

Minutes of the 170th meeting of the Council held on 8 May 2015 at HEFCW offices, Llanishen, Cardiff

Present:

Members:

David Allen (Chair)
Dr David Blaney (Chief Executive)
Dame Sandra Burslem
Bethan Guilfoyle
David Mason
Dr Arun Midha
Professor Leni Oglesby
Professor Mark Smith
Professor Stephen Tomlinson
Professor Robin Williams
Ewart Wooldridge
Dr Colin Wyatt

Observers:

Yvonne Hawkins, Director of Universities / Colleges,
HEFCE
Huw Morris, Welsh Government
Neil Surman, Welsh Government
James Dunn, Communications Officer, National Union of
Students Wales (on behalf of Beth Button)

Officers:

Hannah Falvey (from agenda item 12)
Dale Hall
Celia Hunt
Bethan Owen
Emma Rączka
Nick Williams

Apologies:

Beth Button, NUS Wales
Laurence Howells, Chief Executive, SFC

1. Introductory remarks and declarations of interest

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed two new members to their first Council meeting, Dr Arun Midha and Dr Colin Wyatt. Dr Midha and Dr Wyatt had also attended the Members' Workshop on 7 May. The Chair also welcomed the observers to the meeting.
- 1.2. The Council observed a period of silent reflection to mark the recent passing of Professor Sir Herbert Duthie, formerly Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the University of Wales College of Medicine, 1979-1994.

1.3 No specific members' interests were declared in relation to any of today's agenda items above and beyond those currently published on HEFCW's website.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015 (HEFCW/15/Min169)

2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising (HEFCW/15/34)

3.1 Council received a report on actions and developments since the previous Council meeting.

Noted:

3.2 *Spearhead Programme* – The European funding bid had not been successful at this stage but work on the Programme was continuing. It was noted that the agreed conditions for financial support from HEFCW were that match funding from the office of the Chief Scientific Advisor for Wales should be provided and also a clear commitment from Wales' research-intensive universities to the programme. The Council reiterated its view that, should the Spearhead Programme proceed, it was vital that appointments were made by the institutions concerned, noting that the importance of this principle had been borne out by the experiences of similar schemes in England.

3.3 *Pay negotiations* – Confirmation had been received from HEFCW's sponsor division that the pay remit proposals had been approved by the Minister. Arrangements would now proceed to a Works Council meeting to open the pay negotiation process. The Council welcomed these developments and added that it hoped that in future pay negotiations could be addressed more quickly.

3.4 *HEFCW budget changes* – Written confirmation was still awaited from the Welsh Government about the rationale for the decision on future responsibility for the tuition fee grant. The Welsh Government observer (NS) promised to take this forward.

4. Chair's Report

4.1 Council received the Chair's Calendar of Meetings/Activities since the last meeting of Council on 12 March 2015. The Chair said that at his presentation to the Council and senior management team of Swansea University on 20 April he had been briefed on the development of the Swansea City Region with which the University was closely involved. Developments appeared to be progressing well.

5. Chief Executive's Report (HEFCW/15/CE3)

5.1 Reflection on Members Workshop, 7 May 2015 – The Chair thanked all Council members for their considered and reflective contributions to the Workshop. The Chief Executive added that he had found the session helpful, particularly the steers given by the Council on the development

of HEFCW's next Corporate Strategy. Council members agreed that it had been a productive day's discussion, and added that they had particularly welcomed the external input from the presentations by Welsh Government officials. It was agreed it would be desirable to have external input as a regular feature of future Workshops - for example, it might be helpful to seek some input from an experienced regulator for the next Workshop in November.

A key theme of the Workshop discussion had been how to address the challenges of working in the new statutory context, while continuing to address existing priorities and building relationships. At the core of this was the Council's view of itself as a champion for students.

5.2 Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Bill

The above legislation had been approved by the National Assembly for Wales on 17 March 2015 and had received royal assent. There would be a further report to Council once the finalised statutory guidance was released.

5.3 Health Professional Education Investment Review

- 5.3.1 Council noted the various recommendations from the review and the potential impacts. The Council raised the question of how the issue of transition between undergraduate and postgraduate would be dealt with. It was agreed that it was important that undergraduate medical education took place in the context of a strong research environment. The existing commissioning body for health provision (WEDS) had indicated they did not believe that health provision for which HEFCW had oversight would be taken in to any new body, but that it was likely in future that HEFCW would be expected to liaise closely with WEDS.

