

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Academic Board
Wednesday, 13 May 2015
William Morgan Room, Glyndŵr University, Wrexham

Present:

Members (Coleg): Dr Hefin Jones (Chair and Dean), Dr Myfanwy Davies, Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Professor Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Gwilym Dyfri Jones, Gwerfyl Roberts

Members (Institution): Julie Brake (afternoon), Dr Heledd Iago, Gwawr Jones, Llŷr Roberts, Professor Enlli Thomas

Members (Students): Jacob Ellis, Poppy Evans, Aled Thomas

Members (Colegau Cymru): Llinos Roberts (until 2.50), Linda Wyn (until 3.25)

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), Mari Fflur (Publications Officer)

Apologies: Rhydian Birkinshaw, Professor Siwan Davies, Fflur Elin, Dr Jeremy Evas, Dr Gwenno Ffrancon, Catrin Howells, Dr Anwen Jones, Gwyndaf Lewis, Dr Lisa Lewis, Professor Densil Morgan, Delyth Murphy, Professor Gwynedd Parry, Professor Eleri Pryse, Dr Angharad Naylor, Carys Swain, Dr Siân Wyn Siencyn, Professor Deri Tomos

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
1. Welcome and opening remarks	1.1. Members were formally welcomed to the meeting by the Dean. 1.2. Glyndŵr University was thanked for hosting the meeting. 1.3. Dr Heledd Iago, Swansea University (on behalf of Dr Gwenno Ffrancon) and Gwawr Jones, South Wales University (on behalf of Dr Lisa Lewis) were welcomed. Welcome was also extended to Mari Fflur, the Coleg's Publications Officer. 1.4. Poppy Evans and Aled Thomas, 2015/16 student representatives, were welcomed to their first meeting.		

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	<p>1.5. Gwilym Dyfri Jones was congratulated on his appointment as a member of the Coleg's Board of Directors. He was asked to convey the Academic Board's congratulations to the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David on their successful application to operate as the Welsh for Adults National Entity.</p> <p>1.6. The Dean referred to the importance of the Academic Board's discussions since any recommendations would be fed into the Board of Directors, the Coleg's governing body.</p>		
<p>2. Apologies and declarations of interest</p>	<p>2.1. Apologies were noted as above.</p> <p>2.2. There were no declarations of interest to be noted.</p>		
<p>3. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2015</p>	<p>3.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record.</p> <p>3.2.</p>		
<p>4. Membership</p>	<p>4.1. Noted that there were several vacancies on the Academic Board as a result of job changes, end of service periods and retirements.</p> <p>4.2. Reported that the appropriate procedures were in place to fill the gaps and that officers would operate through correspondence to fill these vacancies by September 2015.</p> <p>4.3. Agreed to write formally to Dr Siân Wyn Siencyn to thank her for her contribution and support, and to wish her well on her retirement.</p> <p>4.4. An oral report was presented on student representation on the Academic Board for the 2015/16 academic year. The following appointments have been made: Representatives of the Universities of the South-East – Catrin Howells, Cardiff University and Rhydian</p>		

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	<p>Birkinshaw, Cardiff Metropolitan University Representatives of the Universities of the South-West – Aled Bryn Thomas, Swansea University and Gwyndaf Lewis, University of Wales Trinity St. David Representatives of the Universities of the North-West– Fflur Elin, Bangor University and Poppy Evans, Aberystwyth University Postgraduate Representative – Jacob Ellis, Cardiff University UCMC Officer – Siôn Davies</p> <p>4.5. The students who had served as members during 2014/15 were thanked for their constructive contributions.</p>		
<p>5. Subject plans (BA/15/02/5a)</p>	<p>5.1. An update was given on the subject plans already submitted to the Academic Board. Noted that the subject table now includes additional columns identifying HEFCW’s latest official data for 2013/14, the date of the plan review and the date for drawing up a new plan. The current situation of a number of the plans was noted, including:</p> <p>(i) Welsh – explained that although the plan did not follow the same format as the rest, it had been an action plan since before the Coleg’s inception and that the plan could be reviewed during 2015/16.</p> <p>(ii) Theology – agreed that the Coleg officers would organise a meeting to discuss a comprehensive plan since the activity has been in existence since before the Coleg was established.</p> <p>(iii) Creative Industries – the intention to review the plan in the near future was noted.</p> <p>(iv) Noted that plans had been completed for Music, Education and Philosophy (status 1 report).</p> <p>(v) Computing – noted that three institutions had</p>	<p>Update the subject plan document for submission to the next meeting</p> <p>Review</p> <p>Officers to organise a meeting</p> <p>Review</p> <p>Change status</p> <p>Note the information</p>	<p>14 October 2015</p> <p>2015/16</p> <p>Summer Term 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p> <p>May 2015</p> <p>June 2015</p>

