

**Minutes of the 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2017 at the HEFCW office, Bedwas**

**Present:**

**Members:** David Allen (Chair)  
Dr David Blaney (Chief Executive)  
Bethan Guilfoyle  
David Mason  
Dr Arun Midha  
Professor Leni Oglesby  
Professor Mark Smith  
Professor Robin Williams  
Dr Colin Wyatt

**Observers:** Mario Ferelli, Director of Analytical Services, HEFCE  
Huw Morris, Welsh Government [to agenda item 6]  
Chris Jones, Welsh Government  
Fflur Elin, President, National Union of Students Wales

**Officers:** Dale Hall (Council Secretary)  
Celia Hunt  
Bethan Owen  
Nick Williams

**Apologies:** Dame Sandra Burslem  
Dr John Kemp, Interim Chief Executive, SFC

**1. Introductory remarks and declarations of interest**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all the observers to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Council noted, with sadness, the announcement yesterday of the death of the former First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, and paused in silent reflection.
- 1.3 Fflur Elin said that this would be her final Council meeting as the National Union of Students (NUS) Wales observer as she would shortly be stepping down as President. The Chair took the opportunity to thank Fflur on behalf of the Council for her valuable contributions over the past year and wished her well for the future.
- 1.4 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 22 March 2017 (HEFCW/17/Min181)**

- 2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 22 March 2017, subject to the following amendment:
- Minute 5.6 – Third sentence amended to: ‘...to ensure that there would be more attending from the **FE** provider...’

### **3. Matters Arising (HEFCW/17/33)**

- 3.1 *Electronic Council papers* – Subject to resolution of the installation problems currently being experienced with the software, it was intended to provide a demonstration of the system at the Council’s meeting in July, with a view to roll out for the September meeting.

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

#### 3.2 Exempt minute

- 3.3 Minute 3.1 initial teacher education bids – The Welsh Government observer (CJ) said there were no further updates on the process at this stage but agreed to provide an update, if available, at the next meeting.
- 3.4 Minute 5.3 Murphy Review - CJ said there were no further updates at this stage on the Review Report. The Council noted in this context the additional funding announced in the revised remit letter 2016-17, which included £1.1m earmarked to alleviate the impact of reductions to the Expensive Subjects premium, and specifically to help sustain performing arts provision.

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

#### 3.5 Exempt minute

### **4. Chair’s Report (HEFCW/17/CH3)**

- 4.1 Council received and noted the Chair’s Calendar of Meetings.
- 4.2 The Chair and Chief Executive had met with the National Training Federation Wales, Colegau Cymru and Universities Wales to consider options for closer joint working.
- 4.3 The Chair and Chief Executive’s contributions to the governor training event for Wales in April had emphasised to governors the importance of the Cabinet Secretary’s prioritisation of the civic engagement role of universities, and also of the key role of governors in providing an appropriate degree of challenge to university executives, particularly in areas such as financial and student forecasts and on enhancing the student experience.
- 4.4 The Chair had spoken at the event to launch HEFCW’s ‘Innovation Nation’ publication at the Senedd in March, which had been well attended. Next year’s edition in the ‘Higher Education Nation’ publication series would focus on the theme of civic engagement by universities in Wales, and it would be considered whether to arrange a similar event to launch the publication.

4.5 After today's meeting, the Chair and Chief Executive were due to meet with the Chair, Deputy Chair and new Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University.

## 5. Chief Executive's Report (HEFCW/17/CE3)

### 5.1 Reflection on Workshop, 17 May

Members commented that the Workshop had covered a range of useful topics, which included the implications of the changes in the accounting standards for HE and FE institutions and a presentation from HESA on its Data Futures project.

### 5.2 Hazelkorn Review: oral update

The Welsh Government was planning to issue a White Paper for consultation in June, which would have a 90 day response deadline. Work was in train in Welsh Government on scoping the legislative requirements of implementing the Hazelkorn recommendations. In the meantime, the Chair and Chief Executive had agreed with the Cabinet Secretary that it would be valuable to hold initial conversations with further education and private training provider representative bodies around what a post-16 strategy might look like (minute 4.2 refers).

### 5.3 Diamond Review: oral update

There was a project stream in Welsh Government dealing with the implementation of the Diamond Review recommendations. HEFCW officers were liaising with the relevant Welsh Government officials.

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

Exempt minute

Exempt minute

Exempt minute

### 5.4 Welsh Government review of conservatoire and performing arts provision in Wales (Murphy Review): oral update

See minute 3.4 above.

***Non-disclosable (commercial interests; prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs)***

5.5 Exempt minute

Exempt minute

Exempt minute

Exempt minute

***Non-disclosable (commercial interests; prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs)***

5.6 Exempt minute

Exempt minute

Exempt minute

Exempt minute

- 5.7 Remit Letter 2016-2017: adjustments and revisions  
***Non-disclosable (information provided in confidence; for future publication)***  
Exempt minute

- 5.8 HE policy developments in England: oral update  
The Bill had now passed as the Higher Education and Research Act 2017. The HEFCE observer said the organisation was proceeding with the transitional arrangements towards the creation of Research England and the Office for Students from April 2018. The next key step would be the appointment of the Chief Executive of the Office for Students.

