
**Minutes of the 130th meeting of the Council held 8 May 2009 at HEFCW
Offices, Cardiff**

Present:

Members: Mr Roger Thomas (Chairman)
Professor Philip Gummatt (Chief Executive)
Dame Sandra Burslem
Professor Tony Hazell
Professor Leni Oglesby
Mr Ken Richards
Professor Garel Rhys
Mrs Pauline Thomas

Observers: Mr Mark Batho, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Council
Mr Mike Hopkins, Head of Lifelong Learning + Providers Division
(DCELLS, Welsh Assembly Government)
Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive, HEFCE

Officers: Dr David Blaney
Dr Ewen Brierley (to Minute 8)
Mr Roger Carter
Ms Alison Haggett
Ms Niina Hammond
Mr Richard Hirst
Ms Celia Hunt
Ms Bethan Owen

Apologies: were received from Mr David Allen, Professor Mari Lloyd-Williams and
Professor Sir Brian Smith.

1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council noted:

- 1.1 the Chair welcomed Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive, HEFCE to his first HEFCW Council meeting.
- 1.2 The following standing members' interests were declared:

- Mr David Allen as a Board Member of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education.
- Professor Philip Gummatt whose partner is employed at Swansea Metropolitan University.
- Professor Garel Rhys as Professor Emeritus at Cardiff University.
- Mr Ken Richards as a Member of Aberystwyth University Investments Committee.
- Mr Roger Thomas as former Chair of Governors of the University of Glamorgan, Member of Steering Group for Governing Bodies and Equality Project, the Equality Challenge Unit and Honorary Doctor of the University of Glamorgan.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2009
(HEFCW/09/MIN129)

Resolved: that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 13 March 2009, subject to the amendment of the incorrect reference to the Scottish Funding Councils.

3. MATTERS ARISING (HEFCW/09/13)

- 3.1 Council received and considered a report on action taken following the previous Council meeting held 13 March 2009.

Council noted:

- 3.2 an oral update on the Baseline Recurrent Grant Allocations and that confirmation of funding to compensate Cardiff University for the transfer of medical students would start from 2010/11 had been received from the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 3.3 that the Chief Executive had met with the University of Wales (UoW) to discuss the UoW scholarship scheme which was to be launched mid-May 2009. Further noted that the QAA had requested further details and DCELLS were being kept updated.
- 3.4 Resolved: to note the contents of the report.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 4.1 Council received and noted an oral report from the Chair on activity since the last meeting of Council.

4.2 Resolved:

- i) to note the value of the Chair's March meeting with the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills.

- ii) to note the Chairman's report on activity since the last meeting of Council.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (HEFCW/09/CE3)

5.1 Reflection on the Members' Workshop 7 May 2009

Resolved: to note the Chief Executive's thanks to Council members for their valuable input into the Workshop, the meeting with the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and the evening session on 7 May 2009.

5.2 Economic Support Initiative

Council received and considered an oral update on Economic Support Initiative and on the overall economic position.

Council noted: that the Comprehensive Spending Review was to be postponed until after the UK elections had been held.

Resolved: to note the update on the Economic Support Initiative and the economic crisis.

5.3 National Assembly for Wales Audit Committee: Collaboration between HEIs

Council received and considered the National Assembly for Wales Audit Committee Report on Collaboration between HEIs and were informed of initial dialogue with Assembly officials over the development of the Assembly Government's response.

Resolved: to note the Report and discussions in progress.

5.4 Strategic Engagement Update

Council considered an update on developments of the CHEW, HEW and HEFCW working group.

Resolved:

- i) to note the current position with the development of strategic engagement with the sector.
- ii) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the circular for publication following the forthcoming consideration by CHEW and HEW.

5.5 NUS representation on HEFCW Council

Council received and noted tabled correspondence between the Chair and the NUS Wales President regarding proposed NUS observer status at HEFCW Council.

5.6 Funding Analysis 2006/07

Council noted that permission to publish HEFCW's Funding Analysis Report 2006/07 was granted by the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills on 8 April 2009.

5.7 DIUS Request for Advice on Investment in the Science Base

Council received and noted HEFCW's contribution to the co-ordinated response to the request for advice on investment in the science base received from Lord Drayson, Minister of State for Science and Innovation.

5.8 Chief Executive Calendar of Meetings since 13 March 2009

Council received and noted the Chief Executive's calendar of meetings held since the last Council meeting.

