
Minutes of the 127th meeting of the Council held 12 December 2008 in HEFCW Offices, Llanishen.

Present:

Members: Mr Roger Thomas (Chairman)
Professor Philip Gummett (Chief Executive)
Mr David Allen
Dame Sandra Burslem
Professor Leni Oglesby
Mr Ken Richards
Professor Garel Rhys
Professor Sir Brian Smith
Dr Geoffrey Thomas

Observers: Mr Mark Batho, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Councils
Mr Steve Egan, Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and
Deputy Chief Executive, HEFCE
Professor Anthony Hazell (HEFCW Council member from 1 January
2009)
Mr Mike Hopkins, Director, Lifelong Learning and Provider Division,
(DCELLS), Welsh Assembly Government

Officers: Dr David Blaney
Mr Roger Carter
Ms Lynne Gittens (an observer)
Ms Niina Hammond
Mr Richard Hirst
Ms Celia Hunt
Ms Bethan Owen

Apologies: were received from Professor Mari Lloyd-Williams, Professor Nigel Stott and Mrs Pauline Thomas.

1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council noted:

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Mr David Allen, Dame Sandra Burslem, Professor Leni Oglesby to their first meeting of Council, and Professor Sir Brian Smith following his reappointment to Council;

1.2 The Chair welcomed Mr Mark Batho, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Council; Mr Steve Egan, Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and Deputy Chief Executive, HEFCE and Professor Anthony Hazell (HEFCW Council member from 1 January 2009) to the meeting.

1.2 The following standing members' interests were declared:

- Professor Philip Gummatt whose partner is employed at Swansea Metropolitan University
- Professor Garel Rhys as Professor Emeritus at Cardiff University.
- Professor Sir Brian Smith as International Ambassador for Cardiff University.
- Mr Ken Richards as a Member of Aberystwyth University Investments Committee.
- Dr Geoffrey Thomas as an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College Carmarthen.
- 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 23 OCTOBER 2008
(HEFCW/08/MIN126)

Resolved: that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 23 October 2008.

3. MATTERS ARISING (HEFCW/08/86)

3.1 Council received and considered a report on action taken following the previous Council meeting held 23 October 2008.

3.2 Resolved: to note the contents of the report.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

4.2 Resolved:

- i) to note that the Chair and Chief Executive had met with the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and had discussed a number of topical HE matters;

- ii) to note that the first part of the Review of Higher Education had been submitted to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills;
- iii) to note that the Annual Public Meeting had been held in Cardiff on 9 December 2008;
- iv) to note that induction material for the new Council members would be available via the Extranet.

5. THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

- 5.1 Council received an oral report from Professor Garel Rhys on the state of the economy.
- 5.2 Resolved: to note that HEFCW intended, in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government, to advise HEIs on steps to consider ameliorating the effects of the recession.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (HEFCW/08/CE7)

6.1 UW Lampeter update

Council received an oral update on recent developments at the University of Wales, Lampeter.

Resolved:

- i) to note that governing bodies of Trinity College Carmarthen and the University of Wales, Lampeter had met and both had unanimously agreed to discussions to explore merger;
- ii) to note that Trinity College Carmarthen had been awarded Taught Degree Awarding Powers and would be proceeding with seeking the award of University College title.

The paragraphs below are exempt from disclosure under sections 41 (information provided in confidence) and 43 (information which is commercially sensitive) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

iii) and iv)

6.2 Swansea University

Council received and noted an oral update on Swansea University's plans for a second campus.

6.3 Reflections on the Institutional Visit to the Open University in Wales on 11 December 2008

Council considered the Institutional Visit to the Open University in Wales on 11 December 2008.

Resolved:

- i) to note that it was a valuable first ever Institutional Visit to the HEI;
- ii) to note that the potential for Wales' involvement in other UK activities involving the Open University, and Open University collaboration with other Welsh HEIs (not least over widening access) all required further exploration by HEFCW;
- iii) to note that the Clerk to the Council would provide a note of the Visit to the next meeting of Council on 30 January 2008.

