

## Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Academic Board

Wednesday 10 May 2017

Aberystwyth University

Present:

Members (Coleg): Dr Hefin Jones (Chair and Dean), Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Professor Densil Morgan, Delyth Murphy, Professor Gwynedd Parry, Professor Eleri Pryse, Gwerfyl Roberts, Llŷr Roberts, Professor Emeritus Alun Deri Tomos

Members (Institutional): Dr Lisa Lewis, Sioned Roberts, Dr Elin Royles, Sara Whittam, Dr Catrin Haf Williams

Members (Student): -

Members (ColegauCymru): -

Officers: Dr Haydn Edwards (Coleg Chair); Dr Ioan Matthews (Chief Executive), Dr Dylan Phillips (Senior Academic Manager), Dr Gwennan Schiavone (Senior Academic Manager), Suzanne Lewis (Senior Administrative Officer)

Apologies: Dr Myfanwy Davies, Professor Siwan Davies, Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Professor Mererid Hopwood, Dr Gwawr Jones, Llinos Roberts, Carys Swain, Daniel Tiplady, Nia Brown, Laura Beth Davies, Lois Pennant Jones, Osian Wyn Morgan, Osian Wyn Owen, Alun Rennolf

Item	Main points of discussion	Actions	Timescale
1. Welcome and opening remarks	<p>1.1 Members were welcomed formally to the meeting by the Dean.</p> <p>1.2 The Coleg's new Chair, Dr Haydn Edwards, was welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>1.3 The appointment of Dr Lowri Morgans as Academic Projects Manager was noted.</p> <p>1.4 Members expressed their sympathy with Gwerfyl Roberts (Bangor University) and Professor Sioned Davies (Cardiff University) following the recent death of their mother.</p> <p>1.5 Gwerfyl Roberts was congratulated on being named in the Gorsedd honours' list.</p>		

	<p>1.6 Dr Catrin Williams was congratulated on being elected as a Fellow of the Learned Society.</p> <p>1.7 Members noted Nia Brown's absence from the meeting. It was noted that she had recently returned to work following a period of sick leave. Members sent their best wishes.</p> <p>1.8 Aberystwyth University was thanked for the welcome and for hosting the meeting.</p>		
<b>2. Presentation by the Aberystwyth Branch</b>	<p>2.1 The Academic Board was welcomed to Aberystwyth University, and a presentation was given by Dr Mari Elin Jones from the Aberystwyth Branch on the Coleg's investment in the University, the academic provision, the Welsh-medium student experience and the institution's vision.</p>		
<b>3. Apologies and declarations of interest</b>	<p>3.1 Apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>3.2 There were no declarations of interest to note.</p>		
<b>4. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2017</b>	<p>4.1 A correction was noted to the minutes, which was to replace the name of Julie Brake with that of Sioned Roberts, Glyndŵr University.</p> <p>4.2 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>		
<b>5. Update from the Chief Executive</b>	<p>5.1 The Chief Executive gave a verbal update.</p> <p>5.2 He reiterated the welcome to the Coleg's new Chair, Dr Haydn Edwards, and noted that he had already attended a number of meetings. The Chief Executive noted that he was looking forward to working with Dr Edwards.</p> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <p>5.3 It was reported that the Coleg's funding arrangements had now been transferred from the Funding Council (HEFCW) to the Government.</p> <p>5.4 It was noted that the transition had been smooth, and colleagues were thanked for all the work undertaken during the previous few months.</p> <p>5.5 It was reported that the 2017/18 Budget and an action plan for the year had been approved by the Board of Directors and the Welsh Government.</p>		

	<p>5.6 In moving towards funding subject grants, it was noted that a sum of around £0.5m had been identified for allocations, and that this had been confirmed by the Board in March. It was confirmed that letters about subject grants had been sent to universities this week.</p> <p><b>Academic Plan</b></p> <p>5.7 It was noted that work was underway across the six areas in terms of reviewing subject plans, and that a number of project allocations had been confirmed.</p> <p><b>Coleg Branches</b></p> <p>5.8 On 22 March 2017, the Board of Directors' meeting had held a discussion on the arrangements for Coleg Branches. It was noted that the branches were a very important element in the way the Coleg operates as an organisation, forming a vital link between students and lecturers at the universities and the Coleg nationally.</p> <p>5.9 A discussion was held on the branches and the Coleg's expectations of the branches in light of the grants allocated to them each year.</p> <p>5.10 It was noted that a review of the branches was being held, which included meeting each one of the Coleg's branches to discuss specific themes.</p> <p>5.11 It was reported that three of the branch review meetings had been completed and that the rest would take place over the next few weeks with the intention of submitting recommendations to the Board of Directors in June.</p> <p><b>Task and Finish Group: Review of the activities of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol</b></p> <p>5.12 It was noted that the timeline had been extended compared to the original intention.</p> <p>5.13 It was reported that Dr Haydn Edwards, Dr Ioan Matthews and Dr Dafydd Trystan had met with the Group recently and that the group's final report was expected during the next few months.</p>		
<p><b>6. Additional item:</b></p>	<p>6.1 Dr Haydn Edwards thanked members for welcoming him to the meeting.</p>		

