

**Higher Education Academy Annual Report for Wales 2008 – 2009**

This report documents progress against **The Higher Education Academy: Grant arrangements for 2008/09** for the period 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 in Wales.

Grant letter ref	Status	ITEM	COMMENT	FOR CONSIDERATION IN 2010/ 2011
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to focus on assessment, work-based learning/employability, research-informed teaching practice, technology-enhanced learning, and Welsh medium.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focus remained on these during 2008/09.</li> <li>- A Research-Teaching nexus Action Set w established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Build into operational plan</li> <li>(ii) Review and revise in context of 'For Our Future'</li> </ul>
1a (i)	<b>Completed (On-going)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to work with and respond to sector needs as identified through the Welsh Institutional Group (WIG) and HEW Learning and Teaching Advisory Group, taking forward opportunities for collaborative activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WIG advised on sector needs and needs incorporated into the Programme of Activities for Wales 2008 – 2009”</li> <li>- Met with HEW Learning and Teaching Advisory Group.</li> <li>- Collaborative activity includes continuation of developing a community of practice in Wales in regard to enhancing learning and teaching through technology under the Gwella initiative; a sector wide project to aid retention via supporting the First Year Experience Action Set; supporting the sector better understand and enhance the links between research and teaching by supporting an all Wales Research-Teaching nexus Action Set; supporting an</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain relationships and continue to advise on sector need.</li> <li>- Steering Group for biennial conference to be WIG.</li> </ul>

			all Wales ESDGC HE Network	
1a (ii)	<b>Completed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update programme of activities</li> <li>- prepare a quality enhancement (QE) action plan, identifying short and longer term enhancement activities.</li> <li>- Provide draft programme of activities and QE plan to the LTC in October 2008, with the report on performance against the 2007/08 grant letter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of activities updated (and replaced the QE action plan)</li> <li>- Short term activities identified. Longer term activities not identified as awaiting WAG response to the Jones Review</li> <li>- October LTC cancelled.</li> <li>- Worked with QAA on QE agenda. Published QAA-HEA survey for Wales.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Longer term activities will emerge from the themes identified from the proposed Wales biennial learning and teaching conference.</li> </ul>
1a (iii)	<b>Completed/ On-going</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to assist HEFCW in implementation of technology-enhanced learning (TEL) strategy.</li> <li>- Share best practice across Wales regarding the use of technology in learning and teaching.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benchmarking work of original 7 HEIs completed and outstanding (Swansea, Glyndwr, Cardiff, Newport) 4 started.</li> <li>- Consultancy support provided and visits undertaken to all institutions.</li> <li>- Interim Gwella Report published December 2008, Final Benchmarking Report published February 2009</li> <li>- Practice shared via 'E for Enhancement Conference'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to support Gwella and implementation of TEL strategy.</li> <li>- Continue to support the Enhancement Academy project to support Trinity Saint David University</li> <li>- Plan completion of Gwella and support for the sector.</li> </ul>
1a (iv)	<b>Completed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate sector's ability to deliver the actions set out in WAG's Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) Strategy.</li> <li>- Analyse outcomes of analysis of where ESDGC is taught and report to us.</li> <li>- Convene meetings of the Welsh HE ESDGC Network in Wales</li> <li>- Facilitate more visible and active link between the ESD project and activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation via supporting 3 meetings of the ESDGC HE Network Wales Group</li> <li>- Co-ordinated via ESDGC Network Group</li> <li>- Outcomes of curriculum audit were analyzed. Report published June 2009. On-going liaison and reporting, including recommendations to HEFCW.</li> <li>- ESDGC work in Wales regularly reported to the HEA monthly ESD e-Newsletter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to support the ESDGC HE Network Wales Group, identifying how development can progress building on the curriculum audit.</li> </ul>

