

**Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Academic Board**  
**Wednesday, 3 February 2016**  
**Council Chamber, Swansea University**

**Present:**

Members (Coleg): Dr Hefin Jones (Chair and Dean), Professor Siwan Davies, Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Dr Mererid Hopwood, Professor Carwyn Jones (until 3.20), Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Professor Gwynedd Parry, Llŷr Roberts

Members (Institution): Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Dr Lisa Lewis, Delyth Murphy, Andrew Parry, Dr Elin Royles, Daniel Tiplady, Dr Catrin Haf Williams, Gaynor Williams

Members (Students): Rhydian Birkinshaw, Jacob Ellis, Poppy Evans

Members (Colegau Cymru): Robin Gwyn

Officers: Dr Ioan Matthews (Chief Executive), Dr Dylan Phillips (Senior Academic Manager), Dr Gwennan Schiavone (Senior Academic Manager), Dr Dafydd Trystan (Registrar), Nia Brown (Development Officer: Secretariat)

Apologies: Julie Brake, Dr Myfanwy Davies, Fflur Elin, Catrin Howells, Gwyndaf Lewis, Professor Densil Morgan, Professor Eleri Pryse, Gwerfyl Roberts, Llinos Roberts, Carys Swain, Aled Thomas, Professor Deri Tomos, Linda Wyn, Professor Enlli Thomas

Item	Main discussion points	Action points	Timescale
<p><b>1. Presentation by Swansea University</b></p>	<p>1.1. Dr Gwenno Ffrancon and Lois Griffiths gave a presentation on the work of the Swansea University branch and Academi Hywel Teifi.</p>		
<p><b>2. Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p>	<p>2.1. The members were formally welcomed to the meeting by the Dean.            2.2. Swansea University was thanked for hosting the meeting.            2.3. Robin Gwyn (on behalf of Carys Swain and Llinos Roberts) and Andrew Parry (on behalf of Julie Brake) were both welcomed to the meeting.</p>		

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	<p>2.4. The Dean noted that Dr John S Davies, an academic in the field of science and a supporter of Welsh medium provision, had passed away recently. Dr Davies was also a member of <i>Gwerddon's</i> Editorial Board.</p> <p>2.5. Swansea University was congratulated on the dinner to celebrate Academi Hywel Teifi's fifth anniversary at the new campus site in the Bay.</p>		
<b>3. Apologies and declarations of interest</b>	<p>3.1. Apologies as noted above.</p> <p>3.2. There were no declarations of interest to note:</p>		
<b>4. Update from officers</b>	<p>4.1. The Chief Executive and the Registrar gave an update on the current budgetary situation, Welsh Government's proposed cuts to higher education funding and the potential effects of this on the Coleg's budget.</p>		
<b>5. Interim Report on Diamond Review</b>	<p>5.1. The Chief Executive gave an oral report on the Diamond Review Interim Report. It was noted that the Coleg would be presenting additional information in the near future.</p>		
<b>6. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2015</b>	<p>6.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p>		
<b>7. Academic planning</b>  <b>(BA/16/01/09)</b>	<p>7.1. The Registrar gave a presentation as an introduction to an initial discussion on the process of creating a new Academic Plan to succeed the original plan published in 2012.</p> <p>7.2. A number of questions to be included in the new strategy were discussed as well as the consideration of a background paper on the subject choices of students from Wales.</p> <p>7.3. It was agreed that the questions for the new plan would be circulated to members and that responses would be</p>	<p>NB to circulate the questions. Members to respond. DT to draft discussion paper on new plan</p>	<p>February 2016  7 March 2016 11 May 2016</p>

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	required by March in order to allow for the presentation of a discussion paper at the meeting on 11 May 2016.		
<p><b>8. Academic matters (BA/16/01/07a)</b></p> <p><b>(BA/16/01/7ch)</b></p>	<p>8.1. Dr Dylan Phillips and Dr Catrin Haf Williams presented a report on the Theology and Religious Studies Subject Plan. They referred to the need for Religious Studies resources and a progression path from A level. The plan was accepted on the understanding that Bangor University would add targets and investment priorities to the plan.</p> <p>8.2. The Registrar gave a verbal report on the current situation with regards to subject reviews. Because of the new academic plan, not many reviews are currently taking place but a review of the Sports Plan is in the pipeline. Dr Gwennan Schiavone gave a verbal report on recent developments in Creative Industries; this subject will be reviewed in March.</p> <p>8.3. A verbal report was given by Dr Gwennan Schiavone on the review of the Part-Time Studies Project.</p> <p>8.4. Dr Gwennan Schiavone presented a report on the Certificate for Welsh Language Competence for Teachers and the ColegauCymru Plan. She gave an explanation on the papers and the specification, for information purposes. Following the changes in initial teacher training and the recommendations of the Donaldson Report it was recommended that the plans should be reviewed in future.</p>	Sports and Creative Industries plans to be reviewed	Spring Term
<p><b>9. Academic Collaboration Committee</b></p> <p><b>(BA/16/01/11)</b></p>	<p>9.1. The draft minutes of the meeting on 20 January 2016 were noted, for information purposes.</p> <p>9.2. Following the note on the needs of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) which noted that officers had prepared an introductory paper for Welsh</p>	NB to circulate the TEF paper	February 2016

