

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Board of Directors

Wednesday, 24 June 2020

10.15 – 12.20

Microsoft Teams

Present:

Directors:

Gareth Pierce
William Callaway
Nia Elias
Professor Jerry Hunter
Meri Huws
Dr Hefin Jones
Pedr ap Llwyd
Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan
Angharad Roberts
Llinos Roberts

Observers:

Meg Hughes, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
Lleucu Myrddin, UCMC/NUS Wales
Branwen Thomas, Welsh Government

Officers:

Dr Ioan Matthews, Chief Executive
Dr Dylan Phillips, Secretary
Dr Dafydd Trystan, Registrar
Nia Brown, Governance Officer

In attendance:

Gwenllian Griffiths, Chief Engagement and Communications Officer
Suzanne Lewis, Operations Manager

Apologies:

Gwilym Dyfri Jones
Professor Hywel Thomas

Item	Main points of discussion	Actions	Timescale
1. Welcome and introduction	1.1 The chair welcomed all who were present at the meeting.		
2. Declarations of interest	2.1 Members were reminded of the procedure by which they are asked to note any declarations of interest additional to those already noted in the Register of Interests.		
3. Chief Executive's Report (Item 5) (Appendix 5A)	<p>3.1 The Chief Executive's written report on recent activities was received.</p> <p>Crisis Plan</p> <p>3.2 The crisis plan was received. It was explained that this was an internal working document which is evolving as the Coleg responds to the current situation. Coleg staff, who were working from home temporarily, were thanked for doing so very effectively.</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>3.3 It was reported that meetings with the Welsh Government were continuing, with full consultation on diverting the budget in response to the current situation.</p> <p>Expansion of Scholarships</p> <p>3.4 The Registrar reported that the Coleg had expanded the scholarship scheme to all students studying at least 40 credits through the medium of Welsh. In all, 185 applications have been received, with the majority of those being in Education.</p> <p>Planning meetings</p> <p>3.5 It was reported that the priority for the next period would be a plan to</p>		

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	<p>create resources to support blended learning.</p> <p>Initial Teacher Education (ITE)</p> <p>3.6 It was reported that the discussions regarding ITE had been put on hold during the crisis, but the discussion had now resumed. The importance of ensuring a sufficient supply of teachers for the future was noted.</p> <p>Further Education and Apprenticeships</p> <p>3.7 A discussion was held on the funding challenges for developing this area. It was reported that additional resources had been provided by the Welsh Government for staff development and resources to support learners.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>3.8 It was reported that Gwenllian Griffiths, the Coleg's Chief Engagement and Communications Officer, had been engaging with the political parties to ensure an understanding of the Coleg's work and the importance of maintaining Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>The Coleg's response to the anti-racism agenda</p> <p>3.9 It was reported that the Coleg was considering how to respond to the anti-racism agenda. The Appointments and Governance Standards Committee would also discuss the principles in a wider context on 14 July 2020.</p> <p>Changes to staff duties</p> <p>3.10 It was noted that a report would be submitted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 30 September 2020 on the changes to staff duties following the retirement of Catherine Rees.</p>		

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(Appendix 5B)	<p>Peace Academy</p> <p>3.11 The recommendation that the Coleg sign the Wales Peace Institute Memorandum of Understanding was received and approved.</p> <p>General updates on the Coleg's work</p> <p>3.12 Written reports were received for information in relation to Academic Training and Staff Development; <i>Gwerddon</i> and other publication projects; the Associate Lecturers scheme; the Work Welsh scheme; Collaborative Projects and Activities; Welsh as a subject; and Further Education and Apprenticeships.</p>		
4. Academic Board (Item 9)	<p>Academic Board</p> <p>4.1 The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 20 May 2020 were noted and received.</p> <p>4.2 The Dean, Dr Hefin Jones, gave a summary of the discussion at the 20 May 2020 meeting, regarding the pandemic's impact on Welsh-medium provision within the institutions from the perspective of students and the branches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted the students' concern about the lack of Welsh-medium resources online and the impact on the student experience. • He noted the institutions' no-detriment policies and the plans to teach online. 		
5. Discussion	<p>Initial Teacher Education</p> <p>5.1 It was agreed that the Coleg should continue discussions on expanding its planning role within ITE.</p>		