		in Wales.		
1a (v)	<b>Completed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review institutional widening access strategies 2006/09 and Reaching Wider funded proposals.</li> <li>- Submit a widening access review, including recommendations.</li> <li>- Proposals for the work will be an agenda item for the Oct 2008 Widening Access Committee (WAC) meeting</li> <li>- Submit final report in February</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review conducted.</li> <li>- Review /Final Report delivered to time and recommendations made</li> <li>- [Note: Not in the year of reporting, but the report was published and launched at a HEFCW Academy conference, October, 2009.]</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the implementation of the recommendations as appropriate and section 54 of 'For Our Future '</li> <li>- [Note: For our Future was published after the preparation of the Programme of Activities 2009/10]</li> </ul>
b		<p><u>Advise HEFCW on policies relating to quality enhancement of learning and teaching:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chief Executive of the Academy or his Deputy to observe meetings of Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Senior Advisor, Wales attended on behalf of Chief Executive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deputy Chief Executive now attending Student Experience, Teaching and Quality Committee.</li> </ul>
b (i)	<b>Partially completed<sup>1</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advise and assist in working on graduate employability initiatives, employer engagement, and work based learning, taking account of <i>Skills that</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work in Wales incorporated into HEA UK-wide Employability, enterprise and employee-learning programme. Welsh activity reported at: 'Skills conference in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Respond to 'For Our Future'</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Awaiting the outcome of the Jones Review of H.E. resulted in difficulty in determining direction.

		<i>Work for Wales: a Skills and employment strategy</i> , including disseminating existing good practice within and outwith Wales.	Wales' (Oct 2008); London EE Facilitation Group planning day (Mar 2009); Workforce Development Network Conference - invited to give expert evidence to Welsh Employment and Skills Board (WESB); - Meeting of HEA Deputy Chief Executive and Sir Adrian Webb, Chair WESB.	
(ii)	<b>Partially completed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue engagement with Skills for Business Network in Wales to increase relevance of HE provision to meet needs of Welsh employers, including encouraging links between Subject Centres (SCs) and Sector Skills Councils (SSCs).</li> <li>- Participate in partnership between LLUK and other HE stakeholders to develop map of workforce development interventions for HE clearly articulating roles and activities of all partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engagement with SSCs has been variable.</li> <li>- Gave presentation at Skillfast UK Wales event (Nov 2008)</li> <li>- Meetings with LLUK on two occasions in the context of dialogue with HEW.</li> </ul> <p>Due to issues between LLUK and the sector this was not taken forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to liaise with WESB.</li> <li>- Respond to HEW and WIG requests for support as appropriate.</li> </ul>
(iii)	<b>Completed</b>	- Implement WAG's policies on widening access, including through the HEFCW Reaching Wider initiative.	See under 1 a (v) above	As above
(iv)	<b>Completed (On-going)</b>	- Continue to advise sector on assessment issues, including addressing concerns raised regarding assessment and feedback in the outcomes of the national student survey and the implications for Wales of the	<p>Work built on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2006/07 examples of assessment and feedback from all Welsh institutions</li> <li>- 2007/08 strategic issues of assessment and feedback, including Senior Managers Forum (Mar 2009) and Practitioners</li> </ul>	See Improving Learning. A Programme of Activities for Wales 2009 – 2010