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	Government in order to ensure that Welsh-medium provision would form part of the framework from the outset, it was agreed that the Coleg's response paper to the TEF should be circulated to members of the Academic Board for information purposes.		
<b>10. Research Strategy</b> <b>(BA/16/01/12)</b>	10.1 The draft minutes of the Research and Publication Group meeting on 3 November 2015 were noted for information purposes. 10.2 There was a general discussion on the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the publication of articles in <i>Gwerddon</i> and financial constraints on the University of Wales Press. 10.3 It was noted that the Research Strategy would be discussed in detail at one of the Academic Board's meetings before the summer.	Item for the agenda	July 2016
<b>11. Presentation by the Learned Society of Wales</b>	11.1 Professor M Wynn Thomas, Vice President of the Learned Society of Wales, gave a presentation on the aims of the Society and developments that have taken place since its inception in 2011. 11.2. It was noted that the Society has presented a body of evidence to the Diamond Review, is in the process of coordinating a scholarship network and hopes to hold events in collaboration with the Coleg at this year's National Eisteddfod. 11.3 It was noted further that the Society already holds the Eduard Lhuyd Annual Lecture in collaboration with the Coleg and also sponsors the <i>Gwerddon</i> prize. 11.3 Professor Thomas was thanked for his valuable presentation.		

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<p><b>12. Student matters</b></p>	<p>12.1. The relevant Branch Chairs were thanked for responding officially to student comments raised at the meeting on 14 October 2015. It was noted that there are guidelines in place to discuss student matters, i.e. which specific matters should be raised at the Academic Board and which ones should be raised with the branch.</p> <p>12.2. Poppy Evans gave a presentation on the students' discussion paper on communication.</p> <p>12.3. The new ambassadors' work was praised along with the Coleg's App. Informal opportunities to discuss were deemed beneficial rather than exclusively formal school visits.</p> <p>12.4. It was requested whether the Coleg's marketing activity to potential students could be expanded beyond Wales. It was also noted that non Welsh-speaking Sabbatical Officers for Students' Unions in Wales need to understand the context of Welsh-medium higher education.</p> <p>12.5. In an enquiry about the closing date for the scholarship, it was noted that there are now two closing dates for the motivation scholarship.</p> <p>12.6. It was noted that it is now possible to collect information about former students of the Coleg.</p> <p>12.7. The students were thanked for their feedback. The members also noted their appreciation of the inclusion of a discussion paper at every meeting.</p>		
<p><b>13. Expanding access and participation</b></p> <p><b>(BA/16/01/13)</b></p>	<p>13.1. The minutes of the Widening Access Committee held on 23 October 2016, were noted for information purposes.</p> <p>13.2. Delyth Murphy, Chair of the committee, gave an update on the committee's work. It was noted that the work of targeting adults and parents has started. There was also a reference to a wider experience questionnaire.</p>		

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<b>14. Matters arising</b>	<p>14.1 <u>Item 7.5: Nursing Post</u> It was noted that there had been no applicants for the Nursing Post at Swansea University so far, but discussions are continuing.</p> <p>14.2 <u>Item 18.4: Glyndŵr University</u> It was noted that discussions to strengthen relations between the Coleg and Glyndŵr University are ongoing.</p>		
<b>15. AOB</b>	<p>15.1. It was noted for information purposes that the Coleg's Internal Auditors were holding a review of Branch activities.</p> <p>15.2. It was noted that Dr Dylan Foster Evans will be representing the Coleg staff and Poppy Evans will be representing the Coleg's students at the Annual Meeting of the Coleg's Court at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff on 2 March 2016.</p> <p>15.3. It was noted that Geraint Talfan Davies, Ned Thomas and Rhian Huws Williams would be honoured as Fellows at the Coleg's annual Congregation on 2 March 2016.</p>		
<b>16. Dates of the next meetings</b>	<p>16.1. The following dates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 May 2016, Cardiff Metropolitan University</li> <li>• 20 July 2016, Cardiff University</li> </ul>		