



SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:00 on 22 SEPTEMBER 2021, via Zoom.

Voting members: Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Prof Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Prof Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Prof Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences); Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience); Dr Cathryn Charnell-White; Prof Hazel Davey; Mr Prysor Davies; Prof Sarah Davies; Prof Iain Donnison; Ms Mared Edwards, UMCA President; Dr Rebecca Edwards; Dr Gwion Evans; Dr Patrick Finney; Dr Sarah Higgins; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Mr Penri James, Chair of AU Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Mr Chris Loftus; Dr Alex Mangold; Ms Elizabeth Manners, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Dr Louise Marshall; Prof Robert Meyrick; Mr John Morgan; Mr David Moyle; Dr Heather Norris; Ms Sabina O'Donoghue, AberSU President; Prof Eleri Pryse; and Prof Reyer Zwiggelaar, Head of the Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Prof Simon Cox; Ms Rachael Davey; Prof Andrew Evans; Dr Thomas Jansen; Prof Emyr Lewis; Prof Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence and Impact; Dr Anoush Simon; and Prof Andrew Thomas.

In attendance: Mr Tim Davies, Director of Information Services; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Dr Anel Marais; Mr Jamie Medhurst; Mr Geraint Pugh, University Secretary; and Ms Emma Williams, Academic Registrar.

Apologies for absence had been received from Prof Simon Banham; Dr Andrew Davies; Prof Nigel Holt; Prof Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange, and Innovation); and Dr Sarah Wydall.

1. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. Welcome

1. The following were welcomed to their first meeting as Senate members:
 1. Mared Edwards, UMCA President;
 2. Elizabeth Manners, Aberystwyth University Students' Union (AberSU) Academic Affairs Officer;
 3. Dr Heather Norris, Psychology department elected representative; and
 4. Sabina O'Donoghue, AberSU President.
2. The following were also welcomed as non-voting observers from their respective academic departments:
 1. Dr Anel Marais, representing the Department of Law and Criminology; and

2. Dr Jamie Medhurst, representing the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies.

2. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the deaths of:

1. Mike Keen, former Reader in the Department of Information Studies;
2. Lord Elystan Morgan, who had served as President of the University and Chair of Council between 1997 and 2007; and
3. Dr Marie Rose Wasdell, former warden and academic member of staff.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared in relation to the business to be transacted during the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2021 (SEN2122-003).

RESOLVED

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RECEIVED

A log setting out the progress made in taking forward decisions and actions agreed at the most recent Senate meeting, and outstanding actions from previous meetings (SEN2122-004).

NOTED

The updates provided in the decisions log.

5. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Report by the University Secretary (SEN2122-005).

NOTED

The report detailed instances since the last Senate meeting where matters had been approved by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Senate, namely:

1. An addition to the Academic Quality Handbook relating to PGCE Examination Conventions, on the recommendation of the Academic Board; and

2. Amendment to regulations with respect to Recognition of Prior Learning for the Pre-registration Nursing schemes, as stipulated in the conditions relating made by the external approval panel.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Nursing Provision

1. On 23 and 24 June 2021, the University had hosted a virtual visit from the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as part of their quality assurance process in relation to the University's application to deliver nursing training.
2. Following that visit, the NMC had endorsed the two programmes being proposed, and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) had consequently announced that the University had been successful in its tender for nursing training places in Wales.
3. The NMC had since written to the Vice-Chancellor to formally confirm its approval of the University's nursing provision, now that all conditions raised in the June visit had been met. The first cohort of students would be welcomed in September 2022.

7. INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH CENTRE

RECEIVED

Report by Prof Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) (SEN2122-006).

NOTED

1. The International English Centre (IEC) was currently a department within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). However, the development of an effective international recruitment strategy led by the Department of Global Marketing and Student Recruitment (GMSR) had instigated an evaluation of the role, provision, and location of the IEC in future.
2. It had therefore been proposed that IEC be moved into a closer physical and managerial relationship with GMSR in order to position it more favourably to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the international arena. Members were advised that it is a common model in the sector for departments such as the IEC to be part of the student recruitment function.
3. Prior to the University-wide restructure in 2018, the IEC had not been formally recognised as an academic department within a faculty. However, representatives of the IEC reported that they had benefited of this status over recent years, and that IEC's current location within FASS provided easy access to academic quality processes.
4. Members were advised that there are examples elsewhere within the institution of academic schemes being offered by departments which are not part of a faculty – with Lifelong Learning and the Graduate School being two such examples. Such departments had not experienced any barriers in managing academic quality assurance requirements, although careful planning and management is required to ensure effective collaboration across faculties and professional service departments.

5. The various options for achieving the desired outcomes set out in the report were discussed by Senate members, including the proposal that one current member of IEC staff be relocated to the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit (LTEU) within the Department of Information Services.

