



SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 11:00 on 18 OCTOBER 2023, in the Research Dialogue Hub, Visualisation Centre.

Voting members: Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Prof Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences); Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience); Professor Angela Hatton, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation); Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Director of Welsh Language, Culture and External Engagement; Dr Stephen Atherton; Professor Andrew Evans; Mr Tom Bates; Dr Hanna Binks; Dr Otar Akanyeti; Professor Hazel Davey; Dr Sarah Davies; Dr Patrick Finney, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences); Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of AU Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Miss Elain Gwynedd, UMCA President; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Dr Alex Mangold; Miss Anna Simpkins, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer; Professor Louise Marshall; Ms Jen Phipps; Dr Alexander Pitchford; Dr Alistair Shepherd; Mr Bayanda Vundamina, SU President; and Prof Reyer Zwiggelaar, Head of the Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Professor Iain Barber; Professor Simon Cox; Dr Thomas Jansen; Dr Kim Knowles; Dr Steve Thompson; Dr Lucy Trotter; Dr Anoush Simon; and Professor Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence and Impact.

In attendance: Dr Gwawr Taylor, University Secretary; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office; Mr Trevor Pearce, Interim Academic Registrar; Dr Gethin Rhys, Deputy Registrar;

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr Ffion Jones; Dr Julie Mathias; Dr Alex Mangold; Professor Phillipp Schofield; Professor Iain Donnison; Professor Nigel Holt; Professor Mererid Hopwood; Professor Neil Glasser, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences); Professor Andrew Thomas; Ms Jackie Sayce.

1. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. Welcome

The following were welcomed to their first meeting of Senate: Professor Angela Hatton; Dr Stephen Atherton; Dr Hanna Binks; Dr Kim Knowles; Mr Trevor Pearce; Miss Anna Simpkins; Miss Elain Gwynedd.

2. Condolences

Sympathies were expressed following the death of Mr Dave Kelly, formerly of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences.

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 21 June 2023 (SEN2223-003).

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 (SEN2324-004).

NOTED

The updates provided in the decisions log.

1. Regulations for Modular Initial Degrees: The original regulation for current MEng and MComp students had been published, and the action was closed.

5. DECISIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Dr Gethin Rhys (SEN2324-005).

NOTED

1. The report detailed an instance since the last Senate meeting where a matter had been approved by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Senate.
2. The executive approval had been granted in July 2023 by the Chair of Senate for new regulations in relation to CertHE Healthcare Education ahead of the 2023/24 session.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

NOTED

1. The appointment of Professor Jon Timmis as Vice-Chancellor from 1 January 2024.
2. Correspondence from the Department of Physics in relation to the marketing of courses.

RESOLVED

3. To refer the correspondence in relation to the marketing of courses to the Director of Global Marketing and Student Recruitment for further consideration and to report back to Senate.

7. VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

RECEIVED

Vice-Chancellor's Report (SEN2324-006)

NOTED

1. The current financial position and the measures underway to reduce spending while concentrating efforts in areas of business growth.
2. The 25% increase in total research income compared to the previous year, including a 40% increase in UKRI income.
3. The continuing growth in student numbers against a backdrop of a slight decrease in the UK domestic market, and the need to continue efforts to increase the share of the international market within an aggressive environment.
4. NSS results had been published in August, with Aberystwyth University continuing to be rated as the top university in Wales for student satisfaction, a position retained over the past eight years. The University had also been named as the Welsh University of the year for 2024 by the Times and Sunday Times Good University guide, maintaining its 39th position out of the 134 UK universities.
5. Work was underway to address non-payment of student fees and to review academic sanctions.

RESOLVED

6. Pro Vice-Chancellor (LTSE) to provide an update on student fees at the November meeting of Senate.

8. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

Report by Research Impact Team (SEN2324-007)

NOTED

1. The developments in funding opportunities and the new opportunities in research collaboration, including projects under the Horizon programme.
2. The discussions in relation to supporting women in research.

9. ACADEMIC BOARD

1. Report from the Academic Board

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Kim Bradick (SEN2324-008).

NOTED

1. Academic Board had considered the institutional response to the SU annual submission, including the on-going work to diversify the curriculum and the implications of Artificial Intelligence in assessed work.
2. Following an inspection visit by Estyn, the Aberystwyth ITE Partnership had undertaken a major review of placement arrangements. Academic Board was also reviewing the institutional oversight of the provision.

3. The priority areas for institutional enhancement during the 2023/24 session and in preparation for an enhancement-focused QER: active learning and learner analytics; international student support; consolidating a sustainable portfolio; blended learning; and Artificial Intelligence in assessed work.
4. The updates to the Academic Quality Handbook for the 2023/24 session.

2. Micro-credentials

RECEIVED

Report from Deputy Registrar Judith Shepherd (SEN2324-009).

NOTED

1. Task and finish group discussions had established that more support was necessary for the University to embark on the development of micro-credentials and the associated bids for funding and further collaboration with industry. During discussion, members noted the critical importance of this area for income generation in the context of low participation of 18 year olds in Higher Education within Wales.

RESOLVED

2. Pro Vice-Chancellor LTSE to brief the new Vice-Chancellor on the work of the Micro-credentials task and finish group.

10. COLLABORATIVE PROVISION BOARD

1. Report from the Collaborative Provision Board

RECEIVED

Report by Deputy Registrar Judith Shepherd (SEN2324-010).

NOTED

The Academic Partnership initiatives currently under discussion, and the teach-out arrangements in place in Hohai University, China.

2. Annual Report on Collaborative Provision

RECEIVED

Annual Report from Deputy Registrar Judith Shepherd (SEN2324-011)

NOTED

1. The contents of the Annual Report, and the work underway to develop an Academic Partnerships Strategy.

RESOLVED

2. To formally thank the Deputy Registrar – Academic Partnerships for preparing the Annual Report.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RECEIVED

Members received reports on the following for information:

1. Report from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (SEN2324-012);
2. Summary Corporate Risk Register (SEN2324-013).

NOTED

3. The introduction of a revised risk system.
4. The series of research networking sessions to support Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol branch members in preparing grant applications and to share ideas for possible projects.
5. The contents of the other reports presented for information.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES

RECEIVED

A report comprising the following (SEN2324-019):

1. Research and Innovation Committee (25 September 2023);
2. Academic Board (12 July 2023 and 13 September 2023);
3. Collaborative Provision (05 July 2023 and 04 October 2023);
4. Council (07 July 2023)

NOTED

5. The reports received from the committees.

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

NOTED

The Senate away day and formal meeting on 15 November 2023.

HGRh 1 November 2023