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**Disclosable Minutes of the 135th meeting of the Council held 29 January 2010  
at HEFCW Offices, Cardiff**

**Present:**

**Members:** Mr Roger Thomas (Chairman)  
Professor Philip Gummett (Chief Executive)  
Mr David Allen  
Dame Sandra Burslem  
Professor Leni Oglesby  
Professor Sir Brian Smith  
Professor Robin Williams

**Observers:** Mr Jim Cowan (Head of Higher Education Review, DCELLS, Welsh  
Assembly Government) from Minute 7  
Ms Katie Dalton, President, National Union of Students in Wales  
Ms Yvonne Hawkins, Associate Director, Midlands and the South,  
HEFCE

**Officers:** Dr David Blaney  
Ms Leanne Holborn (to minute 7.14)  
Mr Roger Carter  
Ms Niina Hammond  
Mr Richard Hirst  
Ms Gemma Long  
Ms Celia Hunt  
Ms Cliona O'Neill  
Ms Bethan Owen  
Ms Emma Raczka

**Apologies:** were received from Mr Mark Batho, Chief Executive, SFC; Mr Mike  
Hopkins, Welsh Assembly Government; Professor Mari Lloyd-Williams  
and Mrs Pauline Thomas.

1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council noted:

1.1 The following standing members' interests were declared:

- Mr David Allen as a Board Member of the Leadership Foundation for  
Higher Education and a former member of the Equality Challenge Unit  
Review Group.

- Professor Philip Gummett whose partner is employed at Swansea Metropolitan University.
- Professor Sir Brian Smith as International Ambassador for Cardiff University.
- Mr Roger Thomas as former Chair of Governors of the University of Glamorgan and Honorary Doctor of the University of Glamorgan.
- Professor Robin Williams as Emeritus Professor of the University of Wales and Swansea University and Honorary Fellow of Cardiff University, Bangor University and Swansea University.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2009  
(HEFCW/10/MIN134)

Resolved: that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 11 December 2009 subject to minor correction of the paragraph numbering at minute 6.5 and the following amendment to minute 5.2:

- iv) to note the recent announcement of the new Cabinet ~~and the new name of the sponsor Department: 'Children, Education and Lifelong Learning'~~. Further noted that the new Minister would be invited to attend a meeting of the Council.

3. MATTERS ARISING (HEFCW/10/01)

- 3.1 Council received and considered a report on action taken following the previous Council meeting held 11 December 2009.

Resolved:

- 3.2 to note the contents of the Matters Arising report.
- 3.3 Further noted [Minute 6.6] that UWIC had withdrawn its previous new name proposal and was currently considering 'Cardiff Metropolitan University'.

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 that the Chair and Chief Executive would meet with the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning on 4 February 2010. Further noted the agenda would include implementation of *For Our Future*.

- ii) to note thanks to members for their feedback to the Members' Development Review, outcomes of which would be circulated to members.
- iii) to note that the Chair would be attending a meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Group to be held June 2010 following cancellation of the February 2010 meeting.
- iv) to note that Council would visit Cardiff University on 11 March 2010 for an Institutional Visit.
- v) to note that the primary agenda item to be considered at the HEW/CHEW/HEFCW Strategic Dialogue meeting on 18 March 2010 would be *For Our Future*.
- vi) to note an oral update from the Chair of the Student Experience, Teaching and Quality committee on its meeting held 20 January 2010. Further noted that a presentation by the President of the NUS in Wales had been received and the main discussion items had been matters of strategic importance relating to *For Our Future*; the strengthening of existing academic resources; part-time student support and provision and widening access.
- vii) to note an oral update from the Chair of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee on its meeting held 26 January 2010 and a tabled letter from the Chief Executive to the sponsor department of the Welsh Assembly Government on National Research Centres. Further noted that the committee had discussed *For Our Future*, in particular international research; the European Framework Programme 8 in Wales and the Economic Renewal Programme.