5.9 Note of the Institutional Visit to Glyndŵr University 12 March 2009

Council received and noted a note of the Institutional Visit to Glyndŵr University on 12 March 2009.

5.10 The Jones Review of Higher Education

Council noted that the Chief Executive had been invited to appear before the National Assembly's Enterprise and Learning Committee on 18 June 2009 to give evidence on The Jones Review of Higher Education.

5.11 Evaluation of Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE)

Council noted an update on 2009/10 funding of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education as agreed at its meeting on 4 May 2007.

5.12 Bangor University - Recurrent Grant correspondence

Council received and noted correspondence between Bangor University and HEFCW regarding the Recurrent Grant for 2009/10.

5.13 Exercise of Delegated Authority

Council noted the Exercise of Delegated Authority by the Chairman and Chief Executive in agreeing the final allocations of grant to institutions for 2009/10 and associated communications.

6. REVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION – TASK AND FINISH GROUP
(HEFCW/09/33)

- 6.1 Council received an oral update from the Chair on the Review of Higher Education Task and Finish Group.

Council noted:

- 6.2 that part two of the Task and Finish Group's findings had been submitted to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills on 25 April 2009.
- 6.3 that as at 8 May 2009, the Report remained non-disclosable for Council discussion.

7. RECONFIGURATION AND COLLABORATION (HEFCW/09/34)

- 7.1 The Chief Executive reiterated the declaration that his partner is employed at Swansea Metropolitan University.
- 7.2 Council received a report of progress on the Reconfiguration and Collaboration Fund (RCF), associated 'One Wales' funding and the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) since its last meeting on 13 March 2009.

Council noted:

- 7.3 that the reconfiguration of Trinity University College and the University of Wales, Lampeter would be discussed at item 8.
- 7.4 a report from the committee Chair on the first meeting of the new Reconfiguration and Collaboration (RCC) committee which would aim to carry out a more proactive role with regard to proposals.

Resolved:

- 7.5 to note the position on RCF, One Wales and SDF funding;
- 7.6 to note the unconfirmed minutes of the RCC meeting on 27 March 2009.

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

7.7 to 7.17

8. MERGER OF TRINITY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES, LAMPETER (HEFCW/09/35)

- 8.1 Council received and considered an update on the proposed merger of Trinity University College Carmarthen (TUCC) and the University of Wales, Lampeter (UWL).

Council noted:

- 8.2 its previous discussions on UWL and on talks between Trinity University College Carmarthen and the University of Wales, Lampeter.

- 8.3 the alternatives to and consequences of the proposed merger.

Further noted:

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

8.4 to 8.14

9. REMIT LETTER 2009-10 AND DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGY 2009-10–2011-12 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2009-10 (HEFCW/09/36)

- 9.1 Council received and considered the Remit Letter 2009-10 and accompanying analysis, a revised version of the Corporate Strategy 2009-10 to 2011-12 and the draft Operational Plan 2009-10.

Council noted:

- 9.2 that the remit letter was received on 24 April 2009 and that the Welsh Assembly Government stated that the draft 2010-11 letter would be available before the end of this calendar year. Further noted that outcomes of the Chair's formal annual meeting with the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills to be held in September 2009 would also feed into this.

- 9.3 that the Corporate Strategy, due to be submitted at the end of May 2009 had been prepared on the basis of the proposals set out in January 2009 and has incorporated remit letter requirements.

- 9.4 that the Operational Plan 2009 -10 has incorporated remit letter requirements and that work was continuing with the Welsh Assembly Government on the contents to ensure reference to *SMARTer* targets.

Resolved:

9.5 to note the latest version of the Corporate Strategy 2009-10 – 2011-12.

9.6 to note the draft Operational Plan 2009-10.

9.7 to delegate authority to the Chair and Chief Executive to approve the finalised Corporate Strategy 2009-10 – 2011-12, and the Operational Plan 2009-10.

9.8 to note the specific requirements contained in the Remit Letter.

10. UPDATE ON GOVERNANCE REVIEW (HEFCW/09/37)

10.1 Council received and considered the Welsh Assembly Government's planned Governance Review of HEFCW, including an oral update from the Head of Governance, Leadership and Information.

Council noted:

10.2 the timetable and programme for the review.

