

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Board of Directors

Wednesday, 20 March 2019

9.30 - 12.45

Bangor University

Present:

Directors

Dr Haydn E Edwards
Nia Elias
Professor Jerry Hunter
Gwilym Dyfri Jones
Dr Hefin Jones
Pedr ap Llwyd
Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan
Gareth Pierce
Llinos Roberts
Angharad Lloyd Williams
Ieuan Wyn

Observers:

Gethin Morgan (UCMC/NUS Wales)
Dr Cliona O'Neill, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
Gwyneth Sweatman (UCMC/NUS Wales)

Officers

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

Apologies:

William Callaway
Professor Hywel Thomas
Catherine Rees, Secretary

| Item | Main points of discussion | Actions | Timescale |
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| 1. Welcome and introduction | 1.1 Members were welcomed to the meeting, in particular Angharad Lloyd Williams as a new member of the Board. 1.2 Apologies were received for inclusion in the minutes. | | |
| 2. Declarations of interest | 2.1 Members were reminded of the procedure by which they are asked to note on the attendance signature sheet any declarations of interest additional to those already noted in the Register of Interests. 2.2 The chair declared that he was Chair of the Anglesey Language Forum and had resigned as chair of the Advisory Board of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. | | |
| 3. To receive and consider the minutes of the 28 November 2018 meeting (Item 3) | 3.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 28 November 2018. Matters arising 3.2 It was reported that the actions identified in the minutes had either been completed or that the item appeared on the agenda. 3.3 <u>Item 10.5 – ColegauCymru</u> It was reported that the Coleg was now an associate member of ColegauCymru. | | |

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| <p>(Item 7biii)</p> | <p>5.5 In relation to risk 3 (Expanding the role of the Coleg to post-16 education) it was confirmed that the Higher Education budget would not be diverted. The Chief Executive noted that the Diamond Report recommendation was clear regarding the need to set aside at least £5.4m through the Coleg for Higher Education. In relation to risk 1 (student numbers) the local authorities' WESPs were mentioned and it was agreed to consider this further.</p> <p>5.6 Following the discussion, the Risk Register was accepted with the recommended amendments.</p> <p>Reserves Policy</p> <p>5.7 The Coleg's reserves policy was noted.</p> | | |
| <p>6. Finance and General Purposes Committee</p> <p>(Agenda Item 8a)</p> <p>(Item 8b)</p> | <p>Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes</p> <p>6.1 The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 January 2019 were noted and accepted.</p> <p>6.2 The main points of the 16 January 2019 meeting were summarised by the Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted that the Coleg's policies were of a high standard • He noted that the responsibility for the review and monitoring of the Coleg's investments will move to the Finance and General Purposes Committee (from the Audit and Risk Committee) in due course <p>2019-20 Budget</p> | | |

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| | <p>6.3 Dr Dylan Phillips presented the Coleg's Budget for 2019/20.</p> <p>6.4 During the discussion the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Coleg is now promoting Welsh-medium education to Year 9 pupils • Research Scholarships continue to be vital to the development of lecturers and maintaining the future number of lecturers • a positive response from students to the Coleg's presence on social media including the targeting of tweets according to subject • suggestions for extending the Coleg's profile were given <p>6.5 Following a full discussion, the budget was approved.</p> | | |
| <p>7. Appointments and Governance Standards Committee</p> | <p><i>At this point, Gwilym Dyfri Jones left the room.</i></p> <p>Re-appointment of Director</p> <p>7.1 The re-appointment of Gwilym Dyfri Jones was recommended and approved for a second four-year term from 12 May 2019 – 11 May 2023.</p> <p><i>At this point, Gwilym Dyfri Jones returned to the room.</i></p> | | |
| <p>8. Academic Board (Item 10)</p> | <p>8.1 The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 6 February 2019 were noted and accepted.</p> <p>8.2 A summary of the main points of 6 February 2019 meeting was received from the Dean, Dr Hefin Jones.</p> <p>Student paper</p> | | |

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| | <p>8.3 It was reported that the student representatives had submitted a paper on the establishment of a national elected President, and the proposed discussions were noted. Gwyneth Sweatman reported on the National Union of Students' supportive position and bilingual policy.</p> <p>Review of subject plans</p> <p>8.4 It was reported that a subject plan review process had been confirmed at the meeting.</p> <p>Research Excellence Framework</p> <p>8.5 Professor Jerry Hunter, Chair of the Research and Publications Committee, reported on the institutions' duty to raise awareness of the fact that Welsh-medium research could be submitted to the Research Excellence Framework (REF). This was reiterated by Dr Cliona O'Neill.</p> <p>Gwerddon</p> <p>8.6 It was reported that <i>Gwerddon</i> had published its 100th article.</p> <p>Attendance</p> <p>8.7 A degree of concern was reported regarding the attendance of some members at recent Academic Board meetings. The Chief Executive noted that the branches were expected to send a representative to each meeting and that the Academic Board membership would be reviewed.</p> | | |
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| | <p>8.8 In response to a question, it was reported that the intention was to create a suitable forum separate from the Academic Board for further education discussions but that the potential models had not yet been fully considered.</p> <p>The Dean's Annual Tour</p> <p>8.9 The Dean reported on his annual tour of the higher education and further education institutions. He noted the concern in some areas, and with regard to the sciences in particular, that so many students choose not to study through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Students outside Wales</p> <p>8.10 A brief report was given on initial discussions to maintain contact with students studying outside Wales.</p> | | |
| <p>9. Constitutional Matters</p> | <p>Annual general Meeting, 19 March 2019</p> <p>9.1 A report was given on the Annual General Meeting of the Coleg (the Court) which met the previous day.</p> <p>Expansion of the Court's membership</p> <p>9.2 It was reported that a paper would be presented to the next Board meeting recommending that the membership of the Court be expanded to reflect the Coleg's responsibilities in the post-16 sector.</p> <p>9.3 A proposal will be submitted to the next Board of Directors.</p> | <p>Paper to the Board</p> | <p>25 June 2019</p> |

