

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Board of Directors

Wednesday, 25 November 2020

10.00 - 13.25

Microsoft Teams

Present:

Directors:

Gareth Pierce
William Callaway
Nia Elias
Meri Huws
Gwilym Dyfri Jones
Dr Hefin Jones
Pedr ap Llwyd
Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan
Llinos Roberts
Professor Hywel Thomas

Observer:

Meg Hughes, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)

Officers:

Dr Ioan Matthews, Chief Executive
Dr Dylan Phillips, Secretary
Dr Dafydd Trystan, Registrar
Nia Brown, Governance Officer

In attendance:

Rhian Huws Williams (Item 8)

Apologies:

Professor Jerry Hunter
Angharad Roberts
Branwen Thomas, Welsh Government

Item	Main points of discussion	Actions	Timescale
1. Welcome and introduction	<p>1.1 The chair welcomed all who were present at the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 It was noted that Angharad Roberts was on maternity leave following the birth of her son in September.</p> <p>1.3 It was noted that UCMC/NUS Wales had two observers on the Board, but they had not provided names for this meeting.</p>		
2. Declarations of interest	<p>2.1 Members were reminded of the procedure by which they are asked to note any declarations of interest additional to those already noted in the Register of Interests.</p>		
3. To receive and consider the minutes of the 24 June 2020 meeting	<p>3.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 24 June 2020.</p>		
4. Chief Executive's Report (Item 5)	<p>4.1 The Chief Executive's written report on recent activities was received.</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>4.2 It was reported that meetings had been held with Welsh Government officials as part of the full consultation on responding to the Covid-19 crisis during the year; as well as discussing additional resources to implement the post-16 Strategy and Initial Teacher Education. A full budget update will be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 20 January 2021.</p>		

	<p><i>At this point, Nia Elias joined the meeting</i></p> <p>Planning meetings</p> <p>4.3 It was reported that the usual planning meetings had been held with the universities; and that the Chief Executive attends college principals' meetings held under the auspices of ColegauCymru.</p> <p>Emergency Response – Recovery Fund</p> <p>4.4 It was reported that, following the development of a collaborative bid on behalf of the universities to the HEFCW Recovery Fund, the Coleg had supported a bid to safeguard Welsh-medium provision submitted by Glyndŵr University on behalf of the sector. It was noted that the Coleg's national strategic planning work was now being considered as a model for English-medium provision too.</p> <p>Tertiary Education and Research Consultation</p> <p>4.5 A report was given on the Coleg's draft response, circulated prior to the meeting, to the draft legislation on the establishment of a new regulatory body for the post-compulsory sector.</p> <p>4.6 Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Coleg should seek legal advice in order to ensure the appropriateness of the Coleg's comments regarding strengthening the position of the Welsh language within the new structure. The Board also discussed the need for further formal confirmation of the Coleg's direct funding stream from the Welsh Government.</p> <p>4.7 Board members were invited to submit any further comments for inclusion in the response to the legislation</p>	<p>Officers to seek legal advice</p> <p>Members' comments on the Coleg's</p>	<p>Immediately</p> <p>30 November 2020</p>
--	---	--	--

	<p>by the end of the month.</p> <p>Initial Teacher Education (ITE)</p> <p>4.8 A report was given on the ongoing discussions to support efforts to secure a sufficient supply of teachers to meet the needs of the county education plans and the targets of the 2050 Welsh Language Strategy.</p> <p>Further Education and Apprenticeships</p> <p>4.9 A report was given on discussions with the Welsh Government about the need for adequate resources to implement the Post-16 Strategy. A report was also given on meetings with Qualifications Wales to review priority areas.</p> <p>Engagement</p> <p>4.10 It was reported that the Coleg's Manifesto for Welsh-medium and bilingual lifelong learning in the post-compulsory sector in Wales (2020 to 2025), prepared for the 2021 Senedd Elections, had been circulated to political parties and Board members at the beginning of the week.</p> <p>Anti-racism agenda</p> <p>4.11 It was reported that a staff meeting had been held on 6 October, with presentations from Mali Rees and Sara Yassine, to consider the Coleg's response to the anti-racism agenda. An internal group had then met and had produced the action plan circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>4.12 Following a discussion, it was agreed that regular updates would be provided to the Board on the</p>	<p>response to the draft legislation</p>	
--	---	--	--

