

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Academic Board

Wednesday 8 February 2017

Cothi Suite, Halliwell Centre, University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Present:

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

Members (Institutional): Dr Gwawr Jones (for Dr Lisa Lewis), Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Dr Elin Royles, Sara Whittam, Dr Catrin Haf Williams, Julie Brake, Daniel Tiplady

Members (Students): Alun Bryn Rennolf, Laura Beth Davies, Gethin Morgan, Osian Wyn Morgan

Members (ColegauCymru): -

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

Apologies: Dr Dafydd Trystan (Registrar), Llinos Roberts, Linda Wyn, Professor Enlli Thomas, Dr Lisa Lewis, Lois Pennant Jones, Dr Myfanwy Davies, Gwerfyl Roberts, Professor Carwyn Jones, Huw Morris

Item	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
1. Welcome and Opening Remarks	<p>1.1 The Dean welcomed members formally to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 The student representatives for 2016/17 were welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>1.3 Sioned Roberts from Glyndŵr University was welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>1.4 The University of Wales Trinity Saint David was thanked for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>1.5 The absence of Nia Brown due to illness was noted, and best wishes sent on behalf of the Academic Board.</p>		

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	<p>1.6 Condolences were extended to Dr Dafydd Trystan and family in their loss.</p> <p>1.7 The resignation of Linda Wyn was noted. She was thanked for all her work and support, personally, and on behalf of the Academic Board.</p>		
<p>2. Presentation by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David Branch</p>	<p>2.1 Gwilym Dyfri Jones gave a presentation and welcomed the Academic Board to the University of Wales Trinity Saint David.</p> <p>2.2 The presentation included a report on the University's plan to deliver 5-credit Welsh-medium modules in addition to the 120 credits each year, and the developments for next year.</p> <p>2.3 Bethan Wyn Davies, Branch Officer for the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, gave a presentation and referred to a number of the Branch's successful activities such as the Trinity Saint David Blwyddiadur (Year Planner), the Swper Syniadau (Ideas Dinner) and the Coleg scholarship holders celebration Dinner.</p> <p>2.4 They were thanked for their presentations, which showed both the challenges and the pioneering work taking place in the institution.</p>		
<p>3. Apologies and declarations of interest</p>	<p>3.1 Apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>3.2 There were no declarations of interest to note.</p>		
<p>4. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2016</p>	<p>4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.</p>		
<p>5. Update from the Chief Executive</p>	<p>5.1 The Chief Executive gave an update on matters involving the Coleg.</p> <p>5.2 It was noted that, on 14 October 2016, the Appointments Committee had appointed Dr Hefin Jones to serve as</p>		

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	<p>Coleg Dean and Chair of the Academic Board for a further term.</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>5.3 It was reported that the Diamond Review had recommended that the Coleg remain as the principal organisation for planning and supporting Welsh-medium higher education and that it should continue to receive an annual budget at least in line with the budget for 2016/17, which was £5.8m. The budget for 2017/18 has now been confirmed.</p> <p>5.4 It was noted that the 2017/18 budget had been drafted to go to the Board of Directors' meeting next month, with most of the sum being allocated to activities already planned, and £0.5 million being awarded through subject plans in light of the Academic Plan.</p> <p>5.5 The changes in the Coleg's funding arrangements were reported, with the funding now coming directly from the Welsh Government rather than via HEFCW.</p> <p>5.6 It was noted that the grants monitoring arrangements would not be affected for the time being.</p> <p>Launch of the Academic Plan</p> <p>5.7 It was noted that the launch of the Academic Plan at the Senedd on 31 January 2017 had been very successful. It was reported that politicians across the political parties were interested in the Coleg's work.</p> <p>5.8 Academic Board members were thanked for attending the launch.</p>		

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	<p>Branch review</p> <p>5.9 It was reported that a review of the Branches by the internal auditors had been completed.</p> <p>5.10 It was noted that the report looked at the need to further develop the Branches and consider the authority they hold within their institutions, in order to strengthen the role of branches.</p> <p>5.11 Reference was made to the importance of the Coleg's national role in collaborating with the universities and the concept of a staffing community – to be strengthened through Associate Lecturers. A paper will be submitted to the Board of Directors with the intention of holding a discussion with the institutions over the next few months.</p> <p>Hazelkorn Review</p> <p>5.12 It was noted that the Education Secretary had responded to the Hazelkorn Review.</p> <p>5.13 It was noted that there were no direct implications for the Coleg in this regard for the moment.</p> <p>Task and Finish Group: Review of the activities of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol</p> <p>5.14 It was noted that the Task and Finish Group had met this week and that the timescale had been extended from the timescale intended originally.</p> <p>5.15 It was reported that the period for submitting evidence and comments to the Task and Finish Group had been extended until the end of March.</p> <p>5.16 It was noted that Andrew Green's term will end on 31 March this year.</p>		