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| <p>10. Chair's Matters</p> | <p>Thanks and congratulations</p> <p>10.1 The Chair thanked Professor Iwan Davies for chairing the meeting in November in his absence. He was also thanked for his wise and thoughtful legal guidance during his time on the Board.</p> <p>10.2 It was noted that this was Ieuan Wyn's last meeting as a member of the Board. He was thanked for his sound contribution and vision throughout his service on the Board.</p> <p>10.3 Congratulations were extended to Pedr ap Llwyd on his appointment as Chief Executive and Librarian of the National Library of Wales.</p> <p>Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee</p> <p>10.4 The recommendation that Pedr ap Llwyd should chair the Finance and General Purposes Committee was ratified.</p> <p>Audit and Risk Committee</p> <p>10.5 It was reported that Gareth Pierce had been an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee but was now a member representing the Board of Directors.</p> <p>Chair, Appointments and Governance Standards Committee</p> <p>10.6 It was reported that the period of Meirion Prys Jones as chair of the Appointments and Standards Committee will come to an end in July 2019. Members were asked to submit nominations by the end of March and the</p> | <p>Submit a name to the Board</p> | <p>25 June 2019</p> |
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| | <p>10.12 A report was given on the post-16 launch at Cardiff and Vale College on 24 January 2019. The Board members present were thanked for their attendance.</p> | | |
| <p>11. Chief Executive's Report (Item 13)</p> | <p>11.1 The Chief Executive gave a verbal summary of the written report on recent activities that had been circulated in advance.</p> <p>Higher Education – monitoring arrangements</p> <p>11.2 It was reported that HEFCW were advising institutions to consult with the Coleg regarding Welsh-medium metrics for inclusion in the fee and access plans. The Welsh Government has agreed to the recommendation in the Data Report submitted by the Coleg in September 2018 that the National targets will reflect the fee plan metrics from 2019/20 onwards. The importance of setting meaningful targets that reflect the numbers of Welsh speakers in universities and the percentage that could reasonably be expected to study through the medium of Welsh was discussed.</p> <p>Initial Teacher Training</p> <p>11.3 It was reported that discussions were continuing regarding the role of the Coleg in relation to Initial Teacher Training. It was noted that there is no funding in the Grant Letter to fund any activities in this respect once the current Language Competency Certificate for Teachers expires. However, a meeting with Welsh Government officials at the beginning of April would be held to discuss the matter further.</p> | | |

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| | <p>11.4 Members of the Board raised the related issue of the low take-up of Welsh-medium ITT courses and that this has serious implications in the medium term for workforce planning and responding to the Welsh Government's Language Strategy targets. It was also noted that trainees qualifying outside Wales did not receive training on the new curriculum being introduced in Wales.</p> <p>Further Education</p> <p>11.5 A full written report on the current situation was received, and it was noted that this will be the subject of a presentation at the next meeting of the Board.</p> <p>Meetings</p> <p>11.6 The Chief Executive reported on strategic meetings held with the Chief Executives of a number of other bodies including Qualifications Wales, the Education Workforce Council, WJEC and the National Centre for Learning Welsh. The Chief Executive noted that he had also held a recent meeting with the Welsh Language Commissioner designate.</p> <p>General Updates on the work of the Coleg</p> <p>11.7 Written reports were received for information in relation to Marketing and Communications; Academic Training and Staff Development; <i>Gwerddon</i> and other publication projects; Associate Lecturers scheme; Promoting the Welsh language as a subject; Working Welsh scheme; and Information Services.</p> | <p>Further Education presentation to the Board</p> | <p>25 June 2019</p> |
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| <p>21. Welsh Government Grant Letter</p> | <p>12.1 The meeting received and noted the Welsh Government Grant Letter to the Coleg for 2019/20 which was circulated separately to members of the Board of Directors.</p> | | |
| <p>13. Strategic Plan</p> | <p>13.1 The Chief Executive gave a presentation on the Coleg's Strategic Plan for 2019/20 to 2023/24.</p> <p>13.2 The first stages of preparing the Strategic Plan were discussed. It was agreed to arrange a special meeting to discuss the contents of the plan before submitting a draft to the Board of Directors on 25 June 2019. A consultation is expected during the summer.</p> | <p>Arrange a meeting for the directors</p> <p>Submit a draft Strategic Plan to the Board</p> | <p>Immediately</p> <p>25 June 2019</p> |
| <p>14. Subject Grants (Item 16)</p> | <p>14.1 Dr Dylan Phillips presented recommendations on the award of subject grants and Catalyst grants.</p> <p>14.2 The Internal Auditors' approval of the subject grants process was noted.</p> <p>14.3 Following a discussion, the recommendations were accepted unanimously.</p> <p>14.4 Also noted, for information, were the Catalyst Grants to be allocated in 2019/20 following specific research commissioned by the Coleg on areas where there are numbers of Welsh-speaking students but no provision at present.</p> | | |
| <p>15. Presentation on resources</p> | <p>15.1 Mari Fflur, Academic Manager, gave a presentation on resources. The presentation, which raised awareness amongst Board members, was welcomed.</p> | | |

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| <p>16. Date and location of the next meeting</p> | <p>16.1 The date of the next meeting was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 June 2019, Aberystwyth <p>16.2 Members were invited to the Associate Lecturers awards evening which will follow the meeting.</p> <p>16.3 The translators were thanked for their work.</p> <p>16.4 Bangor University staff were thanked for their assistance in arranging the meeting.</p> | | |
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