
Minutes of the 119th meeting of the Council held 18 October 2007 at the HEFCW Offices, Llanishen

Present:

Members: Professor Sir Roger Williams (Chairman)
Dr Len Arthur
Professor Philip Gummatt (Chief Executive)
Professor Mari Lloyd-Williams
Mr Tim Rees
Professor Garel Rhys
Mrs Tina Stephens
Professor Nigel Stott
Dr Geoffrey Thomas
Mrs Pauline Thomas

Observers: Dr David Bacon, Welsh Assembly Government
Dr John Spence, Welsh Assembly Government
Mr Mario Ferelli, Head of Analytical Services Group and Funding, HEFCE

Officers: Dr David Blaney
Mr Roger Carter
Mr Dale Hall
Ms Niina Hammond
Mr Richard Hirst
Ms Celia Hunt
Mrs Bethan Owen

Apologies: were received from Mr Ken Richards and Professor Sir Brian Smith.

1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1 The following members declared an interest in relation to agenda item 8 ('Reconfiguration and Collaboration' HEFCW/07/91):

- Dr Len Arthur as a member of staff at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, including involvement for UWIC in the pan-Wales expression of interest in developing a Wales Regeneration Network.
- Professor Philip Gummatt whose partner is employed at the Swansea Institute of Higher Education.
- Professor Nigel Stott as Professor Emeritus at Cardiff University.

- Dr Geoffrey Thomas as an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College Carmarthen.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2007
(HEFCW/07/MIN118)

Resolved: that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 19 September 2007, subject to the amendment to include the Welsh language in the list of areas to be modelled for strategic use of core funding (Minute 10.6).

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the meeting held 19 September 2007 not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (HEFCW/07/CE6)

4.1 Institutional Visits 2008 timetable

Council received and considered the timetable of the second round of Institutional Visits and a proposed new approach to agenda setting.

Resolved:

- i) to approve the proposed frequency and order of the second round of Institutional Visits starting in 2008.
- ii) to agree that Council adopt a more proactive approach on setting the programme for each visit.

4.2 Research Information Network

Council received and considered a proposal to support the UK-wide Research Information Network with other UK funding bodies and partners for a further three years at a contribution rate of £50k per annum (equivalent to the standard 5% contribution from Wales).

Resolved:

- i) to continue to support the UK-wide Research Information Network for a further three years from July 2008 to June 2011;
- ii) to maintain a contribution of £50k per annum.

4.3 Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Reconfiguration

The Chief Executive reiterated the declaration that his partner is employed at the Swansea Institute of Higher Education.

Council received and considered an Oral update on ITT reconfiguration.

Resolved: that the issue be discussed with the Heads of relevant HEIs at the meetings with Heads on 18 and 19 October.

4.4 ITT Intake Targets

Council considered an update on ITT Intake targets process.

Resolved: to delegate authority to the Chairman to approve the allocation of primary and secondary intake targets to institutions for 2008/09.

4.5 HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue meeting Council notes 6 Sept 2007

Council received the notes of the special Council meeting held on 6 September 2007 at Bangor University.

Resolved: to note the notes of the meeting held 6 September 2007.

4.6 Funding Gap letter and final report

Council received the letter and final report on the HE Funding Gap Analysis for 2005/06 as submitted to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills on 26 September 2007.

Resolved:

- i) to note the finalised report and letter on the HE Funding Gap Analysis for 2005/06 as submitted to the Minister on 26 September 2007;
- ii) to note that the Assembly Government's draft budget was expected in November 2007.

4.7 Capital funding for Research Infrastructure: Successor arrangements to the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF)

Council received an update on the future of successor arrangements to the Science Research Investment Fund as proposed by Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Resolved: to note that final funding arrangements would be announced later in the Autumn.

4.8 Timing of Funding Round for 2008-09 Grant Allocations

This paragraph is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as it contains information intended for future publication

4.9 Medical Education

Council received correspondence from the Welsh Assembly Government to the Cardiff and Swansea Universities in response to the proposal from Swansea University to deliver all four years of the Graduate Entry Medical programme.

Resolved: to note the Assembly response to Swansea University's Medical programme proposal.

4.10 Exercise of Delegated Authority - Grant to HEW for 'Why Wales?' student study

Council noted the exercise of delegated authority by the Chief Executive in granting funds to HEW to commission a qualitative survey of student attitudes to Wales as a higher education study destination.

Resolved: to note the exercise of delegated authority by the Chief Executive in awarding a grant to HEW of £13,250 + VAT to commission the 'Why Wales?' student study.

4.11 Recent Developments

Council received an Oral update on the following additional recent developments.

Council noted:

- i) that the degree classification system review following the Burgess Report would be monitored via the Learning and Teaching Committee.
- ii) the lack of Welsh references in the Sainsbury Science and Innovation Report which was being considered by the Third Mission Committee.
- iii) that HEFCW recently had launched the first stakeholders and partners survey. The Head of Planning and Corporate Governance would circulate to members a list of stakeholders and partners who would be invited to take part in the survey.

- iv) that interviews for the new Council post of Director of Strategic Development were to be held 24 October 2007.
- v) formal congratulations would be sent to Cardiff University's Professor Sir Martin Evans following his Nobel Prize award for his work on stem cell research.
- vi) confirmation of the Assembly's timetable for the recruitment of the new Chair. Further noted that copies of the timetable and advert would be provided to members.

