
Minutes of the 128th meeting of the Council held 30 January 2009 in HEFCW Offices, Llanishen.

Present:

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

Observers: Dr Dennis Gunning, Director, Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning Group (DCELLS), Welsh Assembly Government
Mr Mike Hopkins, Welsh Assembly Government assessor (for Minute 16)
Mr David Sweeney, Director of Research, Innovation and Skills, HEFCE

Officers: Dr David Blaney
Mr Roger Carter
Dr Ewen Brierley to Minute 8
Ms Niina Hammond
Mr Richard Hirst
Ms Leanne Holborn from Minute 8
Ms Celia Hunt
Ms Bethan Owen
Ms Linda Tiller

Apologies: were received from Mr Mark Batho, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Councils and

1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council noted:

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Professor Anthony Hazell to his first meeting of Council as a Council Member;

1.2 The Chair welcomed Mr David Sweeney, Director of Research, Innovation and Skills, HEFCE to the meeting.

1.3 The following standing members' interests were declared:

- Mr David Allen as a member of the Quality Assurance Committee of the University of Wales and Board Member of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education
- Professor Philip Gummatt whose partner is employed at Swansea Metropolitan University
- Professor Anthony Hazell as a Board Member of the Quality Assurance Agency;
- 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.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2008
(HEFCW/08/MIN127)

Resolved: that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 12 December 2008.

3. MATTERS ARISING (HEFCW/09/01)

3.1 Council received and considered a report on action taken following the previous Council meeting held 12 December 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: to note that the second part of the Higher Education Review would end by 31 March 2009, with submission of a report to the Minister.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (HEFCW/09/CE1)

5.1 Initial teacher training (ITT): Penalties for over-recruitment

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

Council received and considered proposals for institutional penalties for over-recruitment in ITT as part of the Council's responsibility for quota control.

Resolved: to approve over-recruitment limits from 2009/10, with any penalties influencing intake targets from 2010/11 onwards.

5.2 National Assembly for Wales (NAW) Audit Committee hearing 21 January on Wales Audit Office (WAO) report on Reconfiguration and Collaboration

Council received an update on the NAW Audit Committee hearing on the WAO report on Reconfiguration and Collaboration.

Resolved:

- i) to note action already taken by the Council to publish more information about our processes, including the characteristics of successful and unsuccessful bids, in order to aid future proposals from HEIs.
- ii) to note that further actions will be taken to amend the arrangements in the light of the outcomes of the Assembly Government's response to Audit Committee's consideration of the WAO report.

5.3 Transforming Education and Training

Council received an update on the considerations by HEIs of the Welsh Assembly Government policy document 'Transforming Education and Training Provision in Wales: Delivering Skills that Work for Wales'.

Resolved:

- i) to note HEI responses which had been received by the Council;
- ii) that the presentation to be given at agenda item 16 would provide further detail on the Policy and update on progress.

5.4 The Welsh Affairs Committee First Report of Session 2008-09 on Cross-border Provision of Public Services for Wales: Further and Higher Education (HC 57)

Council received and considered the Report, the Parliamentary press release and the tabled Council response.

Resolved: to note that the Council had highlighted to the Wales Office and to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills that research, which has significant non-devolved dimensions, is a major issue for Wales and requires their attention.

5.5 DIUS-Devolved Administrations' work on cross-border research collaboration and funding

Council considered the outcomes of the meeting between the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on 17 December 2008.

This paragraph is exempt from disclosure under section 35 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (formulation of Welsh Assembly Government Policy).

5.6 Economic Crisis Update

Council received an Oral update on the economic crisis, and a tabled paper summarising HEFCW's response to date.

Resolved:

- i) to note that responses were being received from HEIs and that, thus far, no immediate financial problems were expected;
- ii) that the Council would discuss the issues with HEW and the Welsh Assembly Government to ascertain an overall HE stance;
- iii) to note the valuable role of HEIs as employers, as well as the Welsh Assembly Government's focus on the skills agenda

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

iv)

5.7 HEFCW Remit Letter

Council received an update on discussions held with the Welsh Assembly Government on the timing of the 2009-10 Remit Letter.

Resolved: to note that the first draft of the 2009-10 Remit letter was expected in mid-February 2009.

5.8 ERASMUS Update

Council received and considered a proposal to increase the Erasmus budget in 2008/09 and 2009/10, the latter being subject to another review in January 2010.

Resolved: to approve the proposed ERASMUS budget in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

5.9 Scoping the Position of Women in Senior Management in Higher Education in Wales

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

5.10 Chief Executive Calendar of Meetings since 12 December 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.

5.11 Note of the Institutional Visit to the Open University in Wales 11 December 2008

Council received and noted a tabled note of the Institutional Visit to the Open University in Wales on 11 December 2008.

5.12 Minister unveils new fundraising framework for Higher Education

Council received and noted the Welsh Assembly Government press release reporting on the Wales HE Fundraising Framework and that further work was in hand to develop the operational aspects of the framework with a view to launching for the academic year 2009/10.

5.13 GO Wales Update

Council received and noted an update on GO Wales funding and plans for implementation of the programme.

5.14 Meeting with Head of the University of Glamorgan 12 December 2008

Council noted the rescheduled meeting with the Vice-Chancellor and representatives of the University of Glamorgan held 12 December 2008.

5.15 Environmental Management Accreditation

Council noted that HEFCW had been awarded level two accreditation of the Green Dragon Environmental Management System.

5.16 Exercise of Delegated Authority

Council received and noted the Exercise of Delegated Authority on the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education – Pan-Wales Leadership and Management Development Project; Joint UUK/CUC/GuildHE project – updating guidance on appointment of senior managers in higher education; Study on Implications of Metrics-Based Research Assessment.