Resolved: to approve the letter detailing HEFCW's proposed criteria for the establishment of National Research Centres under the *One Wales* policy to be sent to the Welsh Assembly Government Director of Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning.

- viii) to note that the Chair and Chief Executive had attended a recent meeting of the UK Funding Council Chairs and Chief Executives in London, at which common concerns had been discussed.
- ix) to note that an invitation had been sent to the Chair and Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Board to present before either the May or July 2010 Council meeting.
- x) to note that the Chair and Chief Executive of Colleges Wales had presented on FE, including HE in FE, in Wales prior to today's Council meeting.

- xi) to note that the Council member interviews had taken place in January 2010 and that outcomes were awaited from the Welsh Assembly Government.

## 5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (HEFCW/10/CE1)

### 5.1 Reflections on Institutional Visit to UWIC on 28 January 2010

Council considered the Institutional visit to the University of Wales Institute of Cardiff (UWIC) on 28 January 2010.

#### Resolved:

- i) to note the significant governor input and that the discussion had provided useful opportunities to discuss a range of matters.

### 5.2 Governance at Glyndŵr University

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

### 5.3 Glyndŵr University: Initial Teacher Training (ITT) over-recruitment

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

### 5.4 Joint Information System Committee (JISC) Funding

Council received a tabled proposal to reclaim the underspend from 2008/09, and to use approximately £50,000 to support the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme for 2009/10.

#### Resolved:

- i) to approve the use of approximately £50,000 of the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme funding from 2008/09 to support the technology-enhanced learning strategy through the JISC Capital Infrastructure Programme for 2009/10.

### 5.5 Engagement with DE&T's Economic Renewal Programme

Council received and noted information on HEFCW's liaison with Welsh Assembly Government officers over the Department of Economy and Transport's Economic Renewal Programme.

### 5.6 Bangor University: possible departmental closures

Council noted an update on possible restructuring at Bangor University, which some have claimed could impact upon subjects of broader importance to Wales, and on Welsh Medium provision. Further noted the University's response to the claims.

5.7 Chief Executive Calendar of Meetings since 11 December 2009

Council received and noted the Chief Executive's Calendar of Meetings held since the last Council meeting.

5.8 Note of Institutional Visit to Aberystwyth University 15 December 2009

Council received and noted the note of the Institutional Visit to Aberystwyth University on 15 December 2009.

5.9 Finance Committee submission

Council received and noted HEFCW's submission to the National Assembly for Wales' Finance Committee. Further noted that officers appeared before the Committee on 20 January 2010 and that the transcript would be available shortly.

5.10 Ministerial Review of the Costs of Higher Education in Wales

Council noted that the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning was had commissioned a two-stage review of the costs of Higher Education in Wales. Further noted that a Report on the first stage was due in March 2010.

6. REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF HEFCW (HEFCW/10/02)

6.1 Council received and considered the Report of the Citizen-centred Governance Review of HEFCW undertaken by the Welsh Assembly Government's Performance and Governance Unit June to August 2009.

Council noted:

6.2 that as at 29 January 2010, the Report had not been published by the Welsh Assembly Government therefore remained non-disclosable.

6.3 that the suggestion to work more closely with sponsor department colleagues was welcomed by the Council.

6.4 that a paper detailing the proposed actions to be taken in response to the report's recommendations would be presented to Council's next meeting on 12 March 2010.

Resolved:

6.5 to note the Report on the Citizen-centred governance review of HEFCW.

7. RECURRENT FUNDING FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/11 – INITIAL STEERS (HEFCW/10/03)

7.1 Council received and considered the Council's baseline grant settlement for financial year (FY) 2010-11 and considered the developments of proposals for the distribution of recurrent grant for academic year (AY) 2010/11.

Council noted:

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

7.2 to 7.14

8. FOR OUR FUTURE, HEFCW'S REMIT LETTER, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEFCW CORPORATE STRATEGY 2010-11 – 2012-13 (HEFCW/10/04)

8.1 Council received and considered a further draft of the HEFCW Corporate Strategy; the first draft action plan for *For our Future, The twenty first century higher education plan for Wales* and a tabled updated draft action plan.