6.4 CREST Scientific and Technical Research Committee's 5th cycle of the Open Method of Coordination

Council received and considered a proposal (via DIUS) to support a topic submitted by Wales (via HEFCW) on 'Knowledge transfer to and exchange with SMEs' as part of the EU's CREST Scientific and Technical Research Committee's 5th cycle of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC)

Resolved:

- i) to approve expenses of up to £30k to support this initiative if chosen for support by CREST.

6.5 Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Intake Targets

Council received the timetable for issuing individual institutional ITT intake targets for 2009/10.

Resolved:

- i) to delegate authority to the Chairman to approve the allocation of primary and secondary intake targets to institutions for 2009/10;

The paragraph below is exempt from disclosure under sections 41 (information provided in confidence) and 43 (information which is commercially sensitive) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

ii)

6.6 Meetings with Heads of HEIs held 23 and 24 October 2008

Council received a note of the presentations by Heads of HEIs who met the Council on 23 and 24 October 2008.

Resolved: to note that the Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University would be presenting in early 2009 and that the Clerk to the Council would circulate a date once confirmed.

6.7 Appointments Committee Decisions

Council received the appointments of HEFCW representatives to external groups as approved by the Appointments Committee.

Resolved: to note the appointments of HEFCW representatives to external groups as approved by the Appointments Committee.

6.8 Impacts of HEFCW's first three year Third Mission Fund cycle

Council received an update on the evaluation of the impacts arising from the first three year cycle of its Third Mission Fund (2004/05 to 2006/07).

Resolved: to note the update on the evaluation of the impacts arising from the first three year cycle of its Third Mission Fund (2004/05 to 2006/07).

6.9 Chief Executive Calendar of Meetings since 26 Sept 2008

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

Resolved: to note the Chief Executive's calendar of meetings held since the last Council meeting.

6.9 Ministerial attendance at 23 October 2008 Council meeting

Council received the speaking notes of the Minister's presentation to Council at its meeting on 23 October 2008.

Resolved: to note the speaking notes of the Minister's presentation to Council at its meeting on 23 October 2008.

6.10 GO Wales –Skills for the Knowledge Economy

Council received an update on the funding and planned activities of GO Wales.

Resolved: to note the update on the funding and planned activities of GO Wales.

6.11 Exercise of Delegated Authority

Council received a confirmation of the submission of the Funding Gap Report for 2006/07 to the Welsh Assembly Government on 5 November 2008.

Resolved: to note submission of the Funding Gap Report for 2006/07 to the Welsh Assembly Government.

6.12 Update on Budget Implications

Council received tabled details of the Welsh Assembly Government final budget for 2009-10

Resolved: to note details of the Welsh Assembly Government final budget for 2009-10.

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEES: PROPOSALS FOR REFORM (HEFCW/08/87)

7.1 Council received and considered the outcomes of the recent review by the Chair and officers of the Council's committee structure.

Resolved:

7.2 that where there were possible overlaps in areas of interest between the new Committees (eg. on skills), officers would work with the Chairs to ensure sensible coverage and linkages;

7.3 to approve the new committee structure;

7.4 to approve the revised terms of reference and standing orders for each Council committee.

7.5 to delegate authority to the Chairman to appoint the committee Chairs and Council membership of the committees.

7.6 to extend the term of the Appointments committee independent advisor Ms Sue Adams to 31 January 2009 in order to allow approval of committee member nominations.

7.7 to note that the calendar of committees meetings was to be finalised.

8. STAKEHOLDER SURVEY ACTION PLAN (HEFCW/08/88)

8.1 Council received and considered the high-level Action Plan which addressed the outcomes of the 2007 Stakeholder Survey.

