

Bangor University

COUNCIL MINUTES

At a meeting of the Council held in the University on Friday, 24 April 2020.

Present

Mrs Marian Wyn Jones (Chair), Mr Mark Barrow, Dr Tomos Dafydd, Professor Iwan Davies, Dr Myfanwy Davies, Professor Andrew Edwards, Dr Peter Higson, Dr Griff Jones, Dr Karen Jones, Dr Llion Jones, Mr Marc Jones, Sir Paul Lambert, Mrs Alison Wilson, Miss Lleucu Myrddin, Ms. Ellen Parry Williams, Miss Julie Perkins, Dr Ian Rees, Professor Gareth Roberts, Professor David Thomas, Professor Carol Tully, Professor Oliver Turnbull, Mr Tudur Williams, the University Secretary, the Director of Human Resources, the Director of Property and Campu

19.80 M

The Chair noted that this was the first meeting of the Council since the start of the pandemic that in order to facilitate the smooth running of the University in three areas which included matters relating to the pandemic, the Chair confirmed that neither the current Chair nor the Vice-Chair were being held virtually.

The Chair referred to the recent death of

Alwen Eleri Hughes, former member of staff in the Halls Office

Martin Mortimer, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

John Stevenson, Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences

Dilys Brewer, Student, Learn Welsh North West

Members fell silent in tribute to their memory.

19.82 CONGRATULATIONS

A. On the award of a Personal Chair:

Nia Whiteley, School of Natural Sciences

Peter Shapely, School of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences

Zoe Skoulding School of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics

Thora Tenbrink School of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics

Helena Miguelez Carballeira School of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics

Simon Neill, School of Ocean Sciences

Mattias Green

B. With reference to:

19.85 VICECHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS

- A. The ViceChancellor reported on the strategic challenges for the University during and post the Covid19 pandemic.

The ViceChancellor noted the current exceptional circumstances in which the University found itself, and the challenges both the short and long term. The higher education sector may be one of the most affected by the current Covid pandemic and this was particularly the case in Wales where local economies were far more reliant on the sector.

The University was moving from crisis management situation to one where it needed to start to plan for the future. The Executive was leading on this and as noted that a small working group was currently looking at some of the major challenges for the university and the sector, and setting assumptions from the available evidence and possible opportunities for change. The discussions and planning work would ensure that when the time is right the university could take an evidence based approach to government, when looking for possible financial assistance. It was likely that the current restriction on large gatherings would remain until well into the autumn, and therefore the university needed to be planning for a continuation of online delivery, as well as the resumption of face to face teaching. The impact on student recruitment for September 2020 was currently unknown but the university was modelling a drop in Home / EU numbers and a more significant drop, of up to 50% in international student registrations. Under this scenario, the resultant drop in funding for the university was significant and at best would be in the region of £15m. Work was already in place to look at the government's Job Retention Scheme (furlough) and banking and corporate lending facilities.

The ViceChancellor reiterated his confidence in the Executive team who had provided strong leadership in the preceding weeks and would be leading on issues over the coming months.

- B. The importance of ensuring that Council were adequately signposted issues, and exercised oversight at this crucial time was emphasised. It was noted that the interface between the Executive and Council was essential at this time, and it was agreed that the Chairs of Council committees should meet with the senior

creating the roles of Associate Vice-Chancellors to work on crosscutting University themes and appointing new Deans to assist with college respo

A new set of Ordinances were also presented to the Council and members' attention was drawn to the fact that additional Ordinances were currently being negotiated with UCU. It was noted that a number of drafting comments had been received on the Ordinances prior to the meeting.

in the decision making at the university from the start, and that the response from students so far had been extremely positive. It was noted that new Force Majeure Regulations had been drafted and approved quickly in order to provide a no detriments safety net for students in relation to assessments.

The Chair expressed heartfelt thanks to the Executive team on behalf of Council for the effectiveness of their response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

B. Finance & Resources Committee Minutes

Sir Paul Lambert presented the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee on the 3^d April

B. The Council approved the Strategic Equality Plan for 2020-2024.

19.91 GENDER PAY GAP REPORT

The Council noted the 2019 General Pay Gap Report which the university voluntarily publishes annually

19.92 REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE

A report from the meetings of the Executive held between February 2020 and April 2020 (attached as Appendix 1 to the official copy of the Minutes) was received

19.93 REPORT FROM THE SENATE

The Vice-Chancellor presented the report from the Senate meeting held on the 3 March 2020.

19.94 STUDENTS' UNION UPDATE

The Council noted an update on the Students' Union's recent activities, campaigns and events

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The Report of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 1st March 2020 (attached as Appendix 1 to the official copy of the Minutes) was approved.

19.99 HUMAN RESOURCES MATTERS

- A. The Council received a report on Human Resources matters and noted the update in relation to the National Pay Awards for 2019/20 and 2020/21 and the information on the Staff Survey.
- B. A list of recent senior appointments was received for information.

19.100 VALEDICTION

The Chair noted that this was Professor Tully's last Council meeting and on behalf of members thanked Professor Tully for his significant contribution to the work of the Executive Council, and the University at a senior level for a number of years.

The Chair also noted that this was Mark Barrow and Lleucu Myrddin's last Council meeting and thanks were extended to both Mark and Lleucu for their contribution to the Council the University and to the Students' Union. The Council wished them both well for the future.