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	<p>5.17 It was reported that a new Chair had been appointed and that a formal announcement would be made in the next few days. It was reported that the Chief Executive and the Dean had met with the new Chair.</p> <p>Coleg Annual Congregation</p> <p>5.18 It was noted that the Coleg's Annual Congregation would be held on 8 March at Swansea University.</p> <p>5.19 It was noted that the Eilir Hedd Morgan Award would be presented to Dr Prysor Williams. The three fellows to be invested this year would be Professor Brynley F Roberts, Dr Siân Wyn Siencyn and Professor Merfyn Jones.</p>		
<p>6. Academic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Dr Dylan Phillips; and • Next steps 	<p>6.1 Dr Dylan Phillips gave a presentation the aims and objectives of the subject grants.</p> <p>6.2 He reported on the three aspects of the subject grants process, i.e. (1) establishing a national framework; (2) planning by subject; and (3) implementation and monitoring.</p> <p>6.3 It was noted that the subjects had been categorized as development, developed and mature subjects. It was noted that a subject's status could be assessed from time to time.</p> <p>6.4 Reference was made to all the factors that would affect subject categorization.</p> <p>6.5 It was noted that discussions with universities would be vital in ensuring clarity on subject grant conditions.</p> <p>6.6 Board members raised a number of specific matters during the subsequent discussion. Members were asked to submit these points in writing, so that any general themes could be considered at future meetings when the process is refined.</p>	<p>Member comments/questions to Dr Dylan Phillips and/or Suzanne Lewis.</p>	

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<p>7. Research and publication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REF 2021 consultation; and • Confirming the Coleg's publication policy. 	<p>Research Excellence Framework 2021 Consultation</p> <p>7.1 It was noted that Mari Fflur, the Coleg's Publication Officer, had prepared a draft response to the Research Excellence Framework.</p> <p>7.2 Following a discussion, it was agreed that the members should provide Dr Dylan Phillips with further comments on the draft response by 24 February, so that they could be incorporated into the draft that would go to the Research and Publication Group on 28 February.</p> <p>7.3 The Chief Executive confirmed that consideration would be given to a review of the status of the Research and Publication Group, in terms of its relationship with the Academic Board.</p> <p>Confirmation of the Coleg's publication policy</p> <p>7.4 Dr Dylan Phillips presented the Coleg's Publication Policy and noted that the document confirmed the various policy decisions taken during the years since the Coleg's establishment.</p> <p>7.5 Following a short discussion, the Academic Board approved the policy.</p>	<p>Members comments to Dr Dylan Phillips and/or Suzanne Lewis</p>	<p>Before 24/01/2017</p>
<p>8. Widening Access and Participation</p>	<p>8.1 The Chief Executive thanked Delyth Murphy for moving the widening access agenda forward.</p> <p>8.2 It was noted that the Chief Executive, the Dean and Delyth Murphy would meet following the Academic Board meeting.</p> <p>8.3 Delyth Murphy gave a verbal report on widening access and participation.</p>		
<p>9. Assessment and examination (QAA)</p>	<p>9.1 It was noted that the Chief Executive had received an invitation to represent the Coleg on the Group to review the 2003 guidelines for higher education institutions in Wales</p>		

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	<p>on effective practice in examination and assessment in a language other than the language of teaching (QAA).</p> <p>9.2 It was agreed that the Dean would sit on the group as an academic representative of the Coleg.</p> <p>9.3 The Chief Executive recommended that it would be useful to bring a draft of the new guidelines to the Academic Board for discussion when they are available.</p>		
<p>10. Membership system: update by Rhys Williams</p>	<p>10.1 Rhys Williams, Systems and Information Technology Manager, gave a presentation on the Coleg's current membership system.</p> <p>.2 It was noted that Rhys Williams would provide an update to the Academic Board when there are developments to report.</p>		
<p>11. Matters for discussion by branches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberystwyth branch: 5 credits 	<p>11.1 Dr Elin Royles presented her paper discussing 5 credits as a metric.</p> <p>11.2 The Chief Executive noted that it was HEFCW who decided that 5 credits should be a metric when the Coleg was established, and that the Coleg wanted to use 40, 80 and 120 credits as well.</p> <p>11.3 It was noted that there were ongoing discussions between the Coleg and the Welsh Government on reconsidering the metrics. However, it was noted that it was likely that 5 credits would continue as a metric.</p> <p>11.4 The Chief Executive presented a paper, on behalf of the Registrar, outlining the steps the Coleg has taken in discussing the development of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) with officials from the UK Government and HEFCW. Most recently, the Coleg has suggested that a data exercise should be undertaken to check whether there are significant differences in the data between those</p>		

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	<p>studying 5 credits in Welsh and those studying 40 credits. That would give more assurance in terms of the suitability of the current metric as the TEF develops.</p> <p>11.5 The Chief Executive noted that Universities Wales, as a body, had not raised the Welsh language as an issue in responding to BIS.</p> <p>11.6 Following a discussion, the Academic Board noted its dissatisfaction with the use of 5 credits as a TEF metric, and asked the Coleg and the higher education institutions to get in touch with BIS to highlight the issues with the current metric.</p>		
12. Matters arising from the minutes not already dealt with	<p>12.1 Item 8 – It was confirmed that the process for electing students had been revised.</p> <p>12.2 Item 13 – The Academic Plan was updated in line with members' comments.</p>		
13. AOB	<p>13.1 The Chair noted that he had visited Cardiff University, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Coleg Meirion Dwyfor, and that he would soon be visiting the Open University and the University of South Wales.</p>		
14. Dates of the next meetings	<p>The following date was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 May 2017, Aberystwyth University 		