
**Minutes of the 123rd meeting of the Council held 9 May 2008 in HEFCW
Offices, Llanishen, Cardiff.**

Present:

Members: Mr Roger Thomas (Chairman)
Professor Philip Gummett (Chief Executive)
Dr Len Arthur
Professor Mari Lloyd-Williams
Mr Tim Rees
Mr Ken Richards
Mrs Tina Stephens
Dr Geoffrey Thomas
Mrs Pauline Thomas

Observers: Mr Mike Hopkins, Welsh Assembly Government
Dr John Selby, Director (Education and Participation)

Officers: Dr David Blaney
Mr Roger Carter
Ms Niina Hammond
Mr Richard Hirst
Ms Leanne Holborn (to end of Minute 7)
Ms Celia Hunt
Ms Bethan Owen
Ms Emma Raczka

Apologies: were received from Professor Garel Rhys, Professor Sir Brian Smith
and Professor Nigel Stott.

1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF
INTEREST

Council noted:

- 1.1 The Chair's thanks to Professor Sir Roger Williams for his work for the Council and for his help in introducing him to the role of Chair.
- 1.2 A welcome to Mike Hopkins to his first meeting as Welsh Assembly Government observer.
- 1.3 Council's best wishes to Professor Nigel Stott and his family during his ongoing illness.

1.4 The following standing members' interests were declared in relation to agenda item 5 (Initial Teacher Training Reconfiguration HEFCW/08/27); 6 (Baseline Recurrent Grant HEFCW/08/28) and item 8 (Reconfiguration and Collaboration HEFCW/08/30):

- Dr Len Arthur as a part-time member of staff at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff.
- Professor Philip Gummatt whose partner is employed at Swansea Metropolitan University.
- Dr Geoffrey Thomas as an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College Carmarthen.
- Mr Tim Rees as Honorary Doctor of the University of Glamorgan
- Mr Ken Richards as a Member of Aberystwyth University Investments Committee.
- Mr Roger Thomas as a former Chair of the University of Glamorgan, member of the Steering Group for Governing Bodies and Equality Project, Equality Challenge Unit and forthcoming Honorary Doctor of the University of Glamorgan.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2008
(HEFCW/08/MIN122)

Resolved: that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 8 March 2008 subject to the following amendments:

- i) to record the attendance of Mr Roger Thomas as an observer;
- ii) to clarify the resolution at 9.7 to read as follows:

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under sections 36 and 43 of the Freedom of Information Act as they contain information which has been provided in confidence and information which is commercially sensitive.

Resolved:

i) and ii)

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (HEFCW/08/CE3)

4.1 Reflection on Workshop outcomes

Council noted that the Council Members' Workshop held 8 May 2008 had proved a useful event.

Resolved:

- i) to forward any feedback to the Chief Executive and Director of Strategic Development.
- ii) that the Clerk would circulate a note of the Workshop to members.

4.2 Future Strategic Dialogue meetings

Council noted that the 2009 HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue meeting dates had been finalised as Friday 13 March 2009 (pm) at NEWI and Thursday 3 and Friday 4 September 2009 at UWIC.

4.3 Proposed amendment to Standing Orders

Council received and considered a proposal to amend the Standing Orders to include the allowance for a named Council member to be identified by the Chair for a defined period of time to Chair Council meetings and otherwise act for the Chair in the unforeseen absence of the Chair.

Resolved: to approve the amendment to the Standing Orders.

4.4 HEFCW Stakeholders Survey

Council received and considered the outcomes of the HEFCW Stakeholders Survey.

Resolved:

- i) to note receipt of the Survey results.
- ii) to publish the Survey results on the HEFCW website with a statement of proposed actions.
- iii) to delegate authority to the Chair and Chief Executive to agree the statement for publication with the Survey.

4.5 Widening Access Strategy Funding 2008/09

Council received and considered an update on the Widening Access Fund for 2008/09.

Resolved:

- i) to confirm the allocation of £1,865,038 for the Widening Access Fund for 2008/09.

- ii) to note that £5,000 is retained by the Council for programme-related expenses.
- iii) to note that £26,000 had been set aside to support the Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) programme in 2008/09.
- iv) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to release the HEIs' allocations (total £1,834,038), subject to the receipt of satisfactory annual monitoring statements.

4.6 Welsh Medium Provision Fund 2008/09

Council received proposals for the allocations of the Welsh Medium Provision Fund for 2008/09.