Resolved:

- 5.3.2 That the executive would consult further with Arun Midha and Steve Tomlinson on HEFCW's draft response to the survey.
- 5.3.3 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to finalise HEFCW's response for submission by the deadline of 25 May.

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs; commercial interests; personal information)

5.4 Exempt minute

5.4.1 Exempt minute

5.4.2 Exempt minute

5.4.3 Exempt minute

5.4.4 Exempt minute

5.4.5 Exempt minute

5.4.6 Exempt minute

5.5 Exempt minute

5.5.1 Exempt minute

5.5.2 Exempt minute

5.5.3 Exempt minute

5.5.4 Exempt minute

5.5.5 Exempt minute

5.5.6 Exempt minute

Resolved:

5.5.7 Exempt minute

5.6 Council received and noted a number of items for information:

- Chief Executive's Calendar of Meetings since the last meeting of Council on 12 March 2015
- Welsh-medium Scholarship Scheme, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
- UK Research Partnership Investment Fund – Council congratulated Cardiff University on its success, and thanked HEFCW staff who helped with this.
- Note of Institutional Visit to Cardiff Metropolitan University, 13 March 2015.
- Report on exercises of delegated authority through the Scheme of Delegation.
- Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD): Education

6. Remit Letter 2015-16 (HEFCW/15/35)

6.1 The paper provided a copy of the finalised remit letter and a first draft of actions and outcomes. The Council welcomed the focus in the remit letter on the important role of HEFCW's QR funding, and more generally on the priority attached by the Welsh Government to developing high capacity research in Wales.

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs).

6.2 Exempt minute

6.3 Exempt minute

6.4 Exempt minute

Resolved:

6.5 To note the remit letter 2015-16 and the initial actions and outcomes identified.

6.6 To note the update on the operational plan 2015-16.

7. Widening Access policy developments (HEFCW/15/36)

7.1 The paper provided a report on widening access policy developments, including a draft programme of action from the Widening Access Conference held in December 2014. The draft programme reflected the Widening Access Strategic Approach and the full range of consultation responses, and consequently was lengthy. The final version would contain substantially fewer and more focussed actions.

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs).

7.2 Exempt minute

7.3 Exempt minute

7.4 Exempt minute

7.5 The Welsh Government observer (NS) offered to assist HEFCW to finalise the programme of action and to ensure that it resonated with the concerns of interest to Minister.

Resolved:

7.6 To note the consultation responses.

7.7 That the draft Widening Access Programme of Action be further developed with a view to it containing fewer, more focussed actions and taking on board the steers from the Council at minute 7.2.

7.8 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, liaising with NS as necessary, to finalise the Widening Access Programme for submission to Welsh Government.

8. 'Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers' (Furlong Report) (HEFCW/15/37)

8.1 The paper provided a summary of Professor John Furlong's 'Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers' report and its recommendations. The Council noted that it had received a detailed presentation from Huw Morris on the report at its Workshop on 7 May.

8.2 One of the key recommendations in the report was that HEFCW's accreditation role, which is a statutory responsibility, would transfer to the

Education Workforce Council, though it was unclear if all initial teacher training (ITT) related responsibilities would also transfer. One area of uncertainty was how Welsh-medium ITT provision would be maintained.

- 8.3 The Council agreed that it was important to have ITT centres in Wales of high enough quality and that were able to attract the best trainers and trainees. It was observed that historically there had not been a strong enough partnership between schools and universities on ITT matters and therefore it would be welcome if there were improvements in how schools supported the professional training of teachers.
- 8.4 On the conclusion in the report that ITT currently was not well led, the Welsh Government observer (HM) explained that Professor Furlong's concerns related to a lack of overall strategic academic leadership and co-ordination at an all-Wales level in relation to ITT.
- 8.5 The Chief Executive added that the report had identified a range of issues around structures, but the key matter related to accreditation standards and how they would be cast. This would be the real challenge in taking forward the recommendations and the basis on which the proposals would succeed or fail.

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs).

8.6 Exempt minute

8.7 Exempt minute

8.8 The Council thanked CH for her contribution over many years, and with very little staff resource, in support of ITT in Wales.

