
Minutes of the 129th meeting of the Council held 13 March 2009 in Glyndŵr University, Wrexham.

Present:

Members: Mr Roger Thomas (Chairman)
Professor Philip Gummett (Chief Executive)
Mr David Allen
Dame Sandra Burslem
Professor Mari Lloyd-Williams
Professor Leni Oglesby
Mr Ken Richards
Professor Garel Rhys
Professor Sir Brian Smith
Mrs Pauline Thomas

Observers: Mr Peter McAllister, Head of Lifelong Learning Policy (DCELLS),
Welsh Assembly Government
Dr John Selby, Director (Education and Participation), HEFCE

Officers: Dr David Blaney
Mr Roger Carter
Mr Dale Hall
Ms Niina Hammond
Mr Richard Hirst
Ms Leanne Holborn
Ms Celia Hunt
Ms Bethan Owen
Ms Emma Raczka

Apologies: were received from Professor Anthony Hazell (Council member), Mr Mark Batho, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Councils and Mr Mike Hopkins, Welsh Assembly Government assessor.

1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council noted:

1.1 the Chair welcomed Dr John Selby, Director (Education and Participation) HEFCE to the 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.
- Professor Sir Brian Smith as International Ambassador for Cardiff University.
- 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.

1.3 Mr David Allen had resigned from his position as member of the Quality Assurance Committee of the University of Wales.

1.4 that item 5.1 was taken at the start of the meeting, as a Members Only item, with only Mr Richard Hirst among the non-Member attendees present.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2009 (HEFCW/09/MIN128)

Resolved: that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 30 January 2009 subject to the inclusion of Mike Hopkins for part of the meeting in the list of attendees.

3. MATTERS ARISING (HEFCW/09/12)

3.1 Council received and considered a report on action taken following the previous Council meeting held 30 January 2009.

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 the Higher Education Review updates;
- ii) to note the Chairman's report on activity since the last meeting of Council.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (HEFCW/09/CE2)

5.1 Pay and Grading Update MEMBERS ONLY

Council received and considered an oral update on the HEFCW staff Pay and Grading Review.

Resolved: to note the update on the HEFCW staff Pay and Grading Review.

5.2 Reflections on the Institutional Visit to Glyndŵr University 12 March 2009

Council considered the Institutional Visit to Glyndŵr University held 12 March 2009.

Resolved: to note that the Chair would be arranging a meeting with the new Chair of Glyndŵr University.

5.3 Agenda for Council Members' Workshop 7 May 2009

Council received and considered the draft agenda for the Council Members' Workshop to be held 7 May 2009.

Resolved: to note that background material for the planned HE Review discussion would depend upon the Review timetable.

5.4 Current Economic Situation

Council considered developments in the current economic situation.

Resolved:

- i) to note that HEFCW Grant in Aid (GIAS) funding for 2009-10 had not yet been confirmed and it was possible that GIAS may be lower than originally set out in the final Assembly Budget, upon which figures the funding allocations for academic year 09/10 had been based.
- ii) to note that institutions had responded constructively to a second letter from the Chief Executive with many examples provided of how they were responding positively to the current economic challenges. This would be discussed further at the HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue meeting;
- iii) that the economic situation should be henceforth be routinely taken into account for all future Council business.

5.5 HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue meeting 13 March 2009

Council considered and noted the agenda for the HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue meeting to be held 13 March 2009.

5.6 Lord Drayson, DIUS Correspondence

Council received and considered tabled DIUS correspondence in respect of the UK Government's propositions to organise the research base in such a way as to enable the UK to meet the global economic challenges.

Resolved: to note the correspondence and the impact of this for the Welsh sector. The Chief Executive and officers would be liaising with Assembly colleagues to discuss these issues.

5.7 WEFO

Council received and noted an oral update on officers' ongoing liaison with WEFO to inform WEFO's analysis of funding proposals prepared by Welsh HEIs.

5.8 University of Wales Scholarship Scheme

The paragraph below is exempt from disclosure under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act as it contains information potentially prejudicial to the conduct of public affairs.

5.9 Learning and Teaching Strategy Fund

Council received and considered a proposal for funding for institutional learning and teaching strategies in 2009/10.

Resolved: to approve the sum of £1,019,650 for institutional learning and teaching strategy funding in 2009/10.

5.10 QAA funding for 2009/10

Council received and considered costs to meet the activities set out in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) in 2009/10.

Resolved: to approve a maximum cost of £180,000 for the QAA in 2009/10.

5.11 Higher Education Academy (HEA) funding for 2009/10

Council received and considered the proposed HEA funding from HEFCW.

Resolved: to note the HEA funding from HEFCW of £884,809 for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

5.12 Chief Executive Calendar of Meetings since 30 January 2009

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

5.13 Note of the Institutional Visit to the University of Wales, Newport 12 January 2009

Council received and noted a tabled note of the Institutional Visit to the University of Wales, Newport on 12 January 2009.