<p><b>Dr Haydn Edwards, Coleg Chair (comments)</b></p>	<p>6.2 It was noted that this was the first meeting of the Academic Board that he had attended and, in his preparations for the meeting, it had been clear to him that the Academic Board was central to the Coleg's work and the development of Welsh-medium higher education.</p> <p>6.3 The Academic Board and the individuals involved were congratulated for their success over six years.</p> <p>6.4 Dr Edwards thanked Dr Hefin Jones and noted that he was pleased that Dr Jones was continuing in his role as Coleg Dean.</p>		
<p><b>7. Academic planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Subject planning</b></li> </ul>	<p>7.1 Dr Dafydd Trystan gave a verbal presentation noting that the Coleg's work was moving on from the national framework to a discussion on the operational elements.</p> <p>7.2 It was noted that the next task would be to re-write over twenty subject plans during the next year. It was agreed to begin the work in six areas: Business, Sport, Geography, Art and Design, Creative Industries and Law.</p> <p>7.3 It was reported that each university had received a request to submit information across the subject areas. It was emphasised that the data would be vital for the planning work. The deadline for receiving the information was Friday 12 May 2017.</p> <p>7.4 It was reported that face-to-face panel meetings had been arranged to take place before mid-July to discuss draft subject plans. Consideration will be given to what needs to be prioritised in the individual plans, with consideration for the seven principles identified in the Academic Plan.</p> <p>7.5 It was noted that the intention, after completing the first set of subject plans, was to gather the information for the other subjects by the end of the summer term.</p> <p>7.6 The intention is that the subject plans would provide an illustration for preparing the investment plans for the next period, as the Coleg moves on from establishing provision, and asks deeper questions about the student experience and the curriculum, with a consideration for the seven principles in the Academic Plan.</p> <p>7.7 The Chief Executive noted that the work was challenging, and that there would be consultation with universities before reaching the Academic Board. He noted that</p>		

	<p>discussions in some areas could be sensitive, and confirmed that decisions would be driven by the Academic Plan rather than anything else.</p> <p>7.8 The Chief Executive noted that there was an intention to change the monitoring arrangements fundamentally, mainly through face-to-face monitoring meetings, although a formal process would be needed in order to ensure appropriate accountability for the substantial public funds distributed by the Coleg.</p> <p>7.9 Dr Dylan Phillips noted that one outcome of the staffing scheme, possibly, was that Welsh-medium provision tended to be seen as a matter only for lecturers funded through the staffing scheme. It was noted that the new arrangements would enable the Coleg to meet everyone involved in the subject once or twice a year to discuss progress and future developments.</p> <p>7.10 A thorough discussion took place about the various elements, and Dr Dafydd Trystan and Dr Ioan Matthews were thanked for answering a number of questions.</p>		
<p><b>8. Research Scholarships</b></p>	<p>8.1 Dr Dylan Phillips presented a paper and gave a verbal presentation.</p> <p>8.2 The questions included in the paper were discussed. It was noted that the questions were based on two themes: (i) the aims and objectives of the scholarships; and (ii) operational matters.</p> <p>8.3 It was noted that questions had arisen through the Academic Board, with colleagues and at the latest award panel.</p> <p>8.4 An open discussion took place with an opportunity to ask further questions.</p> <p>8.5 Dr Dylan Phillips reported that research scholarship holders in the past had been given an additional year to contribute to teaching after completing the doctorate. However, the additional year was no longer a part of the scheme, that supports a period of doctoral research only.</p> <p>8.6 The Chief Executive noted that the Coleg could look at the way in which scholarships are funded, and that the model could be varied in specific years if needed.</p> <p>8.7 It was noted that Dr Dylan Phillips would provide a list of the research scholarships given over the years, which would also include their subjects.</p>	<p>Dr Dylan Phillips to provide a list of the research scholarships including their subjects</p>	

