

**Annual Report to the Council**  
**from the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee**  
**2013/14**

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 HEFCW's Committee Standing orders specify that all Committees should provide the Council with an annual report on the discharge of their duties. This paper presents the report of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee for academic year 2013/14.

**2 Remit of the Committee**

- 2.1 The remit of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee is:
- a) To advise the Council on its strategies for innovation, engagement and research activities and the policies and principles that need to underpin them in the long term, including funding arrangements.
  - b) To act as a source of and sounding board for new ideas and approaches in the field of innovation, engagement and research activity.
  - c) To recommend to the Council strategies in support of HEFCW's corporate plan as it relates to innovation and research activities, and which also promote and facilitate joint working between the Council and its key partner organisations in these areas.
  - d) To consider any matters referred to the Committee by the Council.
  - e) In all of the above to seek and take account of the views of such stakeholders as it considers appropriate and of appropriate research and, likewise, to incorporate advice from independent specialists where appropriate.
- 2.2 The Committee's full terms of reference are attached at **Appendix A. (Note: Some adjustments to the composition of the Committee have been recommended to the Council under a separate item in the Committee's report.)**

### **3 Policy Context**

3.1 The wider policy developments which informed the Committee's work in 2013/14 included:

- The ongoing implications of the Welsh Government's policy on undergraduate tuition fee grants.
- The implementation of Sêr Cymru, the Welsh Government's £50 million investment programme, established to help support the objectives of *Science for Wales*. The funding is being used to appoint a number of eminent Research Chairs, and to establish three National Research Networks.
- The deadline for submissions to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, and the commencement of the assessment phase.
- The development and launch of a new phase of European Funding (2014-2020).

### **4 Review of Business in 2013/14**

4.1 The Research Innovation and Engagement Committee met on two occasions in academic year 2013/14:

- 4 October 2013
- 3 April 2014

4.2 The chief items of business covered during 2013/14 were:

*i) October 2013*

- Presentation by PACEC consulting on evaluation of research collaborations supported through HEFCW's Reconfiguration and Collaboration Fund
- Future of GO Wales
- Higher Education Business and Communities Interaction Survey 2011-12 Interim Report
- Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers: EC proposals for formal certification

*ii) April 2014*

- Presentation by Dr Nick Bourne, Cardiff University on Fusion IP

- Final report of the subgroup established to consider the outcomes of the Higher Education Business and Communities Interaction (HEBCI) Survey 2011/12
- HEFCW's Strategic approach to Research, Innovation and Engagement
- National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB) – Update
- Sources of Research Income of HEIs in Wales 2012/13
- HEFCW's Remit Letter 2014-15

- 4.3 In addition, the Committee regularly received the Minutes of the Student Experience, Teaching and Quality Committee (SETQC), and liaised with that Committee over issues of common interest when appropriate, particularly in relation to the skills agenda.
- 4.4 The Committee provided the Council with a report on each meeting, including the draft Minutes, on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

## **5 Further information on key issues**

- 5.1 A summary of the content of the Committee's discussions of the most significant items from the above list is provided below.
- a) *Evaluation of Research Collaborations Supported through HEFCW's Reconfiguration and Collaboration Fund*
- 5.2 At its October meeting, the Committee received a presentation from PACEC consultants on a combined evaluation of the Aberystwyth/Bangor Research and Enterprise Partnership, the Wales Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience (WICN) and the Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (WIMCS). This was complemented by a presentation from Professor Gareth Rees, the then Director of the Wales Institute for Social and Economic Research Data and Methods (WISERD) on the outcomes of an evaluation of WISERD, and on his own reflections on lessons learnt.
- 5.3 The Committee discussed the achievements of these collaborative partnerships, together with the challenges that had been faced, and lessons learnt.
- b) *Future of GO Wales*
- 5.4 Also at the October meeting, the Committee considered proposals for the development of a new GO Wales programme for the period 2015 to 2020. The Committee confirmed its strong support for GO Wales and endorsed the proposed approach to the new programme. Since that time, the GO Wales

Manager and colleagues have continued to develop the proposals and are currently in the process of submitting applications to the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO).

c) *Higher Education – Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) Survey 2011/12*

5.5 The Committee had agreed in 2012/13 to establish a small sub-group to consider the outcomes of the Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction (HE-BCI) Survey and advise on more detailed analyses, including benchmarking Welsh HEIs with peers elsewhere in the UK. The sub-group, which consisted of Professor Robin Williams, Professor Dylan Jones-Evans, Bryn Jones, and HEFCW staff, presented the outcomes of its work to the Committee in April 2014. The new range of analyses which has been developed will help ensure that HEFCW and the sector derive maximum benefit from the HE-BCI data in future.

d) *Development of a Statement on HEFCW's Strategic Approach to Research, Innovation and Engagement*

5.6 At its meeting in April, the Committee agreed to develop a statement on HEFCW's Strategic Approach to Research, Innovation and Engagement. Part of the context for this development was provided by the withdrawal of HEFCW's Innovation and Engagement Fund, which was agreed in 2012/13 as a consequence of funding pressures arising from the new arrangements for undergraduate student tuition fees. A small group was established to help with the development of the statement, which was presented to the first meeting of the Committee in 2013/14.

### *Spearhead Discussions*

5.7 In addition to the scheduled Committee meetings, we also arranged two meetings in 2013/14 with a sub-group of members to help advise the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, Professor Julie Williams, on her proposals for a successor to the Sêr Cymru programme, known as Spearhead. The sub-group emphasised the importance of ensuring that the proposed investment should be focused on a limited number of large, strategic awards which would be of sufficient scale to deliver real impact.