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	<p>Anti-racism</p> <p>5.2 Members were reminded of the existing academic resources on the history of racism and slavery.</p> <p>5.3 A discussion was held on the appropriateness of a statement on anti-racism by the Coleg. It was noted that the Welsh Language Promotion Group would also be considering the matter.</p> <p>Blended learning and resources</p> <p>5.4 It was reported that the expansion of the scholarship scheme was an attempt to support student numbers during a period of crisis.</p> <p>5.5 It was reported that the Coleg had introduced a project to collate Welsh-medium learning materials on the Porth Adnoddau, the Coleg's resource platform, to facilitate blended learning. It was also reported that there was an intention to share good practice with academic staff before the end of the summer.</p> <p>5.6 The Coleg's plan to collect and share resources was welcomed by Lleucu Myrddin on behalf of the students. She reported that she would encourage student officers to spread the message in their own institutions.</p> <p><i>At this point, Dr Hefin Jones left the meeting.</i></p>		
<p>6. To receive and consider the minutes of the 30 April 2020 meeting (Item 3)</p>	<p>6.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 30 April 2020.</p>		
<p>7. The Risk Register</p>	<p>7.1 The Chief Executive presented the Risk Register. It was reported that</p>		

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(Item 6)	<p>an update had been presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 3 June 2020 which reflected the Coleg's response to the Covid-19 crisis. It was noted that the register had been further revised since that meeting in light of further developments, namely the expansion of the scholarships and the resources plan.</p> <p>7.2 The Risk Register was accepted in full.</p>		
<p>8. Finance and General Purposes Committee</p> <p>(Item 7)</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes Committee</p> <p>8.1 The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 13 May 2020 were noted and received.</p> <p>8.2 A summary of the main points arising from the 13 May 2020 meeting was given by Pedr ap Llwyd, the committee's Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted that Sterling, which monitors the Coleg's investments, had provided a positive report. • He noted that a process of reviewing Senior Management pay was underway and that a report on the recommendations was expected by the next committee meeting. <p>Investments</p> <p>8.3 The Registrar gave a verbal update on the Coleg's investments. He reported on the careful investment decisions made by Sarasin. He noted, however, that the crisis had had an impact on the investments.</p> <p>2019-20 Budget</p> <p>8.4 Dr Dylan Phillips gave a verbal report on the Coleg's budget for 2019/20.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted that the Coleg's expenditure was in line with expectations. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted that the Coleg's pension liabilities would be known by the end of July and that the External Auditors would then publish the end of year report. <p>2020/21 Budget</p> <p>8.5 Dr Dylan Phillips gave a verbal update on the Coleg's budget for 2020/21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted that the budget had already been agreed by the committee and the Board. • He noted that the Coleg had submitted an action plan to the Welsh Government based on the Grant Letter. • He noted that a number of activities, such as the eisteddfodau, had not taken place due to the pandemic. • He noted that, as a result of the consequent savings made, a crisis fund had been established with resources being diverted to the additional scholarships and the resources plan. • He noted that the profile would be adjusted and presented to the next meeting of the committee on 30 September 2020. 	Resubmission of the 2020/21 Budget	30 September 2020
<p>9. Audit and Risk Committee</p> <p>(Item 8a)</p>	<p>Audit and Risk Committee</p> <p>9.1 The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 3 June 2020 were noted and accepted.</p> <p>9.2 A summary of the main points arising from the 3 June 2020 meeting was given by William Callaway, the committee's Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Internal Auditors (TIAA) had completed a year of working for the Coleg. The committee was very satisfied with their work. • The Internal Auditors had presented a report on Freedom of 		

