

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Academic Board
Wednesday, 6 February 2019
Glyndŵr University, Wrexham

Present:

Members (Coleg): Dr Hefin Jones (Chair and Dean), Delyth Murphy, Dr Euryrn Roberts

Members (Institutional): Dr Tudur Davies, James Dawson, Dr Paula Roberts, Dr Catrin Haf Williams

Members (Student): Anna Jones, Rebecca Martin, Gethin Morgan

Members (Further Education): -

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), Nia Brown (Development Officer: Secretariat)

Apologies: Julie Brake, Professor Siwan Davies, Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Professor Mererid Hopwood, Awen Iorwerth, Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Professor Lisa Lewis, Dr Jonathan Morris, Bryn Hughes Parry, Professor Eleri Pryse, Liŷr Roberts, Dr Elin Royles, Carys Swain, Dr Gwawr Taylor, Daniel Tiplady, Dr Prysor Williams, Llion Carbis, William Chidley, Rhian Davies, Cerys Griffiths, Cathrin Jones

Item	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
1. Welcome and Opening Remarks	1.1. The Dean welcomed members formally to the meeting. 1.2. James Dawson, Associate Director of Strategic Planning at Glyndŵr University, welcomed members to the university. It was reported that Sioned Roberts had left her position as the university's Branch Officer and there would be a new appointment in due course. 1.3. A special welcome was extended to Dr Haydn Edwards following a period of illness. 1.4. A special welcome was extended to Dr Paula Roberts, Chair of the Bangor University Branch, who was attending her first meeting.		

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	<p>1.5. Dr Tudur Davies was welcomed on behalf of Dr Elin Royles.</p> <p>1.6. It was noted that Sara Whittam had stepped down from her role as chair of the Cardiff University Branch, and that her successor was Dr Jonathan Morris. She was thanked for her innovative work within health planning in particular.</p> <p>1.7. It was noted that Dr Myfanwy Davies had resigned from the Academic Board following her appointment as Head of Quality Assurance and Validation at Bangor University.</p>		
2. Apologies and declarations of interest	<p>2.1. Apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>2.2. It was noted that a train had been postponed which had affected some members.</p> <p>2.3. Concern was noted about the number of absences.</p> <p>2.4. There were no declarations of interest to note.</p>		
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2018	<p>3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were received as an accurate record.</p>		
4. Update from the Chief Executive and officers	<p>4.1. The Chief Executive gave a general update on developments. It was reported that the Coleg was aware of the challenging period at the universities and the Coleg was supporting the protection of Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>4.2. It was reported that the subject grants scheme had bedded in.</p> <p>4.3. A report was given on discussions with the Welsh Government about the Coleg's budget which is consistent with last year's budget and therefore consistent with the 2016 Diamond recommendation.</p> <p>4.4. A report was given on discussions with the Welsh Government on future targets and discussions with HEFCW to ensure that the fee planning metrics of the universities are consistent with the Coleg's targets.</p>		

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	<p>4.5. Dr Lowri Morgans reported on the Associate Lecturer Scheme, a new scheme to maintain contact following the end of the staffing scheme in one year's time. It was reported that a nomination form for the Associate Lecturer Awards could be found on the Coleg's website. There will be three awards, namely: innovation across frontiers; Welsh-medium resources; and facilitating Welsh-medium education. The deadline is 25 February 2019. Members were assured there would be student representation on the award panels. It was further reported that there were new Innovation Grants for Associate Lecturers that encourage collaboration with educational institutions outside Wales. The deadline is 5 April. An award evening for Associate Lecturers will be held at Aberystwyth University on 25 June 2019 with a conference to follow on 26 June 2019. Nominations were encouraged. It was reported that each branch would arrange a table for the award evening.</p> <p>4.6. Rhian Jones gave a report on promoting Welsh as a subject. She reported that a wider plan would be published. She reported on the Welsh on Tour scheme which targets year 10-11 pupils studying GCSE Welsh Literature. The poets who presented their work to the pupils this year were Hywel Griffiths, Rhys Iorwerth and Mererid Hopwood. It was noted that lecturers at the Welsh departments believe the initiative is useful. It was reported that 1,500 pupils had completed questionnaires which are ready for collation and evaluation.</p> <p>4.7. A report was given on the Widening Access and Participation Strategy. A report was given on the pilot scheme at Dyffryn Nantlle where the pupils would be visiting Bangor University the following day. The pilot scheme would be considered for the south-west. It was</p>		