		Higher Education Achievement Report.	Forum (May 2009). - Aberystwyth University and UWIC continued into second phase of HEAR pilot.	
(v)	<b>Partially completed</b>	- Continue to work with the HEFCW-funded Disability and Diversity Coordinator to facilitate institutions in broadening access and improving provision for under-represented groups in HE, including taking forward outcomes of the ethnicity, gender and degree attainment project and work on diversity in the curriculum.	- Senior Advisor (Disability) involved in the evaluation of Widening Access strategies (see above). - First Year Experience Action Set investigated initiatives to support students coming from under-represented groups - Welsh HEIs invited and included in the HEA/ECU UK call.	- Continue to respond as appropriate.
(vi)	<b>Completed/ (On-going)</b>	- Continue to work with QAA, NUS Wales, HEW and others to support institutions in enhancing student engagement in higher education in Wales.	- HEA is a member of the Group that developed the Welsh Initiative for Student Engagement (WISE) - Work on student engagement is fed back to the HEA	- Include Wales in wider Academy activity on student engagement. - Continue to liaise with Cross agency group.
(vii)	<b>Completed</b>	- Work with Welsh HEIs and others on issues relating to Europe and internationalisation; - engage effectively with the Wales International Consortium, Wales Higher Education Brussels (WHEB) and the Bologna Expert for Wales in progressing this agenda and helping Welsh institutions to take it forward; - liaise with Erasmus National Agency.	- A British Council – Academy conference ‘Extending Horizons: The Benefits of the European Dimension on the Student Learning Experience’ was held in Cardiff University (May 2008). The Wales Bologna Expert (Huw Morris) was a member of the small planning group - Meeting with WIC took place - Liaison with the Bologna champion for Wales. - On-going liaison with WHEB.	- Continue to support the sector as appropriate, ensuring the PMI 2 project Teaching and Learning for International Students (TALIS) is widely understood in Wales.

			- Contact made with David Hibler (Erasmus National Agency)	
(viii)	<b>Completed (On-going)</b>	- Advise institutions on recruitment and retention and how they may best be enhanced, to maintain the competitiveness of institutions in Wales.	- Supported all-Wales Action Set on the First Year Student Experience investigating initiatives to support the first year and aid retention. Now published.	- Continue to support the First Year Experience Action Set linking work with the Academy York Programme Area Team.
c	<b>Completed<sup>2</sup></b>	<u>Support Welsh Medium Teaching:</u> - Work with the WM HESG and the sector, including through the WM HESG Staff Development Sub-Group, to provide advice and guidance to support Welsh Medium teaching staff in applying the Professional Standards Framework in a Welsh medium context.	- Worked with the WM HESG to support development of a 'module'/programme to support staff teaching bilingually and through the medium of Welsh available to all Welsh HEIs and intended to fit within the Professional Standards Framework. Module was piloted	- See Programme of Activities for Wales 2009 – 2010 - Disseminate and make widely available (e.g. through the Institutional Partnership Programme (IPP) visits, WIG etc.
(ii)	<b>Completed (On-going)</b>	- Ensure that Subject Centres (SCs) build and maintain links with particular disciplines in the Welsh HE sector in a Welsh medium context, as well as creating network groupings between centres and institutions. - include consideration of ways in which the SCs can contribute to projects funded by the CWMHE, including work arising from Welsh medium network panels. - Comment on Subject Development Plans during the consultation agreed by	- Prioritised 'Welsh Medium Development Plans' submitted to relevant subject centres for comment and feedback. As new development plans emerge they will be forwarded to SCs. Meeting arranged to discuss further material received from CWMHE - Meeting arranged with Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics (C-SAP) and Welsh medium projects submitted (not successful). Meeting with Health Science and practice (HSaP) subject centre and Dr Dafydd Trystan and	- Continue as appropriate.

<sup>2</sup> Although there have been issues around getting sufficient appropriate Welsh speaking staff to support the delivery of it.

		<p>WM HESG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HEA website to provide Welsh language content for each SC.</li> </ul>	<p>Welsh medium project taken forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further work has been undertaken to move to a position where each SC website has a standard page in Welsh. A number of centres have significant information in Welsh (e.g. Law)</li> </ul>	
(iii)	<b>Completed (On-going)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take account of the Welsh Medium context in developing technology-enhanced learning approaches in Wales, and work with the E-learning sub group of the WM HESG.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welsh medium was an explicit aspect of the 'E for Enhancement' conference (April 2009).</li> <li>- Monitor JISC Open Educational Resources project for opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review progress and support.</li> </ul>
(iv)	<b>Completed (On-going)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with the CWMHE on scoping possible research into good practice in bilingualism and the use of lesser used languages within HE in a European context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project identified and commissioned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review project and link with Bangor University Centre for Bilingual Teaching.</li> </ul>

**Gabriel Jezierski, Head of Policy and Partnerships (Wales and Northern Ireland) December 2009**