## **6 Committee Membership**

6.1 The membership of the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee, as at October 2014, is attached at **Appendix B**.

6.2 During the course of 2013/14, the Committee said goodbye to the following members:

- Simon Bradley (Business representative, EADS)
- Professor Dylan Jones-Evans (Innovation/Engagement staff member)
- Pauline McDonald (Welsh Heads of Careers Services)

6.4 The Committee welcomes the following new members who were appointed during the course of 2013/14

- Chris Meadows (Business representative, IQE)
- Professor Nigel Scollan (Innovation/Engagement staff member) (Aberystwyth University)
- Dr Carolyn Reeve, Department for Business, Innovation and Science (observer)

## **7 Meeting Dates in 2014/15**

7.1 The Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee will hold two meetings in 2014/15. The meeting dates are:

- Tuesday 10 February 2015
- Thursday 15 October 2015

### HEFCW Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee Remit

#### 1 CONSTITUTION

A Committee of the Council to be known as the Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee (the Committee) established with the following Terms of reference and standing orders by a resolution of the Council dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2008 and 10 December 2010.

#### 2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- a) To advise the Council on its strategies for innovation, engagement and research activities and the policies and principles that need to underpin them in the long term, including funding arrangements.
- b) To act as a source of and sounding board for new ideas and approaches in the field of innovation, engagement and research activity.
- c) To recommend to the Council strategies in support of HEFCW's corporate plan as it relates to innovation and research activities, and which also promote and facilitate joint working between the Council and its key partner organisations in these areas.
- d) To consider any matters referred to the Committee by the Council.
- e) In all of the above to seek and take account of the views of such stakeholders as it considers appropriate and of appropriate research and, likewise, to incorporate advice from independent specialists where appropriate.

#### 3 STANDING ORDERS

##### 3.1 The standard HEFCW Committee Standing Orders shall apply.

##### 3.2 Membership and Attendance

- 3.2.1 The Committee shall comprise up to seventeen members, including at least one member of the Council. The Committee will be chaired by a Council member.
- 3.2.2 The quorum for Committee meetings is four members, including the Chair or his/her nominee.
- 3.2.3 The Director of the Institutional Engagement Team and relevant officers shall normally attend the meetings of the Committee.

3.2.4 A member of the Research, Innovation and Engagement section of the Institutional Engagement Team shall service the Committee.

### **3.3 Authority**

3.3.1 The Committee is an advisory body with no executive powers.

3.3.2 The Committee shall have the authority to establish Task and Finish Groups to provide advice as it considers necessary.

## **Composition of Research Innovation and Engagement Committee**

### ***Members***

#### ***Council***

At least one member of Council

(The Committee will be chaired by a member of Council)

#### **Appointments committee appointees**

Two business sector representatives

Pro Vice-Chancellor or equivalent (Innovation)

Engagement/Innovation staff member

Pro Vice-Chancellor or equivalent (Research)

Academic researcher

#### **Nominees**

Universities Wales (with research experience)

Research Councils UK

DEST (A4B)

DEST (Enterprise/Entrepreneurship)

Welsh Higher Education European Liaison Officers Network (WHEELOs)

Wales (HE) Industrial Liaison Officers Network (WILOs)

Welsh Heads of Careers Services (WHECS)

#### **Observers**

DfES

Universities Wales officer

Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB) (when applicable)

#### **Officers**

Director of Institutional Engagement

Head of Research, Innovation and Engagement section

Senior Research Manager (*joint Secretary*)

Senior European/International Manager (*joint Secretary*)

Head of Skills and Employability section

**HEFCW Research, Innovation and Engagement Committee  
Membership (as at October 2014)**

**Membership**

Member of Council (Chair)	Professor Robin Williams
Members of Council	Professor Mark E Smith ( <i>Deputy Chair</i> ) Professor Stephen Tomlinson
Two business sector representatives	Chris Meadows, Open Innovation Director, IQE Vacancy
Pro Vice-Chancellor or equivalent (Innovation)	Professor Hilary Lappin-Scott, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Strategic Development and External Relations, Swansea University
Engagement/Innovation staff member	Professor Nigel Scollan, Aberystwyth University
Pro Vice-Chancellor or equivalent (Research)	Professor David Shepherd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), Bangor University
Academic Researcher	Professor Kevin Morgan, Cardiff University

**Nominees**

Universities Wales	Professor Michael Scott, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Glyndŵr University
Research Councils UK	Alexandra Saxon, Head of Communications, RCUK Strategy Unit
DEST (A4B)	Phil Allen, Head of Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation
DEST (Enterprise/Entrepreneurship)	Sue Morgan, Head of Enterprise Education
Welsh Higher Education European Liaison Officers Network (WHEELOS)	Professor Peter Quantick, Chair of WHEELOS and European Projects Director, University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Wales HE Industrial Liaison Officers Network (WILOS)	Bryn Jones, Chair of WILOS and Head of Knowledge Exchange, Bangor University

**Observers**

Dept for Business, Innovation and Science (BIS)	Dr Carolyn Reeve
DfES	Vacancy
Universities Wales	Amanda Wilkinson, Director, HEW
Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB) – when appropriate	Berwyn Davies, Director
Chief Scientist's Department, DBETS (when appropriate)	Jon Waters, Science Division

**HEFCW Officers**

Head of Institutional Engagement	Bethan Owen
Head of Research, Innovation and Engagement section	Dr Alyson Thomas
Senior European/International Manager	Dr Tove Oliver ( <i>Joint Secretary</i> )
Senior Research Manager	Linda Tiller ( <i>Joint Secretary</i> )
Head of Skills and Employability section	Jackie Cresswell-Griffith