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	<p>noted that a report on the action plan would be given in the autumn term. The need to keep the Widening Access Strategy as a standing item was noted.</p> <p>4.8. A report was given on the arrangements to develop links with the Basque Country. It was noted that the Chief Executive had taken part in a visit to the Basque Country with Further Education representatives last year. Some of the Coleg's officers would visit universities there in March.</p> <p>4.9. The Dean gave a report on developments to maintain links with students who are studying outside Wales. He will meet students at Cambridge, Oxford, London and a group for students over the border during the next few months. The Coleg is currently creating a structure for making links with such students.</p> <p>4.10. A report was given on an apprenticeship event with Kirsty Williams. It was further noted that the Coleg was in the process of appointing a Further Education Manager. It was also reported that the Coleg was an associate member of ColegauCymru.</p>	Widening Access and Participation	Standing item
5. Student matters (Item 5)	<p>5.1. Gethin Morgan presented the students' discussion paper on establishing a national elected President to support Welsh-medium students.</p> <p>5.2. It was noted that members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the principle of developing a national President. • Recommended that the principle should be presented to the Board of Directors on 20 March 2019 • Proposed that the Coleg should facilitate a discussion between the student unions and NUS Wales 	Adam Jones to co-ordinate between the Coleg and the students	February 2019

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<p>6. Data update</p>	<p>6.1. The Registrar gave a presentation on data about students studying through the medium of Welsh between 2007 and 2018.</p> <p>6.2. The report included analysis of student applications data; all-Wales admissions; the most popular subjects, representing over half the 24,000 students in Wales; that Nursing, Engineering and Computer Science had seen significant increases; that all of the Arts and Humanities had seen a drop without exception, with Welsh, English and Modern Languages having suffered especially, down from relatively low numbers in the first place; and that the numbers studying part of their courses through Welsh and 40+ credits had increased between 2011/12 and 2016/17.</p> <p>6.3. Future plans were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to work with universities to identify areas where catalyst grants could be invested • Monitoring subject grants with a focus on student numbers • Implementing data recommendations – the report to the Welsh Government • Ensuring consistency between fee plans, HEFCW metrics and Coleg targets • Confirming the situation in terms of internal audit on Welsh-medium data • Analysing student choice patterns more widely • Working with HE in FE providers to ensure that an appropriate contribution is made <p>6.4. Following a discussion, members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a demographic reduction could be seen in the data • The need for a Welsh language skills analysis • That the Welsh language GCSE could be used as 		

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	<p>8.3. The Registrar outlined the model (in the form of a pyramid) of skills development that begins with awareness, understanding, confidence and culminates with fluency.</p> <p>8.4. It was noted that the following elements needed to be ensured: learners, staff, provision, resources, qualifications and employers, in order to achieve the objectives of the national Welsh Language Strategy, Cymraeg 2050.</p> <p>8.5. The priority areas were noted, which are Health and Care, Childcare and Public Services.</p> <p>8.6. It was noted that initial projects on resources and student attitudes had been completed; that action was needed on the short-term aspects of the action plan; that discussions were needed with the Government to identify elements on which progress can be made immediately and the elements that need more long-term resources and planning; and to integrate any activities over the next period with the strategy.</p> <p>8.7. It was reported that the resources would come from project funding / Welsh language promotion; Apprenticeships / Further Education Work Welsh scheme; Translation of WJEC qualifications; Staff Training; Welsh Government Resource Commissioning Budget; Learning and Teaching funding.</p> <p>8.8. It was noted that basic work is needed to determine who is able to teach through the medium of Welsh in the sector.</p>		
<p>9. Initial Teacher Education (Item 9)</p>	<p>9.1. Rhian Jones presented a paper on Initial Teacher Education.</p> <p>9.2. The Welsh Government had published an Evaluation of Welsh-medium provision in Initial Teacher Education in</p>		

