies and declarations of interest	2.1. Apologies were noted as above. 2.2. There were no declarations of interest to note.		
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2020	3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were received as an accurate record.		
4. Chief Executive's Update (Item 4)	4.1. The Chief Executive gave an update on the Coleg's response to the current crisis. 4.2. He reported that the Coleg was aware of the challenging times at the universities. The Coleg was keen to support the sector in safeguarding Welsh-medium provision. 4.3. It was reported that individual meetings were being held with the universities at present and that any funding that becomes available as a result of postponed activities would be redirected by the Coleg to specific plans to respond to the crisis. 4.4. In particular, it was noted that there was a discussion on expanding the scholarships scheme for the next academic year. 4.5. It was reported that a meeting had been arranged with Welsh Government officials that afternoon to discuss the current situation. 4.6. It was reported that the Coleg would provide information on the plans for the Welsh Language Skills Certificate (TSI) within the next few weeks.	The Coleg to publish TSI arrangements	Before the end of the summer term
5. Review of subject plans	5.1. Dr Dylan Phillips gave a verbal update on the situation in relation to the review of subject plans. 5.2. It was reported that the original intention had been to submit a report to this meeting with conclusions, summarizing the achievement of subject plans against the	Subject planning reports and subject grants for submission to the	14 October 2020

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	<p>medium-term targets for 2019/20, and identifying any particular challenges and successes. Due to the crisis, the matter will instead be considered at the autumn meeting.</p> <p>5.3. It was reported that information on the progress of each department that is in receipt of a subject grant had been received by the Coleg by the beginning of March 2020. However, in the case of other departments represented in subject plans that are not in receipt of a Coleg grant, not everyone was able to provide information for the review before the crisis took hold. In order to avoid creating additional work for the universities at the present time, the deadline will be extended. Consequently, the report to the Board will be deferred until the autumn.</p>	Academic Board	
<p>6. The current situation</p>	<p>6.1. The Academic Board heard the views of students and branches on the challenges posed by the situation.</p> <p>6.2. Lleucu Myrddin gave a summary on behalf of the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That universities have responded to the situation by moving provision to online teaching • Every university has a no-detriment policy • A shortage and lack of online resources through the medium of Welsh in some areas • Difficulty in contacting lecturers due to technical challenges • Issues regarding reliable internet connections <p>6.3. During the discussion, members noted the importance of ensuring that existing Welsh language resources are provided online, and ensuring that equivalents of any English language materials are also available.</p> <p>6.4. It was noted that copyright considerations and the process of digitizing resources can be challenging. In the past, the Coleg has worked closely with the National</p>	Students to provide specific examples	Summer term

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	<p>Library of Wales, Canolfan Bedwyr and broadcasters to digitize resources successfully.</p> <p>6.5. It was reported that the Coleg is drawing up an action plan to address the shortage of quality online resources, and subject panels will be able to identify the gaps.</p> <p>6.6. The intention to arrange sessions to share good practice on blended learning and distance teaching was reported.</p> <p>6.7. Members discussed a concern about the failure to consider Welsh language needs in crisis response policy and discussion committees. It was noted that Welsh speakers would be a prominent share of the domestic market in the next period and that this was an advantage for the situation in relation to recruitment.</p> <p>6.8. During the discussion, fibre optic broadband contact details were shared with members.</p> <p>6.9. The branches shared their experiences in turn, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That universities have responded to the situation by moving provision to online teaching • The publication of a no-detriment policy • Ensuring opportunities to promote the Welsh language during (virtual) Freshers' Week • Planning for online teaching until January 2021 • The importance of the student experience • The lack of online resources • Re-defining lecture length and recording lectures • Issues regarding reliable internet connections • Concerns that the progress made for the language is being lost • Recycling materials by supporting other organizations such as AmGen and the Mentrau Iaith • Work experience challenges 	<p>Update on the online resources action plan</p> <p>Update on good practice in distance learning</p>	<p>14 October 2020</p> <p>14 October 2020</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advantages of small numbers learning through the medium of Welsh and the positive experience of interacting for those students • New lecturers being appointed in many vocational areas during the crisis • The challenges of teaching vocational and creative industry courses online <p>6.10. During the discussion, members noted the importance of sharing the highest quality resources with students as well as sharing good practice as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>6.11. Members identified the need to maintain the Coleg's budget in order to retain Welsh-medium provision, bearing in mind the severity of the current crisis and the profound challenges facing the universities.</p> <p>6.12. It was mentioned how staff can be supported with the Welsh-medium voluntary work that is done out of goodwill.</p> <p>6.13. Members discussed the possibility of branches working together during Freshers' Week to create a sense of community.</p> <p>6.14. Members discussed the importance of personal face-to-face contact and the great loss felt without this at the moment.</p> <p>6.15. Members also discussed the motivation to study through the medium of Welsh, but also the need to consider the general impact on motivation to study at all in 2020.</p> <p>6.16. At the end of the discussion, the Chief Executive and the Registrar noted their thanks to members for the comprehensive updates, but also expressed their concern about the gravity of the current situation. The Coleg will continue to consider how best to support the universities in responding to the significant challenges that will face the higher education sector in the 2020/21 academic year</p>		