Resolved:

8.9 To note Professor Furlong's report, 'Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers'.

9. Quality assessment consultation (HEFCW/15/38)

9.1 The paper presented a draft consultation document on new quality assessment arrangements for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (the paper was currently strictly confidential and had been circulated to Council members and HEFCW staff only).

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information provided in confidence; prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs).

Exempt minute

9.2 Exempt minute

9.3 Exempt minute

9.4 Exempt minute

9.5 Exempt minute

9.6 Exempt minute

Resolved:

9.7 To note the draft consultation document.

9.8 To note that a cover circular would be developed to consider Wales-specific issues for discussion at a Wales consultation event in June 2015.

9.9 That members feed through to the executive any further comments on the consultation process.

9.10 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign off the Welsh consultation document.

10. SETQC/QAC: proposed new remits (HEFCW/15/39)

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (for future publication).

10.1 Exempt minute

10.2 Exempt minute

Resolved:

10.3 Exempt minute

10.4 Exempt minute

11. HE (Wales) Act Implementation (HEFCW/15/40)

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (for future publication).

11.1 Exempt minute

11.2 Exempt minute

11.3 Exempt minute

11.4 Exempt minute

Resolved:

11.5 Exempt minute

11.6 Exempt minute

11.7 Exempt minute

11.8 Exempt minute

11.9 Exempt minute

11.10 Exempt minute

11.11 Exempt minute

12. HEFCW Funding Allocations 2015/16 (HEFCW/15/41)

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs).

12.1 Exempt minute

12.2 Exempt minute

12.3 Exempt minute

12.4 Exempt minute

12.5 Exempt minute

Resolved:

12.6 Exempt minute

12.7 Exempt minute

12.8 Exempt minute

12.9 Exempt minute

12.10 Exempt minute

12.11 Exempt minute

12.12 Exempt minute

12.13 Exempt minute

12.14 Exempt minute

12.15 Exempt minute

12.16 Exempt minute

12.17 Exempt minute

12.18 Exempt minute

12.19 Exempt minute

12.20 Exempt minute

12.21 Exempt minute

12.22 Exempt minute

13. Capital Funding (HEFCW/15/42)

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (for future publication).

13.1 Exempt minute

13.2 Exempt minute

Resolved:

13.3 Exempt minute

13.4 Exempt minute

13.5 Exempt minute

14. Analysis of income 2011/12 to 2013/14 (HEFCW/15/43)

The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs).

14.1 Exempt minute

14.2 Exempt minute

14.3 Exempt minute

Resolved:

14.4 Exempt minute

14.5 Exempt minute

14.6 Exempt minute

15. Any other business None.

16. Date of next meeting

16.1 Minister meeting Council, 30 June 2015

16.2 Institutional Visit to Cardiff University, 2 July 2015

16.3 Council meeting – 3 July 2015 at the HEFCW offices, Llanishen, Cardiff.

Papers for approval without discussion:

17. GO Wales Student Employability Programme (HEFCW/15/44)

Resolved:

- 17.1 To agree that, if requested to do so by WEFO, HEFCW should proceed to full business plan for the GO Wales Student Employability Programme.
- 17.2 To confirm authority delegated to the Chief Executive to take forward the business plans for the Student Employability Programme.
- 17.3 To agree that if possible HEFCW should seek Competitiveness funding for a replica programme in East Wales.
- 17.4 To agree that, in the absence of Competitiveness funding, HEFCW would fund a replica programme within the agreed budgets if the Convergence application is successful.
- 17.5 To agree that a targeted Graduate Programme should be explored with WEFO.
- 17.6 To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to submit a business plan for a graduate programme if invited by WEFO.

Papers provided for information:

- 18. Operational Plan 2014-15: End of Year Report (HEFCW/15/45)**
- 19. Reconfiguration and Collaboration (HEFCW/15/46)**
- 20. Sources of Research Income of Higher Education Institutions in Wales 2013/14 (HEFCW/15/47)**
- 21. UK Healthcare Education Advisory Committee (HEFCW/15/48)**
- 22. Minutes (unconfirmed) of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, 4 March 2015 (HEFCW/15/49)**
- 23. Minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee 12 March 2015 (HEFCW/15/50) [Council members only]**
- 24. Annual Report on the work of the Human Resources Committee (HEFCW/15/51) [Council members only]**
- 25. Appointments Committee Annual Report (HEFCW/15/52)**

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