5.14 Meeting with Heads: Cardiff University

Council received and noted the rescheduled meeting with the Vice-Chancellor and representatives of Cardiff University to be held 7 May 2009.

5.15 National Assembly for Wales Enterprise and Learning Committee Inquiry into the Economic Contribution of HE in Wales

Council received and noted the National Assembly for Wales' Enterprise and Learning Committee Inquiry into the Economic Contribution of HE in Wales Interim Report.

Resolved: to note that the final report had been delayed in order to first consider the outcomes of the final Higher Education Review Group Report.

5.16 Corporate Strategy 2009-10 – 2011-12

Council received and noted updates on the timetable for the receipt of the Remit Letter 2009-10 and the development of the Corporate Strategy for 2009-10 – 2011-12.

5.17 Exercise of Delegated Authority

Council received and noted the Exercise of Delegated Authority on the submission of recommendations to the QAA based on the outcomes of the consultation on the Institutional Review: Wales from 2009/10 and the launch of the Economic Support Initiative.

6. GOVERNANCE REVIEWS OF ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT SPONSORED BODIES (AGSBs) (HEFCW/09/13)

6.1 Council received notification of the Assembly Government's intention to complete governance reviews of all executive Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies, and of the likely timescale for the review of HEFCW as part of this programme.

Council noted:

6.2 that a team was being established to enable officers to support preparation for the Review;

6.3 an oral update from the Welsh Assembly Government assessor.

Resolved:

- 6.4 to note the details received to date regarding the proposed timetable for the review;
- 6.5 to note that a briefing session would be incorporated into Council events on 7/8 May 2009.

7. ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL HEALTH OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEFCW/09/14)

- 7.1 Council received and considered the financial health of the higher education sector and individual institutions as indicated by the audited financial statements for the period 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008.

Council noted:

- 7.2 that the Audit and Risk Committee had considered the proposed financial health categorisations at its meeting on 2 March 2009. The Audit and Risk Committee chair summarised the Committee's discussions and its recommendation that a further change should be made to the proposed financial health categorisation of one institution as set out in Minute 7 of the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes tabled at the meeting (HEFCW/09/29).
- 7.3 that the recent correspondence with HEIs regarding the impact of the economic situation indicated that HEIs were developing plans to address the financial concerns arising as a result of the current economic crisis.

Resolved:

- 7.4 to note the latest financial position with respect to the sector and individual HEIs;
- 7.5 to ratify the proposed financial health categorisations for each HEI.

8. BASELINE RECURRENT GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2009/10 (HEFCW/09/15)

- 8.1 Council received and considered specific proposals for the distribution of recurrent grant for 2009/10 and the resultant allocations for the individual institutions.

Council noted:

- 8.2 that the grant-in-aid figures were still to be confirmed by the Welsh Assembly Government;

- 8.3 concern about the continuing lower level of funding in Wales when compared to England. Further noted that the uplift on the main Wales grant was low in comparison with England.

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

8.4 to 8.14

9. UPDATE ON CORPORATE RISK REGISTER (HEFCW/09/16)

- 9.1 Council received and considered the latest update of its Corporate Risk Register as considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on 2 March 2009.

Council noted:

- 9.2 the commentary on the current distribution of risks and on likely developments in the immediate future.

Resolved:

- 9.3 to approve the latest update to the corporate risk register and the distribution of those risks.

10. BUDGET FOR 2009-2010 FINANCIAL YEAR PAPER (HEFCW/09/17)

- 10.1 Council received and considered the financial year programme and running costs budget for HEFCW, on a cash basis, including the cash brought forward, for the period 2009-10.

Resolved:

- 10.2 to approve the 2009-10 financial year budget.

11. RECONFIGURATION AND COLLABORATION (HEFCW/09/18)

- 11.1 The Chief Executive reiterated the declaration that his partner is employed at Swansea Metropolitan University.

- 11.2 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 30 January 2009.

Council noted:

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

11.3 to 11.6

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 One Wales

Council noted that dialogue with the Welsh Assembly Government was to continue regarding the uses of the funding provided to the Council for One Wales initiatives. Further noted the Welsh Assembly Government assessor's comments that The Heads of the Valleys Initiative and the Transforming Education and Training agenda would be relevant to the One Wales priorities.

12.2 University of Wales, Lampeter

Council noted:

- i) that positive meetings between the Chief Executive, HEFCW officers, Trinity University College, Carmarthen and University of Wales, Lampeter staff and governors were ongoing;

The paragraph below is exempt from disclosure under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act as it contains information potentially prejudicial to the conduct of public affairs.

ii) and iii)

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted:

- i) the date of the next meeting as 8 May 2009, to be held at HEFCW Offices, Llanishen;
- ii) that the next meeting of Council would be preceded by the Council Members' Workshop to be held 7 May 2009.