5. UNIVERSITY OF WALES BOARD OF CELTIC STUDIES (HEFCW/07/88)

- 5.1 Council received and considered the annual report on the activities and plans of the Board of Celtic Studies including implications of recent changes to its constitutional status.

Council noted:

- 5.2 that a business plan for the Dictionary Unit for the period 2008 to 2015 would be submitted later in 2007/08.

Resolved:

- 5.3 to ratify the release of the University of Wales Dictionary Unit's allocation for 2007/08.
- 5.4 to ratify the release of the 2007/08 allocation for the Board's programme of research and publications.
- 5.5 to agree that no further funding would be provided for the programme of research and publications from 2008/09 onwards.
- 5.6 to hold open the possibility of redeploying some of the funding hitherto provided for the programme of research and publications in order to provide additional support for the University of Wales Dictionary from 2008/09 onwards.

6. ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL HEALTH: SECTOR AND INSTITUTIONS (HEFCW/07/89)

- 6.1 Council received and considered analysis of the financial health of the higher education sector and individual institutions as indicated by financial forecasts received in July 2007 for the period 1 August 2006 to 31 July 2011.

Council noted:

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under sections 41 and 43 of the Freedom of Information Act as they contain information which is commercially sensitive and information provided in confidence.

6.2 to 6.10

- 6.11 to include in future financial health analyses historical, and English and Scottish comparative information about the sector's operating surplus/(deficit) as a percentage of total income.

7. RECONFIGURATION AND COLLABORATION (HEFCW/07/91)

- 7.1 Dr Len Arthur reiterated the declaration that he is employed as a member of staff at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, including involvement for UWIC in the pan-Wales expression of interest in developing a Wales Regeneration Network and in the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Data and Methods. The Chief Executive reiterated the declaration that his partner is employed at the Swansea Institute of Higher Education.

- 7.1 Council received and noted progress with reconfiguration and collaboration since its last meeting on 19 September 2007.

Council noted:

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under sections 36 and 43 of the Freedom of Information Act as they contain information which is potentially prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs and information which is commercially sensitive.

7.2 to 7.9

8. STRATEGIC USE OF FUNDING (HEFCW/07/90)

- 8.1 All Council members reiterated their declarations of interest.
- 8.2 Council considered modelling of more strategic use of core funds in respect of research and widening access for academic year 2008/09.

Council noted:

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under sections 22 and 36 of the Freedom of Information Act as they contain information intended for future publication and information which is potentially prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

8.3 - 8.9

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business reported.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted the date of the next meeting as 7 December 2007 to be held at Cardiff University.

11. QAA/HEFCW SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT: FINAL REPORT FOR 2006/07 (HEFCW/07/92)

11.1 Council received and noted the QAA/HEFCW Service Level Agreement: Final Report for 2006/07.

11.2 Resolved:

- i) to note the final QAA report on progress towards meeting the activities for 2006/07 set out in the Service Level Agreement.
- ii) to approve the cost of the QAA's services for 2007/08.
- iii) to approve the proposed invitation to tender to appoint consultants to evaluate the current institutional review cycle; the success of Council's strategy to support excellence in teaching.

12. UNIVERSITY OF WALES PRESS: PUBLICATIONS FUND (HEFCW/07/93)

12.1 Council received and noted the list of publications to be published by the University of Wales Press with the support of the Council's Publications Fund in 2007/08.

12.2 Resolved:

- i) to approve the list of titles submitted by the University for support from the Publications Fund in 2007/08;
- ii) to note income and expenditure predictions.

13. CORPORATE STRATEGY TO 2010 AND CORPORATE & OPERATIONAL PLAN 2007-08 TO 2009-10: SECOND QUARTER REPORT (HEFCW/07/94)

13.1 Council received and noted progress as at the end of the second quarter of financial year 2007-08 (July to September 2007 inclusive) against activities in HEFCW's *Corporate Strategy to 2010 and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10*.

- 13.2 Resolved: to note progress as at the end of the second quarter of FY 2007-08 against activities in HEFCW's *Corporate Strategy to 2010 and Corporate & Operational Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10*.
14. PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE FEE WAIVER SCHEME 2006/07 (HEFCW/07/95)
- 14.1 Council received and noted the outcomes of the Council's Part-Time Undergraduate Fee Waiver Scheme in 2006/07.
- 14.2 Resolved: to note the outcomes of the Council's Part-Time Undergraduate Fee Waiver Scheme in 2006/07.
15. REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDED CREDIT VALUES 2007/08 (HEFCW/07/96)
- 15.1 Council received and noted the outcome of the redistribution of funded credits values exercise for 2007/08.
- 15.2 Resolved: to note the outcome of the redistribution of funded credits values exercise for 2007/08.
16. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND PANEL MINUTES: MEETING HELD 18 SEPTEMBER 2007 (HEFCW/07/97)
- 16.1 Council received and noted the minutes of the Strategic Development Fund Panel held 18 September 2007.
- 16.2 Resolved: to note the minutes of the Strategic Development Fund Panel held 18 September 2007.
17. TEACHING QUALITY INFORMATION/NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY UPDATE (HEFCW/07/98)
- 17.1 Council received and noted an update on the Teaching Quality Information (TQI) website and National Student Survey (NSS) which included an analysis of the 2006 results, the publication of the 2007 results and plans for the 2008 survey.
- 17.2 Resolved:
- i) to note the analysis of the 2006 National Student Survey results;
 - ii) to note the results for Wales in the 2007 National Student Survey.

Signature.....Date.....