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	and beyond.		
7. Research and Publication Committee (Item 7i and ii)	<p>7.1. The draft minutes of the Research and Publication Committee meeting of 6 February 2020 were noted.</p> <p>7.2. The extension of Professor Jerry Hunter's chairship for one year was agreed.</p> <p>7.3. The recommendation for the committee not to meet over the summer term was agreed.</p> <p>7.4. The recommendation to appoint Professor Ann Parry Owen as a new member for a six-year term was agreed.</p> <p>7.5. The recommendation to re-appoint Professor Alan Shore and Dr Catrin Haf Williams for a further six-year term was agreed.</p>		
8. Matters arising	<p>8.1. <u>Item 5.4: HEFCW – QAA data guide workshop.</u> It was reported that discussions with HEFCW on the data guide were ongoing, but HEFCW's timetable for holding a data workshop with the universities had been postponed as a result of the crisis.</p> <p>8.2. <u>Item 6.1: Procedure for students to raise matters.</u> It was reported that the procedure for students to make a complaint about Welsh language provision at their universities had been circulated for information on 15 May 2020.</p> <p>8.3. <u>Item 6.5: Welsh language counselling staff.</u> To be kept on the agenda.</p> <p>8.4. <u>Item 7.1: The Coleg's Strategic Plan and HE:</u> It was noted that the Coleg's hopes of being able to support new plans in HE had been heavily affected by the current crisis and the implications for the potential funding that would be available to the sector through the Funding Council following the implementation of Diamond review recommendations. For the time being, it would not be</p>		

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	<p>possible to act on the ideas put forward at the last Board meeting. However, Coleg officers are still in discussions with the Funding Council, although Diamond plans are likely to be delayed by at least a year.</p> <p>8.5. <u>Item 9.5: Scholarships Data for 2019/20</u>. It was reported that it would be possible to compare UCAS figures in due course.</p> <p>8.6. <u>Item 11: Events postponed due to the crisis</u>. It was noted that the Court meeting had been postponed until June; that there were no plans yet for the Annual Congregation; and that nominations for the Associate Lecturer Awards have been received.</p> <p>8.7. <u>Item 14.2 Celebrating Cardiff Health Students</u>: There will be no celebration in June but, depending on travel restrictions etc, a celebration may be held at the conference of the Gymdeithas Feddygol on 10-11 October 2020 in Llandudno.</p> <p>8.8. <u>Item 15.1: Update on students who are studying over the border</u>. It was reported that the Coleg had started considering alternative opportunities to develop the link with students studying outside Wales.</p>		
9. AOB	<p>9.1. It was reported that a panel had met in March to award 10 research scholarships (with 3 reserves) to the universities.</p> <p>9.2. During the meeting, the Welsh Government announced their plan for reopening colleges and universities.</p>		
10. Dates of next meetings	<p>10.1. The following dates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 October 2020 • 3 February 2021 • 12 May 2021 		