

Joint Meeting of the Councils

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the meeting held at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 27 September 2023 in Coleg Sir Gar, Ammanford Campus

Present:

Emlyn Dole (Chair)
Professor Elwen Evans KC (Vice-Chancellor)
Professor Kyle Erickson
Geraint Evans
Taya Gibbons
Rowland Jones
Timothy Llewelyn
Professor Conny Matera Rogers
Geraint Roberts

Nigel Roberts
Dr Peter Spring
Maria Stedman
Venerable Randolph Thomas
Iwan Thomas
Dr Kerry Tudor (via teams)
Dr Stuart Robb
Deris Williams

In attendance:

Natalie Beard
Gavin Bessant, Director of Financial Services
Dr Andrew Cornish, Principal, Coleg Sir Gar
Rebecca Doswell, Clerk
Professor Dylan Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Mirjam Plantinga, Pro Vice-Chancellor
Jane O'Rourke, Executive Director of Human Resources

Catrin Beard (Translator)
Margaret Williams (Secretary)

Agenda item	Main discussion points	Action/decision
23.45 Welcome and Apologies for absence	<p>The Chair noted that this was his first meeting as Chair, for Professor Elwen Evans KC as Vice-Chancellor and to Rebecca Doswell as Clerk. He thanked Ven Randolph Thomas, the outgoing Chair, for their good working relationship during the handover process.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Geraint Evans and Iwan Thomas (representing the UWITs) to their first meeting as co-opted members of the University of Wales Council.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Justin Albert, Uzo Iwobi, Arwel Ellis Owen, Emlyn Schiavone and Dr Liz Siberry.</p>	
23.46 Declarations of interest	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Declarations of Interest as noted in the Clerk's report (JCO215).</p> <p>The Chair noted an amendment required to the English version of his Declaration.</p>	Clerk to amend
23.47 Terms of reference and work plans	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the terms of reference and workplans for the Joint, UWTSO and UW Councils (JCO216).</p>	
23.48 Chair's Report	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Chair's report (JCO217).</p> <p>The Chair referred to the HEFCW Institutional Prevent visit which took place on 12 September 2023. An outcome letter would be provided following evaluation of the UW and UWTSO Prevent returns as part of the Annual Assurance submission in December 2023.</p> <p>The Chair reported that he had attended the recent HEFCW Student Partnership in Governance event in Cardiff on 14 September 2023 where the Minister for Education and Welsh Language was guest keynote speaker.</p> <p>The Chair reported on the recent signing of the Deed of Association between the University and the Velindre NHS trust which would open new pathways for the UWIT partnerships.</p> <p>The Chair reported that he had chaired the appointing panel for the role of Chief Operating Officer.</p>	
23.49 Vice-Chancellor's report	<p>This is a restricted item and reported within the restricted minutes of the meeting.</p>	

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23.50 Students' Union report	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the Students' Union (SU) report (JCO219).</p> <p>The SU President reported on the SU's score in the recent NSS as being the second highest in Wales. She stated that they would continue to improve their services to students.</p> <p>The SU President outlined the activities being undertaken across all campuses during the welcome weeks.</p> <p>The SU President reported that the first elected Lampeter Campus President had chosen not to take up the post and that the second elected President was not able to take the position. The SU constitution did not allow the Board of Trustees to appoint a runner up to the role. The Executive team had since taken the decision not to appoint a President for the campus for 2023/4 and would be using the funding to employ four students as staff to support the students.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Students' Union for their work and arrangements on campuses.</p>	
23.51 Minutes of the last meeting	Council APPROVED the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023 (JCO220).	
23.52 Protocol on Conflicts of interest	<p>The Joint Councils RECEIVED the Protocol of conflicts of interest (JCO221).</p> <p>The DHR reported that the University had introduced a new protocol on conflicts of interest in 2021 to support the contractual provisions and provide guidance in relation to what may constitute a conflict of interest.</p> <p>The protocol would be circulated to staff in October 2023 via the Staff Bulletin and staff would be invited to consider if there were any potential conflicts that they needed to declare. The circulation of the protocol would coincide with the circulation of the gifts and hospitality regulations as a reminder to staff of the University's processes.</p>	
23.53 Declarations of Interest	<p>No additional conflicts of interest were declared during the meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk referred to the Deed of 2019 made by the of the Governing Body regarding joint administrative arrangements, a joint Chair and common core of Governors in terms of membership of the UW and UWTSD Councils whereby a new Council meeting structure had been agreed.</p> <p>Given the nature of the Deed she noted that it had been informal historical practice that each member of the individual Councils remained as observers of the other, but did not have access to papers or have a vote.</p>	

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	She proposed that the Councils considered formalising the process to invite members, who were charity trustees, of each Council to remain in meetings as observers of the other. She noted that the process would be streamlined in the near future.	
23.54 Date and time of next meeting	23 November 2023.	

Meeting closed 2.45 pm