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	<p>October 2018.</p> <p>9.3. It was reported that the plans for this year would continue along the same vein, but national co-ordination is necessary to ensure a sufficient supply of Welsh-medium teachers. Discussions with the Welsh Government are ongoing.</p>		
<p>10. 2018/19 Scholarships</p>	<p>10.1. The Registrar gave a presentation on the Scholarships for 2018/19.</p> <p>10.2. It was reported that the Scholarships scheme had been established in 2011 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Scholarships for individuals studying at least 80 credits each year through the medium of Welsh • Incentive Scholarships for individuals studying at least 40 credits each year through the medium of Welsh in priority subjects • Masters Scholarships for individuals studying at least 120 credits through the medium of Welsh including 60 credits taught through the medium of Welsh <p>10.3. It was reported that the 2018 Scholarships were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of main scholarships available • Incentive scholarships being offered by the Branch at the beginning of term, to be awarded in line with the Branch's priorities • The Masters Scheme has ended in light of changes in the pattern of financial support for postgraduate students • A number of new Scholarships have developed, including Ysgoloriaeth William Salesbury, Ysgoloriaeth Gwilym Prys Davies, Ysgoloriaeth Cyngor Gwynedd. 		

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	<p>10.4. Scholarship awards between 2011 and 2018 were compared, as well as the distribution of the Scholarships.</p> <p>10.5. It was reported that the future intention is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to refine processes and ensure the best value from the Scholarships • Tie in more closely with university fee plans • Widening Access Scholarships for carers or those who had been looked after by local authorities • Consider level 4 provision, progression matters – specifically from Further Education Colleges <p>10.6. A discussion was held on the benefits of offering Incentive Scholarships in a range of subjects.</p>		
<p>11. Research and Publication Committee (Item 10)</p>	<p>11.1. The recommendation to appoint Dr Marion Loeffler as another member of the committee was approved.</p> <p>11.2. The draft minutes of the Research and Publication Committee meeting, held on 21 November 2018, were noted for information.</p> <p>11.3. It was reported that Professor Jerry Hunter had developed guidelines for submitting research through the medium of Welsh to the Research Excellence Framework.</p>		
<p>12. Academic Collaboration Committee</p>	<p>12.1. The Academic Collaboration Committee was established in 2012 to discuss matters involving institutional collaboration. Since guidelines have now been put in place and agreed, the committee no longer needs to meet regularly.</p>		
<p>13. Arrangements for the Coleg's Annual General Meeting</p>	<p>13.1. It was noted that the Annual General Meeting of the Coleg Court would be held at Bangor University on 19 March 2019. Delyth Murphy would be the Coleg's staff membership representative and Elin Gaffey would be the Coleg's student membership representative. Following</p>		

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	the meeting, the Coleg's Annual Congregation would be held. Catrin Dafydd, Andrew Green and Professor Deri Tomos will be honoured as Coleg Fellows.		
14. Matters arising	<p>14.1. <u>Item 5.3: Coleg Strategic Plan.</u> The Board of Directors would discuss the Coleg's Strategic Plan on 20 March 2019.</p> <p>14.2. <u>Item 5.7: HEIW.</u> It was reported that officers had met with officers from Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), a body responsible for education in Health Sciences with the exception of undergraduate Medicine, where the Coleg's participation was noted.</p> <p>14.3. <u>Item 7.3: The students' discussion paper on defining the submission of work through the medium of Welsh.</u> Branches were reminded to discuss the paper.</p> <p>14.4. <u>Item 7.4: QAA.</u> It was reported that the Welsh Language Commissioner had raised a number of questions about the robustness of the guidelines.</p> <p>14.5. <u>Item 13: Marketing and Communication.</u> It was reported that the Communications Manager post had not yet been filled.</p>		
15. Any other business	<p>15.1 In response to a question about PhD funding, a member requested more warning to make applications. It was explained that the reason for the short notice this year was an additional cash injection late in the day. It was foreseen that forward planning would be possible next year.</p> <p>15.2 The Dean noted that he was in the middle of his annual tour of the institutions.</p> <p>15.3 In response to the concern expressed about attendance at meetings of the Academic Board, it was noted that branches are expected to send substitutes.</p>	Chief Executive to send a message to branches	February 2019

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	15.2 Following on from an earlier discussion about the absence of some institutions from subject panels, it was agreed that every institution receiving a subject grant is expected to be present in order to avoid endangering the grant.	LM to co-ordinate messages from Subject Officers to panels	Spring Term 2019
16. Dates of the next meetings	16.1. The following dates were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 May 2019, Cardiff University • 9 October 2019, Aberystwyth University • 5 February 2020, Swansea University • 13 May 2020, Bangor University 16.2. Glyndŵr University was thanked for hosting the meeting and for the warm welcome.		