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(Item 8b)	<p>Information (FOI) and the matter had now been concluded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Registrar had set up a charitable fund to support the Coleg's Sports apprenticeship scholarships. <p>The Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report</p> <p>9.3 An annual report by the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee was received.</p> <p>Appointment of new member</p> <p>9.4 The recommendation to appoint Nia Elias as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee was accepted.</p>		
10. Post-16 Strategic Board (Item 10)	<p>Post-16 Strategic Board</p> <p>10.1 The main points arising from the 18 June 2020 meeting were summarized by Meri Huws, the committee's Chair.</p> <p>10.2 She reported on the sector updates on workforce development and training provision.</p> <p>Sgiliaith</p> <p>10.3 She reported that contracts had been awarded to Sgiliaith for the provision of national training and mentoring programmes for teaching staff, and noted their enthusiasm about working with the Coleg.</p> <p>Newsletter</p> <p>10.4 She reported that the recent newsletter demonstrated the range of work being done in this area by a small team.</p> <p>10.5 She noted the need to manage expectations due to the lack of</p>		

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	<p>resources.</p> <p>Next meeting</p> <p>10.6 She reported that the next meeting of the Post-16 Board would discuss the next areas for development.</p> <p>10.7 She reported that the Welsh Government was aware of the fact that further resources were needed to develop this area in order to respond to the national Language Strategy.</p>		
<p>11. Constitutional Matters</p>	<p>Coleg Secretary</p> <p>11.1 It was recommended and agreed to appoint Dr Dylan Phillips as Secretary of the Coleg.</p> <p>Annual Meeting (the Court)</p> <p>11.2 It was reported that the Coleg's Annual Meeting, which had originally been postponed due to the crisis, had taken place on 17 June 2020.</p>		
<p>12. Academic Planning (Items 12a/12b/12c)</p>	<p>12.1 Dr Dylan Phillips presented reports on Academic Planning.</p> <p>Higher Education academic provision</p> <p>12.2 A report on patterns of change in Welsh-medium Higher Education provision within Welsh universities, and the increase in provision as a result of the Coleg's investment, was received and discussed.</p> <p>12.3 It was reported that a meeting had been arranged with the chair of Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), to take place in the near future, to discuss specific plans in health and care.</p>		

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	<p>Higher Education student numbers</p> <p>12.4 The Board received and discussed a report on student numbers within the Higher Education sector in Wales, which analysed and interpreted patterns of change based on the latest HESA data for 2018/19, and compared them with 2017/18 data.</p> <p>Higher Education fee and access plan targets</p> <p>12.5 An update was received on discussions with universities to agree targets for the fee and access plans for 2021/22.</p> <p>12.6 During the discussion on the implications of the current crisis for university recruitment efforts for October 2020, Meg Hughes noted that Welsh-medium student numbers would be treated as a specific category and would be excluded from the student number controls introduced by the DfE (subject to the agreement of HEFCW's Council). She also noted that HEFCW understood that maintaining Welsh-medium provision was extremely important, especially during these uncertain times, and thanked the Coleg for its work.</p> <p>12.7 The Coleg's role in reducing the burden placed on the universities in terms of monitoring and reporting in light of the current crisis was noted.</p>		
<p>13. Any other business</p>	<p>13.1 It was noted that the Coleg's tenth Research Conference would be held (virtually) on 1 July 2020.</p>		
<p>14. Date of the next meeting</p>	<p>14.1 The date of the next Board meeting was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 November 2020: virtual meeting. <p>14.2 The Board wished Lleucu Myrddin well and thanked her for her contribution to the Coleg's work during her time as the Welsh Language</p>		

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	<p data-bbox="656 276 954 304">Officer for NUS Wales.</p> <p data-bbox="595 336 1592 400">14.3 Osian Rhys was thanked for providing the simultaneous translation, and the standard of his work was praised.</p>		