14. INSTITUTIONAL WIDENING ACCESS STRATEGIES: 2009/10 FUNDING AND FUTURE PLANNING (HEFCW/09/19)

- 14.1 Council received and considered proposals to manage new widening access strategy submissions in the light of the refresh of *Reaching Higher* and the total Widening Access Strategy allocation for 2009/10.

Resolved:

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

14.2 to 14.6

15. JOINT INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (JISC) FUNDING ISSUES (HEFCW/09/20)

15.1 Council received and considered the Joint Information Systems Committee's (JISC's) budget proposals for 2009/10 and an update on the progress of the JISC Infrastructure Programme.

Resolved:

15.2 to note the overall JISC funding recommendations and the derivation of HEFCW's contribution to the JISC for 2009/10;

15.3 to approve a contribution of £2.738 million for 2009/10;

15.4 to note the outcomes to date of the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme.

16. COUNCIL FORWARD BUSINESS PLAN (HEFCW/09/21)

16.1 Council received the Forward Business Plan for Council meetings to be held May to October 2009.

16.2 Resolved: to note the Forward Business Plan for the Council meetings to be held May to October 2009.

17. QUARTER 3 CASH EXPENDITURE REPORT (HEFCW/09/22)

17.1 Council received financial monitoring on programme and running costs expenditure for the period April to December 2008 (Q3) and an update on the financial year end forecast position for 2008-09.

17.2 Resolved: to note the third progress report on actual performance against cash profile for 2008-09 financial year

18. QUARTER 3 ACCRUALS BASED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS REPORT 2008-09 (HEFCW/09/23)

18.1 Council received the accruals based management accounts report for the period April to December 2008 (Q3)

18.2 Resolved: to note the financial report on the management accounts prepared on an accruals basis for the period April to December 2008 (Q3).

19. 2009 COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS TIMETABLE (HEFCW/09/24)

19.1 Council received the confirmed 2009 committee meeting dates as at March 2009.

Resolved:

19.2 to note the timetable as provided;

19.3 to note the outstanding meeting dates yet to be confirmed.

20. FINAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP (HEFCW/09/25)

20.1 Council received the committee appointments approved by the Appointments Committee as at 12 March 2009.

Resolved:

20.2 to note the external committee appointments;

20.3 to note the next stages to be taken to communicate decisions to applicants and appointees;

20.4 to note the outstanding committee appointments to be brought back to Council at its meeting on 8 May 2009.

21. INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING (HEFCW/09/26)

21.1 Council received the institutional primary and secondary initial teacher training (ITT) intake targets for 2009/10 and reports on revised arrangements for ITT strategies.

Resolved:

21.2 to note the institutional ITT intake target allocations for 2009/10;

21.3 to note the exercise of delegated authority by the Chairman in approving the allocations;

21.4 to note the exercise of delegated authority by the Chief Executive on future arrangements for ITT strategies and funding.

22. HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY (HEA) FINAL PROGRESS REPORT AND REPORT 2007/08 (HEFCW/09/27)

22.1 Council received the final report on the progress of the HE A against the grant letter for 2007/08 and the Annual Report of the HEA for the UK.

Resolved:

22.2 to note the final report of the HEA on performance against the HEFCW grant letter for 2007/08;

22.3 to note the annual report of the HE A for the UK for 2007/08.

23. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY FOR 2007/08 (HEFCW/09/28)

23.1 Council received the final report of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) on progress towards meeting the activities for 2007/08 as set out in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between QAA, Higher Education Wales (HEW) and HEFCW.

23.2 Resolved: to note the final report of the QAA on progress towards meeting the activities for 2007/08 set out in the SLA.

24. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE 2 MARCH 2009 MEETING (HEFCW/09/29)

24.1 Council received the tabled unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 2 March 2009.

Resolved:

24.2 to note the tabled unconfirmed Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 2 March 2009.

25. ANNUAL REPORT OF LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES AND MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 16 JANUARY 2009 (HEFCW/09/30)

25.1 Council received and considered the confirmed minutes of the Council's Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC) held on 16 January 2009 and the Annual Report of the LTC and Quality Assessment Committee (QAC).

25.2 Resolved: to receive the confirmed minutes of the Council's Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC) held on 16 January 2009 and the Annual Report of the LTC and Quality Assessment Committee (QAC).

26 MINUTES OF THE HR COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 30 JANUARY 2009 AND 13 FEBRUARY 2009 (HEFCW/09/31) MEMBERS ONLY

26.1 Council received the minutes of the HR Committee meeting held 30 January and 13 February 2009.

26.2 Resolved: to note the minutes of the HR Committee meeting held 30 January and 13 February 2009.

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