8.2 Resolved: to note the Action Plan in response to the outcomes of the 2007 Stakeholder Survey.

9. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW (HEFCW/07/89)

- 9.1 Council received and considered the annual review of its corporate governance arrangements.

Council noted:

- 9.2 that the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council and its Committees would be undertaken once the new committee structure and members had settled in.

Resolved:

- 9.3 to receive a report on the application of the Council's official seal during 2008.
- 9.4 to approve the proposed amendments to the Council's Standing Orders for the Conduct of Council Business, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations.

10. HEFCW CORPORATE STRATEGY 2009-10 – 2011-12 AND OPERATIONAL PLAN UPDATE 2008-09 (HEFCW/08/90)

- 10.1 Council received and considered an update on progress as at the end of November 2008 against activities in HEFCW's Operational Plan 2008-09 and against the timetable for development of the HEFCW Corporate Strategy 2009-10 – 2011-12.

Council noted:

- 10.2 the timetable difficulties involving the Review of Higher Education due to be completed in March 2009, HEFCW's Remit Letter due, in principle, by the end of January 2009 and the Corporate Strategy and operational plan due to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government by end of March 2009.

Resolved:

- 10.3 to note that the Corporate Strategy would be updated as best possible, but inevitably in incremental fashion, recognising the difficulties presented for the drafting of the Remit Letter pending the outcomes of the Jones Review.
- 10.4 to note progress on the Operational Plan 2008-09.

11. OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW: WALES FROM 2009/10 (HEFCW/08/91)

- 11.1 Council received and considered draft recommendations to the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) regarding the Institutional Review: Wales from 2009/10, based on the outcomes of the consultation on this subject.

Council noted:

- 11.2 the principal changes to the Institutional Review arrangements from 2009/10.

Resolved:

- 11.3 to approve the recommendations from HEFCW to the QAA regarding the Institutional Review: Wales from 2009/10;
- 11.4 to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve submission of the amended document to the QAA.

12. ITT STRATEGY FUNDING: PROPOSALS FOR THE ITT STRATEGY FUNDING FROM 2009/10 ONWARDS (HEFCW/08/92)

- 12.1 Council received and noted proposals for future arrangements for the funding to support institutional strategies for Initial Teacher Training.

Resolved:

- 12.2 to approve the proposals for ITT Strategy Funding and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to agree the TTRS bursary sum;
- 12.3 to approve in principle the proposals for an ITT Partnership Premium and delegate authority to the Chief Executive to agree the sum in the light of further modelling.

13. RECONFIGURATION AND COLLABORATION (HEFCW/08/93)

- 13.1 The Chief Executive reiterated the declaration that his partner is employed at Swansea Metropolitan University.
- 13.2 Council received and noted progress of the Reconfiguration and Collaboration Fund (RCF) and the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) since its last meeting on 23 October 2008.

Resolved:

- 13.2 to note the position on Reconfiguration and Collaboration and Strategic Development Fund funding;
- 13.3 to note the progress of Reconfiguration and Collaboration and Strategic Development Fund developments.

This paragraph is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information intended for future publication).

13.4.

14. 2008 RESEARCH ASSESSMENT EXERCISE: ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLICATION OF RESULTS AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS (HEFCW/08/96)

14.1 Council received and considered arrangements for publication of the outcomes of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in December 2008 and the subsequent actions and decisions which would be required from the Council.

Council noted:

14.2 HEFCE and SFC's RAE informing arrangements.

Resolved:

14.3 to note arrangements for publication of the outcomes of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in December 2008.

15. ANNUAL HEFCW EQUALITY REPORT (HEFCW/08/94)

15.1 Council received and considered the draft Equality and Diversity Report 2008

Resolved:

15.2 to note the outcomes/progress to date of the 2007-09 Equality Action Plan;

15.3 to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the Equality Annual Report for publication.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Third Mission Committee meeting 28 November 2008

i) Council received an oral report on the meeting of the Third Mission Committee meeting held 28 November 2008.

ii) Resolved: to note that the Minutes of the meeting of the Third Mission Committee held 28 November 2008 would be received by Council at its meeting 30 January 2009.