	8.8 It was agreed, in principle, to recommend continuing with the research scholarships in their current form.		
<b>9. Strategic projects</b>	9.1 Dr Dylan Phillips gave a verbal report. 9.2 It was reported that, before Easter, the Coleg had invited applications for a number of projects that focused on developing resources and e-books. It was confirmed that a number of applications had been received and that a number of grants had been confirmed subject to agreeing final project plans.		
<b>10. Academic Collaboration Committee</b>  • <b>To note the draft minutes of the Academic Collaboration Committee meeting of 25 January 2017</b>	10.1 It was noted that a meeting of the Academic Collaboration Committee would be held on 11 May 2017 to discuss grant applications for collaborative modules for 2017/18. 10.2 It was reported that an external expert (Tony Platt) had been appointed as a consultant to look at arrangements for the collaborative modules and consider whether what is currently taking place is appropriate and sufficient. 10.3 It was reported that the Coleg's position is that it facilitates in those situations where collaboration provides the best solution. It was noted that collaborative provision had a role, and that it could enrich the Welsh-medium experience where appropriate for the subject's circumstances. Where the provision receives funding from the Coleg, the provision must be formal. Tony Platt was asked to provide advice on the current model and to recommend changes if necessary. This will be reported to the Board in due course.		
<b>11. Research Strategy</b>  • <b>To note the draft minutes of the Research and Publication Group meeting of 28 February 2017</b>	11.1 Dr Dylan Foster Evans noted a correction to the second page of the draft minutes of the Research and Publication Group meeting (28 February 2017) in the reference to an Action Plan for the Coleg's Research and Publication Strategy – <i>"Appendix 1: concern was noted about the fact that no issues of either Dwned or Llên Cymru had appeared for some time"</i> and noted that some issues of Llên Cymru had in fact appeared recently. 11.2 A discussion was held on Welsh-medium publication and the role of the University of Wales Press. 11.3 It was noted that Gwerddon was celebrating its tenth anniversary this year and that specific articles to celebrate its success would be a part of a launch at the		

	National Eisteddfod. People from all disciplines were encouraged to provide articles.		
<b>12. Matters arising from the minutes not already addressed</b>	<p><b>Widening Access (Delyth Murphy)</b></p> <p>12.1 It was noted that a meeting had been held after the previous meeting of the Academic Board, and it had been decided to focus on work areas.</p> <p>12.2 Delyth Murphy gave an update and noted that she was developing a strategy with Welsh-speaking young carers with the intention of discussing this at the next meeting of the Academic Board.</p> <p><b>QAA: Group review of the guidelines for assessing work submitted through the medium of Welsh</b></p> <p>12.3 It was reported that the Dean and the Chief Executive had received an invitation to join the Group, but that no meeting had been arranged thus far.</p> <p>12.4 Dr Dafydd Trystan was asked to circulate contact information for BIS.</p>	Delyth Murphy to prepare a paper on developments in widening Access	By the next meeting of the Academic Board.
<b>13. Any other business</b>	<p><b>Coleg Dean Visits</b></p> <p>13.1 It was noted that Dr Hefin Jones had visited Coleg Sir Gâr, Cardiff Metropolitan University, UWTSD (Swansea), Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities, and that he would be visiting UWTSD (Carmarthen), Newport and Swansea Universities before the end of the academic year.</p> <p><b>Student representation: Substitutions</b></p> <p>13.2 The proposal that student representatives could appoint substitutes, as the branches do, was accepted.</p> <p><b>Seren</b></p> <p>13.3 It was noted that the Coleg had been a part of a recent Seren network conference and had given presentations to the pupils and teachers to ensure that the Welsh-medium voice is heard. Once again, a number of members noted their concerns about this project that is funded by the Welsh Government.</p> <p>13.4 It was noted that Cardiff Medical School had contacted every Seren network in order to ensure presence at each one of their events.</p>		

	<p><b>National Eisteddfod</b></p> <p>13.5 It was noted that the full timetable had been arranged for the Eisteddfod this year.</p> <p><b>Gwobr Gwyn Thomas</b></p> <p>13.6 It was noted that the panel for Gwobr Gwyn Thomas would meet on Monday to award the best Welsh-medium essay.</p> <p><b>Gwobr Merêd</b></p> <p>13.7 It was noted that students should be informed that they have been nominated for this award so that a biography could be prepared in time.</p> <p><b>Professor Deri Thomas</b></p> <p>13.8 Professor Emeritus Deri Thomas was congratulated on winning the Science Medal. It was noted that the medal was a recognition of all the work Deri had done over the years, including the years before the Coleg was established.</p> <p>13.9 It was noted that Professor Emeritus Deri Thomas's term would end at the end of this academic year. Deri was thanked for all his work, for his contribution to his subject area and to the Academic Board.</p>		
<p><b>14. Dates and locations of the next meetings</b></p>	<p>The following dates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 October 2017, Bangor University</li> <li>• 7 February 2018, Swansea University</li> <li>• 2 May 2018, Cardiff Metropolitan University</li> </ul>		