In a wide ranging discussion, Council noted:

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8.2 to 8.5

9. DEVELOPING A REGIONAL DIMENSION TO THE PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF HIGHER EDUCATION (HEFCW/10/05)

9.1 Council received and considered a draft consultation circular which set out proposals for developing a regional dimension to the planning and delivery of higher education.

Council noted:

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9.2 to 9.8

10. WELSH MEDIUM PROVISION: COLEG FFEDERAL (HEFCW/10/06)

10.1 Professor Robin Williams declared to the meeting that he had chaired the Coleg Ffederal Planning Board before his appointment to the Council.

10.2 Council received and considered developments relating to the Coleg Ffederal to support Welsh medium higher education provision.

Council noted:

10.3 that the Chair of CHEW would be consulted over the membership of the Shadow Board.

10.4 the Chair's thanks to HEFCW officers for their work on the Coleg Ffederal.

Resolved:

10.5 to delegate authority to the Chairman and the Chief Executive to appoint the Chair and Members of the Shadow Board and to establish its remit, following discussion with HEW.

11. RECONFIGURATION AND COLLABORATION (HEFCW/10/07)

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

11.2 Council received a report on developments relating to the Reconfiguration and Collaboration Fund (RCF), associated 'One Wales' funding and the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) since its last meeting on 11 December 2009.

Council noted:

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11.3 to 11.6

12. CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR WALES (HEFCW/10/08)

12.1 Council received and considered its reviewed *Code of Practice for Members of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales*.

- 12.2 Council noted that a paper would be presented to Council for approval without discussion if the sponsor department of the Welsh Assembly Government returned any recommendations for change.

Resolved:

- 12.3 to approve the proposed amendments to its *Code of Practice for Members of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales*.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to report.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted the date of the next meeting as 12 March 2010, to be held at HEFCW Offices, Llanishen and attended by the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning.

15. RETIREMENT POLICY (HEFCW/10/09)

- 15.1 Council received and considered amendments made to the Retirement Policy in light of the previous discussions.

- 15.2 Resolved: to approve the Retirement Policy.

16. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE POLICY (HEFCW/10/10)

- 16.1 Council received and considered the new Committee Members' Travel & Subsistence Policy.

- 16.2 Resolved: to approve the Committee Members' Travel & Subsistence Policy.

17. OPERATIONAL PLAN 2009/10 – QUARTER 3 PROGRESS REPORT (HEFCW/10/11)

- 17.1 Council received the update on progress on the second quarter of 2009-10 against activities in HEFCW's *Operational Plan 2009-10* and an update report on progress to December 2009.

- 17.2 Resolved: note the third quarter outcome of HEFCW's *Operational Plan 2009-10*.

- 18. COUNCIL FORWARD BUSINESS PLAN (HEFCW/10/12)
  - 18.1 Council received the Forward Business Plan for Council meetings to be held March to September 2010.
  - 18.2 Resolved: to note the Forward Business Plan for the Council meetings to be held March to September 2010.
  
- 19. ANNUAL REPORT OF QAA (HEFCW/10/13)
  - 19.1 Council received the final report of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) on progress towards meeting the activities for 2008/09 as set out in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between QAA, Higher Education Wales (HEW) and HEFCW.
  - 19.2 Resolved: to note the final report of the QAA on progress towards meeting the activities for 2008/09 set out in the SLA.
  
- 20. OUTCOMES OF HEFCW EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY SUPPORT FOR THE HE SECTOR IN WALES CONSULTATION (HEFCW/10/14)
  - 20.1 Council received the responses from the sector following public consultation on the future direction of the advice and support HEFCW provides in relation to equality and diversity issues in the HE sector in Wales.
  - Resolved:
  - 20.2 to note the sector's responses to the public consultation.
  - 20.3 to note HEFCW's responses to the consultation outcomes.

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