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
<p>(BA/15/02/5c)</p> <p>(BA/15/02/5ch)</p>	<p>expressed an interest and that this information needs to be noted in order to complete the plan within a month, and that the status report could then be changed to 1.</p> <p>(vi) Engineering – noted that a final plan had been submitted and that the status report could be changed to 1.</p> <p>5.2. Plans have been submitted in the areas of History and Art and Design. Following discussion, the History plan was approved with a correction (status report 1). Agreed to re-submit the Art and Design plan at the meeting in the October following input from more higher and further education institutions.</p> <p>5.3. A report was received on the Geography subject review.</p> <p>5.4. Noted that the next plans to be reviewed will be: Creative Industries, Politics and Sport Sciences.</p> <p>5.5. The Registrar submitted a subject plan review process. Following a discussion which included recommending the inclusion of the student experience, the process was approved. It was agreed to provide a list of subject panel student representatives to the Academic Board students.</p> <p>5.6. As part of the discussion on subject plans, stress was laid on the importance of looking again at the targets in the wake of the latest Funding Council data and the targets set by the Coleg were much higher or lower than foreseen. Noted that the Funding Council had extended the same targets to 2016/17.</p> <p>5.7. Recommended that good practice be shared on the success of some areas in exceeding targets in regard to student numbers.</p> <p>5.8. The Chief Executive reported on uncertainty regarding the Coleg's future funding. Following discussion, it was agreed that this would affect the available resources and</p>	<p>Change status</p> <p>Correct and change status Change to status 1 Re-submit Art and Design</p> <p>Submit subject reviews: Creative Industries, Politics and Sport Sciences to the next meeting</p> <p>Provide a list of subject panel student representatives to the AB students</p>	<p>May 2015</p> <p>May 2015</p> <p>May 2015 14 October 2015</p> <p>14 October 2015</p> <p>May 2015</p>

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	as a result, consideration would have to be given to prioritising areas or elements within academic areas.		
6. Modern Languages	6.1. The Chief Executive submitted on the current situation of Modern Languages. Noted that the national co-ordinator would lead and supervise the area, located at Swansea University. The new procedure will have been agreed over the next few weeks.		
7. Language Skills Certificate	7.1. Dr Gwennan Schiavone submitted an oral report on the accreditation arrangements for the Language Skills Certificate. Noted that the Coleg is in discussions with the Welsh Joint Education Committee to accredit the certificate, beginning in 2017. The certificate could then be offered to workplaces.		
8. Academic Collaboration Committee (BA/15/02/08)	8.1. The minutes of 21 January 2015 and 22 April 2015 were noted, for information. 8.2. Since the term of the student member has come to an end, it was recommended that the name of a new representative be offered by correspondence. 8.3. Reference was made to the fact that a number of members of the Academic Collaboration Committee, who are administrators at the institutions' registries, are unanimously agreed that it is essential to establish a process to support co-operative plans. 8.4. In this respect, the Chief Executive submitted a paper on the operation of co-operative projects. 8.5. The paper was reviewed for referral to the Board of Directors so as to establish permanent arrangements to implement and place national projects.	JE to provide a name	May 2015

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
9. Academic Staffing Scheme	<p>9.1. Dr Dylan Phillips gave an oral update on the Coleg's Academic Staffing Scheme.</p> <p>9.2. Reported that 18 funded posts had been advertised to be funded as from 2015/16.</p> <p>9.3. Reported that a new planning model had been submitted to the Board of Directors on 4 March 2015 which is dependent on the Coleg budget beyond 2017.</p> <p>9.4. Following a full discussion on the future of the Staffing Scheme, members noted their concerns regarding possible cuts to the Coleg budget. Agreed that this could lead to the undermining of the progress made in Welsh-medium higher education since the establishment of the Coleg. Members emphasised the importance of maintaining the Coleg's strategic planning arrangements.</p> <p>9.5. There followed a discussion on the degree to which universities may be reasonably expected to shoulder the responsibility for funding posts following five years of support by the Coleg. Reference was made to a number of challenges, but it was also noted that the universities could not be totally dependent on the Coleg to maintain the provision.</p> <p>9.6. There was a brief discussion on the structures of the various Coleg branches at the institutions, and the need for the branches to develop as the Coleg evolved was noted.</p>		
10. Research Scholarships Scheme (BA/15/02/10)	<p>10.1. Dr Dylan Phillips gave a presentation on the paper Research Scholarships: Evaluation Recommendation.</p> <p>10.2. Noted that the Coleg had by now funded 100 doctoral students. Although the Evaluation commended the Research Scholarships Scheme, a number of recommendations were put forward for consideration by the Coleg.</p>		