RESOLVED (by VOTE with one abstention)

6. That the IEC – including all current employees – be transferred into GMSR by the end of the current semester at the latest, with appropriate links maintained with FASS for academic quality assurance purposes [**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences)].
7. That the provision of language support to students outside of the IEC is reviewed over the course of the current academic year, on the understanding the outcome of this review may result in further recommendations on the configuration of IEC within GMSR, and any transfer of staff to the LTEU or elsewhere within the institution’s structure [**ACTION:** Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience)].
8. That a recommendation is presented to Council to revise Ordinance 21 (“Academic Units”) to reflect the above decision on the future location of the IEC [**ACTION:** University Secretary].

8. ACADEMIC BOARD

1. Report from the Academic Board

RECEIVED

1. Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick, in relation to the Academic Board meeting held 13 July 2021 (SEN2122-007); and
2. Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick, in relation to the Academic Board meeting held 16 September 2021 (SEN2122-008).

NOTED

3. The report summarised the main items considered during the Academic Board meetings held on 13 July, and 16 September 2021. The reports were discussed by Senate members.

2. Annual Report on Discipline

RECIEVED

Report by Faculty Registrar Gethin Rhys (SEN2121-009).

NOTED

The report presented an interim analysis of investigations conducted under Category 2 of the University’s Student Discipline procedure. The report had been considered by the Academic Board on 13 July 2021, and was presented to Senate for information.

3. Annual Report on Fitness to Attend

RECEIVED

Report by the Student Wellbeing Service (SEN2122-010).

NOTED

1. The report set out the outcome of a review of referrals, outcomes and appeals under the University's Fitness to Attend procedure since 2017. The report had been considered by the Academic Board on 13 July 2021, and was presented to Senate for information.
2. The incoming Head of Student Support and Careers Services would be leading a review of the Fitness to Attend procedure once he has commenced in post during autumn 2021. Members were assured that there would be an opportunity for departments to be consulted as part of this review.
3. The accuracy of some of the data included in the report was queried. The data in question would be reviewed for future iterations of the report.
4. Dates of session 2023–24

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick (SEN2122-011).

NOTED

1. At its meeting on 13 July 2021, the Academic Board had considered proposed dates for the 2023–24 academic session. The proposed dates, including the end or semester examination periods, were set out in the report.

RESOLVED

2. To approve the proposed dates for the 2023–24 session, as set out in the report [**ACTION:** Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick].

9. COLLABORATIVE PROVISION BOARD

1. Report from the Collaborative Provision Board

RECEIVED

Report by Assistant Registrar Sarah Jones (SEN222-012).

NOTED

The report summarised the main items discussed during the Collaborative Provision Board meeting held on 07 September 2021.

10. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

1. Report from the University Research Ethics Committee

RECEIVED

Report by the Research Ethics and Integrity Officer, Lisa Fisher (SEN2122-013).

NOTED

The report summarised the main items discussed during the University Research Ethics Committee meeting held on 29 June 2021.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Report from the *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol* (SEN2122-014);
2. Research Grants (SEN2122-015); and
3. Summary Corporate Risk Register (SEN2122-017).

NOTED

4. Report from the *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol*

The future location of the Aberystwyth University *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol* (CCC) branch office on campus had not yet been resolved. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) reported that the Space Management Group, of which she is Chair, had approved a recommendation that space be provided for a CCC office at Penbryn. However, this had not yet been communicated to CCC officers.

5. Summary Corporate Risk Register

Risks CRR 39 and CRR 61 did not reflect the potential implications on research activity. The Director of Estates, Facilities and Residences would be invited to revise these risk records accordingly [**ACTION:** Director of Estates, Facilities and Residences].

6. The contents of the other reports presented for information.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES

RECEIVED

1. A report comprising the following minutes (SEN2122-018):
 1. Academic Board (13 July 2021);
 2. Collaborative Provision Board (07 September 2021);
 3. University Research Ethics Committee (29 June 2021); and
 4. Council (09 July 2021); and
2. The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held 16 September 2021 (SEN2122-018).

NOTED

3. The reports received from the committees.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, MEETING REVIEW, AND FUTURE BUSINESS

1. Veterinary Science

The first ever intake of students had commenced on the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) course at the University on 20 September 2021. This was welcomed by members. Delivered jointly by AU and the Royal Veterinary College, the new course builds upon the BSc Veterinary Biosciences degree introduced by AU in September 2015.

2. The Times and Sunday Times' Good University Guide

1. Members welcomed the news that Aberystwyth University (AU) had entered the top 40 in The Times and The Sunday Times' Good University Guide 2022, reflecting its strengths in teaching excellence and student satisfaction.
2. The University now ranked second in Wales, and 38 out of 135 universities across the UK – an improvement on last year's rank of 42, and the institution's best every ranking in the Good University Guide. The Vice-Chancellor thanked everyone on their contribution to this success.

3. Farewell

This had been Geraint Pugh's last meeting of the Senate, since he would be leaving his post as University Secretary in early October 2021 in order to take up the post of Board Secretary at S4C. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the University Secretary for his contribution to the University and Senate over the past eight years, and wished him every success for the future.