10.3 that the final report will be focused around the seven Citizen-centred Governance Principles for Wales and be in the public domain.

Resolved:

10.4 to note the update on the Assembly Government's planned Governance Review of HEFCW.

11. RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (HEFCW/09/38)

11.1 Council received the unconfirmed minutes and an oral report from the committee Chair on the first meeting of the Council's new Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee held on the 21 April 2009 and the final annual report from the Chair of Third Mission Committee.

Council noted:

11.2 the committee Chair's recommendation that greater business representation on the committee would be of value for the committee.

11.3 that each committee meeting would have a theme assigned to it in order to allow greater focus on key issues over time. Further noted that these themes may be successful in attracting business experts to ad-hoc meetings - experts who would be unable to give commit their time as a committee member.

Resolved:

- 11.4 to note the unconfirmed notes of the first Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee on 21 April 2009 and the Chair's oral report.
- 11.5 to note the final annual report to the Council from the Chair of Third Mission Committee.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Meeting of the Learning and Teaching Committee held 29 April 2009.

Council received an oral report from the Chair of the new Learning and Teaching Committee on its first meeting held 29 April 2009.

Council noted:

- i) that meeting attendance would normally reduce to 17 members, 6 observers, and a small number of key officers as the agenda required;
- ii) the committee review of its Terms of Reference and Remit;
- iii) that a change of committee title had been considered and a choice was being investigated;
- iv) committee agreement on the priorities for the committee's strategic aims.

Resolved: to note the Chair's report of the first meeting of the new Learning and Teaching Committee held 29 April 2009.

12.2 Meeting with Heads of HEIs: Cardiff University

Council noted that the rescheduled meeting with the Vice-Chancellor and representatives of Cardiff University was held 7 May 2009.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted:

- i) the date of the next meeting as 3 July 2009, to be held at HEFCW Offices, Llanishen;
- ii) that the next meeting of Council would be preceded by an Institutional Visit to Swansea University on 2 July 2009.

14. STANDING ORDERS FOR THE CONDUCT OF COUNCIL BUSINESS
(HEFCW/09/39)

14.1 Council received and considered the proposed amendments to the committee names listed in the Standing Orders of Council Business.

Resolved:

14.2 to approve the proposed amendments to committee names listed in the Standing Orders of Council Business;

14.3 to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve any further changes to the Standing Orders of Council Business required following resolutions made by the Learning and Teaching committee regarding its title.

15. COUNCIL COMMITTEES UPDATE (HEFCW/09/40)

15.1 Council received an update on developments following the recent review of the Council committees and considered the appointment of the independent member to the Appointments Committee.

Resolved:

15.2 to note the current membership of the Council committees.

15.3 to note the 2009 committee meeting dates confirmed as at 8 May 2009.

15.4 to note the exercise of delegated authority by the Chair and Deputising Chief Executive to extend the term of the current independent member on the Appointments Committee until a replacement had been found, or for a period of three months – whichever was to be sooner.

15.5 to approve the appointment of Dr Malcolm Ballin for a period of two years as the independent member of the Appointments Committee.

16. COUNCIL FORWARD BUSINESS PLAN (HEFCW/09/41)

16.1 Council received the Forward Business Plan for Council meetings to be held July to December 2009.

16.2 Resolved: to note the Forward Business Plan for the Council meetings to be held July to December 2009 with the amendments discussed.

17. SOURCES OF RESEARCH INCOME OF HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS IN WALES 2007/08 (HEFCW/09/42)

- 17.1 Council received information on sources of research income for higher education institutions (HEIs) in Wales in 2007/08, together with comparative data for earlier years.
- 17.2 Resolved: to note the sources of research income for higher education institutions (HEIs) in Wales in 2007/08, together with comparative data for earlier years

- 18. OPERATIONAL PLAN 2008-09 END OF YEAR MONITORING (HEFCW/09/43)
 - 18.1 Council received an update on progress as at the end of 2008-09 against activities in HEFCW's *Operational Plan 2008-09*.
 - 18.2 Resolved: to note the final outcome of HEFCW's *Operational Plan 2008-09*.

- 19. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09 (HEFCW/09/44) MEMBERS ONLY
 - 19.1 Council received the Annual Report of the Human Resources Committee 2008-09.
 - 19.2 Resolved: to note the Annual Report of the Human Resources Committee 2008-09.

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