Resolved:

- i) to approve the allocation of £448,255 under the Welsh Medium Provision Fund for 2008/09.
- ii) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to release allocations to the sector.

4.7 Initial Teacher Training Strategy and Initial Teacher Training Partnership Funding 2008/09

Council received an update on Initial Teacher Training Strategy and Initial Teacher Training Partnership Funding 2008/09. The sums involved were £1,192,560 (including £5,000 incidental expenses) and £266,600 respectively.

Resolved:

- i) that ITT providing HEIs be asked to roll forward their ITT strategies for a further year for 2008/09.
- ii) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to confirm the allocations from the ITT Strategy Fund and the ITT Partnership Fund to HEIs for 2008/09.

4.8 Learning and Teaching fund 2008/09

Council received proposals for the allocation of the Learning and Teaching fund 2008/09.

Resolved:

- (i) to approve the sum of £1,007,150 for institutional learning and teaching strategy funding in 2008/09.
- (ii) to approve the budget of £7,500 for incidental expenses.

- (iii) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve institutional learning and teaching strategy allocations.

4.9 HERO Grant 2008/09

Council received and considered a request from HERO Ltd for an extension of funding for one year for 2008/09 and the agreement of HEFCE for its contribution to this.

Resolved: to approve funding for HERO for 2008/09 of £29,928.

4.10 Welsh Assembly Government Skills and Employability Strategy consultation and Minutes of the second joint meeting of the HEFCW Learning and Teaching, Third Mission and Widening Access Committees held on 18 March 2008

Council received and noted the response to the Welsh Assembly Government's consultation document *Skills That Work for Wales: a skills and employment strategy* and the minutes of the second joint meeting of the HEFCW Learning and Teaching, Third Mission and Widening Access Committees held on Tuesday 18 March 2008 to discuss the response.

4.11 Disability Co-ordination Service Funding 2008/09

Council received and considered a proposal to continue funding a disability co-ordinator for 2008/09 which would be the third and final year of the three years of funding approved by Council on 23 September 2005.

Resolved: to approve the funding for the disability co-ordination service to June 2009.

4.12 HEFCW Corporate Strategy and Operational Plan

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information intended for future publication).

4.13 Support for University Spinouts

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information intended for future publication).

4.14 Welsh Affairs Committee House of Commons Provision of Cross-border Services for Wales

Council received and noted the evidence submitted by HEFCW to the Committee on 20 March 2008.

4.15 Supplementary Capital Funding Allocation 2008

Council received the Supplementary Capital Funding Allocations for 2007-08.

Resolved: to note the exercise of delegated authority by the Chair to approve the 2008 supplementary capital funding allocations.

4.16 Analysis of the Use of Variable Fees by Higher Education Providers in Wales

Council received and noted the report and covering letter submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government analysing the use of variable fees by HE providers in Wales.

4.17 UKHEAC

Council received and noted matters raised at the UKHEAC meeting held 19 March 2008.

4.18 Update on Graduate Entry Scheme

Council received and noted developments in the Welsh Assembly Government's proposal to fund the transition and future of medical education at both Swansea University and Cardiff University.

4.19 Confidential Consultation on new name for the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)

Council received and noted the consultation on NEWI's proposed new name and HEFCW's response.

4.20 Funding Gap

Council noted the publication of the Funding Gap Report and the relevant HEFCW web address.

4.21 HEFCE Report on League Tables

Council noted the publication of the Report and the relevant HEFCE web address.

4.22 HEFCW Welsh Language Scheme

Council received and noted the arrangements for revision of the Welsh Language Scheme.

4.23 Future Arrangements for Research Assessment: Consultation outcomes

Council received and noted an update on outcomes of the post-2008 Research Assessment Consultation.

4.24 University of Wales, Newport

Council received and noted a tabled item detailing the exercise of delegated authority by the Chief Executive and approval granted to the University of Wales, Newport to enter into capital arrangements to borrow up to £30m to fund the construction of a city centre campus.

4.25 Report on the Exercise of Delegated Authority

Council received and noted the exercise of delegated authority regarding the E-Learning Strategy [14 March 2008 meeting Minute 12.2] and Reducing Regulatory Burden [14 March 2008 meeting Minute 15.8].

5. INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING (ITT) RECONFIGURATION (HEFCW/08/27)

- 5.1 Council received and considered the progress report on ITT reconfiguration as submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government in April 2008.