6. OUTCOMES OF 2008 RESEARCH ASSESSMENT EXERCISE (RAE) (HEFCW/09/02)

6.1 Council received and considered the outcomes of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) for the Welsh Higher Education sector.

6.2 Professor Sir Brian Smith reiterated his declaration of interest as International Ambassador for Cardiff University and did not take part in the discussions at minutes 6 and 7.

6.3 Resolved:

- i) to note the RAE outcomes for each HEI; at subject level, including by STEM subjects; by regions, against UK quality comparators and in comparison against the Welsh Assembly Government's key sectors;
- ii) that further possible measures to strengthen the research base in Wales would be discussed by the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee before being presented to the Council later in 2009.

7. RESEARCH FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FROM 2009/10: INITIAL PROPOSALS (HEFCW/09/03)

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

7.1 to 7.8

8. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH INSTITUTIONS (HEFCW/09/04)

8.1 Council received and considered new approaches to engagement with institutions, including with governing bodies, to the analysis of institutional strategic plans and to current Council assurance processes.

Council noted:

- 8.2 that the timetable for implementing new approaches would need to be drawn up taking into account HEIs' own timetables for production of Strategic Plans and in the light of the outcomes of the Jones Task and Finish Group.

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

8.3 to 8.8

9. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2009-10 – 2011-12 (HEFCW/09/05)

- 9.1 Council received and considered the first draft of the HEFCW Corporate Strategy 2009-10 – 2011-12 and a revised and evolving timetable for developing the strategy for 2010-11 – 2012-13.

Council noted:

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

9.2 to 9.5

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY SUPPORT FOR THE HE SECTOR: FUTURE DIRECTION (HEFCW/09/06)

- 10.1 Council received and considered the support HEFCW provides, and the monitoring it carries out, in relation to equality and diversity issues in the HE sector in Wales.

Council noted:

Resolved:

- 10.2 to note HEFCW's activities to date for supporting the HE sector in addressing its responsibilities on equality and diversity issues;
- 10.4 to note ongoing and future equality and diversity matters affecting the HE sector;

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

10.5 and 10.6

11. BASELINE GRANT SETTLEMENT AND RECURRENT GRANT 2009-10 (HEFCW/09/07)

- 11.1 Council received and considered the Council's baseline grant settlement for 2009-10 FY and recurrent grant proposals for 2009/10.

Council noted:

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

11.2 to 11.9

12. RECONFIGURATION AND COLLABORATION (HEFCW/09/08)

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

- 12.2 Council received and noted progress of the Reconfiguration and Collaboration Fund (RCF) and the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) since its last meeting on 12 December 2008.

Resolved:

- 12.3 to note the position on Reconfiguration and Collaboration and Strategic Development Fund funding;

- 12.4 to note the progress of Reconfiguration and Collaboration and Strategic Development Fund developments.

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

12.5 and 12.6

13. NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE; REVISED COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND 2009 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE (HEFCW/09/10)

- 13.1 Council received a progress report following the recent review of the Council committee structure.

Resolved:

- 13.2 to note the details of Council members Chairing and serving the revised committees; a timetable of the process and confirmed committee meeting dates.
- 13.3 to approve the extension of the term of the independent member on the Appointments Committee to 31 March 2009;
- 13.4 to amend the membership of the Reconfiguration and Collaboration committee to allow the Chief Executive to be a standing member in his capacity as Chief Executive.
- 13.5 to amend the Council Standing Order to allow a named Council member to be identified by the Chairman on an annual basis to Chair Council meetings and otherwise act for the Chairman in his/her absence.
- 13.6 to note the Chair's thanks to the Council members for agreeing their roles as committee Chairs and members.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Evaluation of HEFCW's Third Mission Fund Cycle 2004/05 to 2006/07

Resolved: to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to submit the Innovas Evaluation of HEFCW's Third Mission Fund Cycle 2004/05 to 2006/07 Report to the Review of Higher Education.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted:

- i) the date of the next meeting as 13 March 2009, to be held at Glyndŵr University, Wrexham;
- ii) that the next meeting of Council would be preceded by an Institutional Visit to Glyndŵr University on 12 March 2009,
- iii) that the next meeting of Council would be followed by a HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue meeting on 13 March 2009.

16. TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROVISION IN WALES – PRESENTATION

- 16.1 Council received and noted an oral presentation on Transforming Education and Training Provision in Wales from Dr Dennis Gunning and Mr Mike Hopkins, the Welsh Assembly Government.

- 16.2 Mr Roger Thomas thanked them on behalf of the Council for their very helpful presentation.

- 17. COUNCIL FORWARD BUSINESS PLAN (HEFCW/09/09)
 - 17.1 Council received the Forward Business Plan for Council meetings to be held March to September 2009.
 - 17.2 Resolved: to note the Forward Business Plan for the Council meetings to be held March to September 2009.

- 18. THIRD MISSION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE 28 NOVEMBER 2008 MEETING (HEFCW/09/11)
 - 19.1 Council received the unconfirmed Minutes of the Third Mission Committee meeting held 28 November 2008.
 - Resolved:
 - 19.2 to note the unconfirmed Minutes of the Third Mission Committee meeting held 28 November 2008.

- 20. LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE 16 JANUARY 2009 MEETING (HEFCW/09/12)
 - 20.1 Council received the unconfirmed Minutes of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held 16 January 2009.
 - 20.2 Resolved: to note the unconfirmed Minutes of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting held 16 January 2009.

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