<p>(Appendix 5A)</p>	<p>development and implementation of the plan.</p> <p>General updates on the Coleg's work</p> <p>4.13 Written reports were received for information in relation to Academic Training and Staff Development; <i>Gwerddon</i> and other publication projects; the Associate Lecturers scheme; the Work Welsh scheme; Collaborative Projects and Activities; Welsh as a subject; and Further Education and Apprenticeships.</p> <p>4.14 At the end of the discussion, Board members noted their recognition of the breadth of the work being undertaken by the Coleg's staff, especially at a challenging time and with limited resources.</p>		
<p>5. Chair's Report</p>	<p>5.1 The Chair reported on his recent engagement meetings with the Welsh Government; the Education Workforce Council; and Qualifications Wales.</p>		
<p>6. Constitutional Matters</p> <p>(Item 7)</p> <p>(Item 7a)</p>	<p>Arrangements for the annual general meeting</p> <p>6.1 It was noted that the Coleg's Annual General Meeting (the Coleg Court) would be held virtually on 16 March 2021.</p> <p>Terms of reference</p> <p>6.2 Revisions for consistency were submitted and approved for the terms of reference of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointments and Governance Standards Committee • Finance and General Purposes Committee • Audit and Risk Committee • Academic Board 		

<p>(Item 8c)</p>	<p>appointing Directors to the Board.</p> <p>8.5 He reported that the revisions were updates to contextualize the expansion of the Coleg's remit.</p> <p><i>The Chair abstained from this discussion</i></p> <p>8.6 A discussion was held on the suitability of advertising for the position of Chair of the Board every three years. The Secretary reported that the committee would review the Chair of the Board's term of office and the procedure for the Chair's re-appointment in line with its work programme.</p> <p>8.7 Following the discussion, the procedure was approved.</p> <p>Strategy for appointing new Directors to the Board</p> <p>8.8 The Secretary presented a strategy for appointing new Directors to the Board.</p> <p>8.9 The Board confirmed the re-appointment of William Callaway for a further four-year term, to 7 November 2024.</p> <p>8.10 It was reported that the second terms of Dr Hefin Jones and Professor Hywel Thomas would expire at the end of March 2021, with Professor Jerry Hunter and Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan's second terms ending in November 2021. There is also one vacancy, following the appointment of Gareth Pierce as Chair.</p> <p><i>At this point, Dr Hefin Jones left the meeting</i></p> <p>8.11 During the discussion, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills needs 		
-------------------------	--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of ensuring an appropriate organisational culture and attitude in terms of diversity as well as a representative Board with an understanding of the Welsh context • the risks of losing experienced directors and the need to consider the extent to which the loss of five directors in quick succession could be avoided in future • enhancing the induction process • continue to allow prospective directors to join Board meetings as observers • the age profile of Board members <p>8.12 The proposals to appoint five new directors during the next year were accepted; it was noted that the positions would be advertised in December 2020.</p> <p><i>Before she left the meeting, the Chair extended the Board's condolences to Rhian Huws Williams following her recent bereavement.</i></p>		
<p>9. Audit and Risk Committee (Item 10i)</p>	<p>Audit and Risk Committee</p> <p>9.1 The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 21 October 2020 were noted and accepted.</p> <p>9.2 A summary of the main points arising from the 21 October 2020 meeting was given by William Callaway, the Committee's Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted that the External Auditors (PwC) had completed the work on the audited annual accounts and that the Coleg's financial position was satisfactory. It was noted that the fluctuations of the last two years were heavily influenced by adjustments 		

	<p>teaching needs of lecturers due to additional workloads and pastoral duties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He noted the Dean's intention to visit the branches virtually in the new year 		
<p>11. Post-16 Strategic Board</p> <p>(Item 12)</p>	<p>Post-16 Strategic Board</p> <p>11.1 The main points arising from the 4 November 2020 meeting were summarized by Meri Huws, the committee's Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collation of blended learning materials on the Porth Adnoddau portal • The Welsh-medium assessors' qualification for the workforce • The success of the ambassadors • The campaign on the benefits of bilingualism: <i>Mae gen ti Fantais – Go Further with Welsh</i> • The CITB builders' scheme – a model for other sectors to promote bilingual employers • The Coleg's strategic work <p><i>At this point, Pedr ap Llwyd re-joined the meeting</i></p> <p>11.2 During the discussion, the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for further investment to continue the work • Structural challenges within colleges in terms of providing Welsh-medium provision • Workforce concerns about redundancies in light of Covid-19 and the importance of monitoring the situation with NTfW <p>Minutes of the Post-16 Strategic Board</p> <p>11.3 The minutes of the Post-16 Strategic Board meeting held</p>		

	on 18 June 2020 were noted and received.		
12. The Coleg's Annual Congregation 2021	<p>Annual Congregation</p> <p>12.1 It was noted that the Coleg's Annual Congregation would be held virtually on 16 March 2021 to receive Coleg Fellows and recognize the work of the doctoral students of 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>12.2 The Chief Executive reported on the possibility of holding an event to celebrate the Coleg's tenth anniversary in the Autumn term of 2021.</p>		
13. Date of the next meeting	<p>13.1 The date of the next Board meeting was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 March 2021: virtual. <p>13.2 Osian Rhys was thanked for providing simultaneous translation.</p>		