Council noted:

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under sections 36 (information potentially prejudicial to the conduct of public affairs) and 43 (commercially sensitive information) of the Freedom of Information Act

5.2 to 5.7

6. RECONFIGURATION AND COLLABORATION (HEFCW/08/30)

- 6.1 Dr Len Arthur reiterated the declaration that he is employed as a part-time member of staff at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff. The Chief Executive reiterated the declaration that his partner is employed at the Swansea Metropolitan University.

- 6.2 Council received and noted progress with reconfiguration and collaboration since its last meeting on 14 March 2008.

Council noted:

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under sections 36 (information potentially prejudicial to the conduct of public affairs) and 43 (commercially sensitive information) of the Freedom of Information Act

6.3 to 6.12.

7. BASELINE RECURRENT GRANT ALLOCATION 2008/09 (HEFCW/08/28)

7.1 Council received and considered the final proposals for distribution of the recurrent grant for 2008/09

Council noted:

7.2 the denominational character of Trinity College, Carmarthen.

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information intended for future publication).

7.3 to 7.16

8. HEFCW PROGRAMME BUDGET 2008-09 (HEFCW/08/29)

8.1 Council received and considered the financial year programme budget for HEFCW, on a cash basis, including the cash brought forward, for the period 2008-09.

8.2 Council noted that HEFCW would implement a financial year programme budget that ensures that HEFCW remains with the Welsh Assembly Government target of a cash balance carried forward of a maximum of 2% of grant available.

8.3 Resolved: to approve the financial year budget 2008-09.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Student Finance seminar

Council noted that Mr Ken Richards had presented a seminar on student finance following the Members' Workshop on 8 May 2008.

9.2 Institutional Visit

Council noted that details of the Institutional Visit to Bangor University on 3 July 2008 would be provided imminently.

9.3 Wales Medical Schools

The paragraph below is exempt from disclosure under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act as it contains information which is commercially sensitive.

9.4 Council Membership

Council noted that the Welsh Assembly Government had approved extensions to the terms of appointment of Dr Len Arthur, Mr Tim Rees and Mrs Tina Stephens to 30 November 2008.

9.5 UCAS data

Council received and noted tabled UCAS data detailing applications by institution in Wales between 2006 and the latest 2008 figures available.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted the date of the next meeting as Friday 4 July 2008 to be held at Bangor University.

11. MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4 APRIL 2008 (HEFCW/08/31)

11.1 Council received the unconfirmed minutes of the Council's Learning and Teaching Committee, held 4 April 2008.

11.2 Resolved: to approve, subject to confirmation by the Committee, the unconfirmed minutes of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held 4 April 2008.

12. MINUTES OF THE WIDENING ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13 FEBRUARY 2008 (HEFCW/08/32)

12.1 Council received the unconfirmed minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting held 13 February 2008.

12.2 Resolved: to approve, subject to approval by the Committee, the minutes of the meeting of the Widening Access Committee held 13 February 2008.

13. THIRD MISSION COMMITTEE MINUTES MEETING HELD 18 MARCH 2008 (HEFCW/08/33)

13.1 Council received the agenda and unconfirmed notes of the last meeting of the Council's Third Mission Committee held on 18 March 2008.

13.2 Resolved: to note the agenda and unconfirmed notes of the Third Mission Committee on 18 March 2008.

14. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEFCW HR COMMITTEE APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008 (HEFCW/08/34) MEMBERS ONLY
- 14.1 Council received and noted the Annual Report of the Council’s HR Committee for the period April 2007 to March 2008.
- 14.2 Resolved: to note the Annual Report of the Council’s HR Committee for the period April 2007 to March 2008.
15. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES MEETING HELD 10 MARCH 2008 (HEFCW/08/35)
- 15.1 Council received the unconfirmed minutes and report of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held 10 March 2008.
- 15.2 Resolved: to note the unconfirmed minutes and report of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held 10 March 2008.
16. SOURCES OF RESEARCH INCOME OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN WALES (HEFCW/08/36)
- 16.1 Council received information on sources of research income for HEIs in Wales in 2006/07, together with comparative data for earlier years.
- 16.2 Resolved: to note sources of research income for HEIs in Wales in 2006/07.
- 17 APRIL 07 – MARCH 08 (Q4) CASH EXPENDITURE REPORT HEFCW FINANCIAL YEAR 2007-08 (HEFCW/08/37)
- 17.1 Council received financial monitoring on programme and running costs expenditure for the period April 2007 to March 2008 (Q4) and an update on the financial year end position for 2008-09.
- 17.2 Resolved: to note fourth and final progress report on actual performance against cash profile for 2007-08 financial year.

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