16.2 Departing Council Member – Dr Geoffrey Thomas

Resolved: to note that this was Dr Geoffrey Thomas's last Council meeting and the Chair's warm thanks to him for his eight years of service as Council member, his work as the Chair of the Reconfiguration and Collaboration Panel, and his role as Acting Chair of Council for a spell.

16.3 Research Assessment Exercise Session

Resolved: to note that a Council RAE Briefing Session would be held on 12 January 2009.

16.4 Institutional Visit, University of Wales, Newport

Resolved: to note that the Institutional Visit to the University of Wales, Newport would take place on 12 January 2009.

16.5 Matched Funding Scheme

Members received a paper proposing the establishment of a matched funding scheme to encourage fund raising by institutions.

This paragraph is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information intended for future publication).

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted:

- i) the date of the next meeting as 30 January 2009, to be held at the HEFCW Offices, Cardiff;
- ii) that the next meeting of Council would be followed by a presentation from Mr Mike Hopkins on the Welsh Assembly Government paper Transforming Education and Training Provision in Wales.

18. COUNCIL FORWARD BUSINESS PLAN (HEFCW/08/95)

18.1 Council received the Forward Business Plan for Council meetings to be held 30 January to 3 July 2009.

18.2 Resolved: to note the Forward Business Plan for the Council meetings to be held 30 January to 3 July 2009.

19. MINUTES OF THE REMUNERATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24 OCTOBER 2008 **MEMBERS ONLY** (HEFCW/08/97)
- 19.1 Council received the Minutes of the Remuneration sub-committee meeting held 24 October 2008.
- 19.2 Resolved: to note the Minutes of the Remuneration sub-committee meeting held 24 October 2008.
20. WIDENING ACCESS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 22 OCTOBER 2008 (HEFCW/08/98)
- 20.1 Council received the Minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting held 22 October 2008.
- 20.2 Resolved: to note the Minutes of the Widening Access Committee meeting held 22 October 2008.
21. TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN WALES (HEFCW/08/99)
- 21.1 Council received a summary of the potential implications for HE of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) policy agenda '*Transforming Education and Training Provision in Wales*'.
- 21.2 Resolved: to note a summary of the potential implications for HE of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) policy agenda '*Transforming Education and Training Provision in Wales*'.
22. PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE FEE WAIVER SCHEME 2007/08 (HEFCW/08/100)
- 22.1 Council received and considered a report of the outcomes of the Council's Part-Time Undergraduate Fee Waiver Scheme in 2007/08.
- 22.2 Resolved: to note the outcomes of the Council's Part-Time Undergraduate Fee Waiver Scheme in 2007/08.
23. HEW/CHEW/HEFCW STRATEGIC DIALOGUE 4/5 SEPT 08 NOTE (HEFCW/08/101)
- 23.1 Council received a tabled note of the HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue 4/5 September 2008.
- 23.2 Resolved: to receive the note of the HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue 4/5 Sept 2008.

24. APRIL 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2008 (Q2) CASH EXPENDITURE REPORT
HEFCW FINANCIAL YEAR 2008-09 (HEFCW/08/102)

24.1 Council received a report on the financial monitoring on programme and running costs expenditure for the period April to September 2008 (Q2) and an update on an update on the financial year end position for 2008-09.

24.2 Resolved: to note the second progress report on actual performance against cash profile for 2008-09 financial year.

25. QUARTER TWO ACCRUALS BASED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS REPORT
2008-09 (HEFCW/08/103)

25.1 Council received the first financial report on the management accounts prepared on an accruals basis for the period April to September 2008 (Q2).

25.2 Resolved: to note the financial report on the management accounts prepared on an accruals basis for the period April to September 2008 (Q2).

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