The outcomes of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2 would now be announced after the General Election, on 13 June. HEFCW officers were linking with HEFCE on the communications arrangements around the TEF announcement.

- 5.9 Quality assurance of Access to HE provision (tabled)  
Due to the ending of the Service Level Agreement with the Quality Assurance Agency, it was proposed that providers now bear the costs of quality assuring Access Validating Agencies, which covered access courses that were not at HE level.

Resolved: The Council approved transferring the costs of quality assuring Access Validating Agencies to providers, in line with HEFCW's overall quality assurance approach.

- 5.10 Appointment of REF Main Panel Chairs  
Resolved: The Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve recommendations for the appointment of REF Main Panel chairs.

- 5.11 HEFCW's remit letter task regarding educational practice  
Resolved: The Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve the final proposal for the allocation of the additional £125,335 provided in the revised remit letter 2016-17 for:
- i. supporting high quality research into the relationship between Successful Futures and disadvantaged communities; and
  - ii. engaging researchers in education departments across HEIs in Wales to enhance capacity building and support researchers in playing a more regular and effective role in policy-making and educational practice.

- 5.12 Council received and noted a number of items for information:
- Chief Executive's Calendar of Meetings since the last meeting of Council on 22 March 2017.

- Note of Institutional Visit to Wrexham Glyndŵr University, 23 March 2017
- Apprenticeship Policy in Wales
- Quality Assurance of Transnational Education
- Appointments Committee actions

**6. HEFCW funding academic year (AY) 2017/18 (HEFCW/17/34)**

6.1 The paper presented specific proposals for the distribution of funding for the AY 2017/18 and the allocations for individual institutions. The proposals took into account the steers provided by the Council at its meeting in March 2017, and the comments received from HE providers in response to those steers which had been shared with them after the last Council meeting.

***The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (for future publication; information provided in confidence).***

6.2 Exempt minute

6.3 Exempt minute

6.4 Exempt minute

6.5 Exempt minute

6.6 Exempt minute

6.7 Exempt minute

6.8 Exempt minute

*Resolved: The Council*  
6.9 Exempt minute

6.10 Exempt minute

6.11 Exempt minute

6.12 Exempt minute

6.13 Exempt minute

6.14 Exempt minute

6.15 Exempt minute

6.16 Exempt minute

6.17 Exempt minute

6.18 Exempt minute

- 6.19 Exempt minute
- 6.20 Exempt minute
- 6.21 Exempt minute
- 6.22 Exempt minute
- 6.23 Exempt minute
- 6.24 Exempt minute
- 6.25 Exempt minute
- 6.26 Exempt minute
- 6.27 Exempt minute

[Huw Morris left the meeting at this point.]

## **7. Higher Education Research Capital Funding (HEFCW/17/35)**

***The paragraph below is exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (for future publication).***

7.1 Exempt minute

7.2 The Council welcomed in this context news that Sêr Cymru Chairs Professors James Durrant and Yves-Alain Barde had this year been elected Fellows of the Royal Society.

Resolved: The Council

7.3 Delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make the final decision to allocate the proposed research capital funding allocations for 2017-18, on the basis outlined in Annex A Model 3, dependent upon the agreement by the Welsh Government to provide the required match monies.

7.4 Noted the allocation and reporting proposals set out within paragraphs 8.1 and 9.1 of the paper.

## **8. HEFCW's remit letter 2017-18 and draft Corporate Strategy 2017-2020 (HEFCW/17/36)**

8.1 Council noted the contents of the remit letter 2017-18, and of the draft Corporate Strategy 2017-2020 and proposed consultation circular.

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

8.2 Exempt minute

8.3 Exempt minute

8.4 Exempt minute

*Resolved: The Council*

8.5 Noted the remit letter 2017-18.

8.6 Exempt minute

8.7 Exempt minute

## 9. Basket of goods (HEFCW/17/37)

9.1 The paper proposed a response to the remit letter 2017-18 task for HEFCW to work with officials to compile and publish on an annual basis the prices of a basket of goods, to be agreed with Government, for each institution. The proposals were based on the principle of covering the prices of goods that were under institutions' control.

***The paragraphs below are exempt from publication under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information provided in confidence).***

9.2 Exempt minute

9.3 Exempt minute

9.4 Exempt minute

9.5 Exempt minute.

*Resolved: The Council*

9.6 Exempt minute

9.7 Exempt minute.

9.8 Exempt minute

9.9 Exempt minute

## 10. The student experience (HEFCW/17/38)

***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: The Council*

10.3 Exempt minute

10.4 Exempt minute

10.5 Exempt minute

**11. Any other business**

None.

**12. Date of next meeting**

12.1 Institutional visit to Aberystwyth University – 12 July 2017.

12.2 Council meeting – 13 July 2017 at Aberystwyth University.

**Papers for approval without discussion:**

None.

**Papers provided for information:**

**13. Operational Plan 2016-17: End of Year Report (HEFCW/17/39)**

**14. UK Healthcare Education Advisory Committee Annual Report (HEFCW/17/40)**

**15. Sêr Cymru 2 update following second round of appointments (HEFCW/17/41)**

**16. Appointments Committee Annual Report 2016-17 (HEFCW/17/42)**

**17. Unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee held on 8 March 2017 (HEFCW/17/43)**

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