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	<p>10.3. The recommendations were discussed, and, subject to funding, it was considered whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) fewer research scholarships should be awarded in future (ii) to concentrate awards in areas / disciplines where there is a lack of academic staff who can work through the medium of Welsh (iii) to award scholarships which accord with public policy themes <p>10.4. Agreed that there should be no reduction in the number of scholarships awarded; that there was a risk in concentrating awards in specific areas; and that awards should not be limited by public policy considerations.</p> <p>10.5. Agreed to provide by correspondence any suggestions regarding other methods whereby the Coleg could support Welsh-medium doctorate-level research in the institutions.</p>	Members to correspond with DP	By the end of June 2015
<p>11. Research Excellence Framework and the Coleg (BA/15/02/11)</p>	<p>11.1 The Registrar presented a paper on the Research Excellence Framework (REF) and the Coleg.</p> <p>11.2 A discussion ensued on the REF's influence on the Coleg's financial decisions. It was not considered appropriate for the Coleg to depend solely on the REF results since the Coleg's remit is to ensure a continuity route to attract students to study through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>11.3 Noted that the recommendations of the Academic Board would be referred to the Board of Directors on 17 June 2015.</p> <p>11.4 The final document will be circulated.</p>		
<p>12. Research Strategy</p>	<p>12.1 The draft minutes of the Research and Publication Group of 12 March 2015 were noted for information.</p>		

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
(BA/15/02/12)	12.2 The Chief Executive presented the Coleg's research strategy. There followed a full discussion where a number of recommendations were put forward, including the importance of publishing research through the medium of English as well as Welsh, in order to reach an international stage.	Dean to report on the discussion to the Group	3 June 2015
13. Widening access and participation (BA/15/02/13)	13.1. The Coleg's response to the Funding Council circular was noted. 13.2. An update on the current situation was given by the Chief Executive. Noted that the Funding Council continues to prioritise widening access and participation. Further noted that the Coleg funds a continuity project to raise the awareness of pupils from Year 9 on. Reference was made to the work of <i>First Campus</i> in the south-east which seeks to attract pupils from deprived backgrounds.		
14. Health-related subjects (BA/15/02/14)	14.1. The action points on recommendations derived from a review report on behalf of the Coleg by Dr Elin Walker Jones were noted. 14.2. Reference was made to the launch of the Language Awareness course in Social Work, namely the first Massive Open Online Course (CAEA or MOOC) to be created through the medium of Welsh, on 21 May 2015. 14.3. Agreed that the Coleg should respond to a public consultation on the Review of Investment in Education for Professional Healthcare Workers.	Registrar to prepare	May 2015
15. Matters arising	15.1. <u>Item 12.3 – Position statement on widening access and participation</u> Noted that the Registrar would draw up a revised position statement. 15.2 <u>Item 13.3 – Health Area</u>	DT to prepare a statement	Summer 2015

Item	Chief discussion points	Action Points	Timescale
	Reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Health Minister to discuss the Coleg's work in the area of Health.		
16. AOB	<p>16.1. The issues which the student representatives wish to discuss during their term of membership 2015/16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate study materials • Lack of lecturers in some areas • Information and literature for pupils and Coleg students • Awareness of the Coleg app <p>16.2. The Chief Executive noted that the Board of Directors at its next meeting on 17 June 2015 will discuss the Coleg's strategic plan and the Coleg's relationship with the further education sector.</p> <p>16.3. Noted that the Coleg had established Gwobr Merêd, awarded at the National Eisteddfod for the first time this year. The Award will recognise the contribution of a student, who is a current member of the Coleg, to Welsh life and culture within a wider university.</p> <p>16.4. The Dean reported that he was staying overnight to meet the staff and students of Glyndŵr University to discuss developing the Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>16.5. The Dean reported also on his visits to branches.</p>		
17. Dates of next meetings	<p>17.1. The following dates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 October 2015, Bangor University • 3 February 2016, Swansea University • 11 May 2016, Cardiff University 		