

Joint Meeting of the Councils

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the Virtual meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 1 October 2020

Present:

Venerable Randolph Thomas (Chair)
Tony Ball
Pam Berry
Andrew Curl
Tania Davies
Margaret Evans
Sian Eirian
Andrew Gibson
Eifion Griffiths
Emma Hughes
Dr Gareth Hughes
Professor Medwin Hughes

Rowland Jones
James Mills
Arwel Ellis Owen
Victoria Provis
Stuart Robb
Geraint Roberts
Nigel Roberts
Dr Liz Siberry
Maria Stedman
Georgia Thomas
Deris Williams

In attendance:

Sarah Clark, Clerk to Council
Steve Baldwin Director of Strategic Financial Planning and Business Analysis
Gavin Bessant Director of Financial Services
Dr Andrew Cornish, Principal, Coleg Sir Gar
Shône Hughes, Chief of Staff
Professor Dylan Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Catrin Thomas, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Jane O'Rourke, Director of Human Resources
Margaret Williams (Secretary)

In opening the meeting, the Chair asked members to observe the recent death of Phil Owen, a past member of the Council.

Agenda	Main discussion points	Action/decision
20.25 Apologies for absence and Declarations of interest	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Professor Robert Brown.</p> <p>The Councils RECEIVED the Register of Members' Interests 2020/21. The Clerk reported that the register would be published on the University's website.</p> <p>Members were invited to declare their interest in any item on the agenda. No declarations were noted.</p>	
20.26 Approval of the Minutes	<p>The Councils CONFIRMED the minutes of the joint meeting held on 9 July 2020 (JC055) and APPROVED their publication on the University website.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the minutes would be published following translation.</p>	
20.27 Action points and matters arising	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the updated table of action points (JCO056).</p> <p><u>Publication of minutes</u> Members encouraged the University to prioritise the translation of minutes in order to avoid any delays in their publication.</p> <p><u>Risk Management Policy</u> The Clerk reported that the DFS had confirmed that financial tolerance levels had been set below the level of covenants in order to allow space for manoeuvre.</p>	
20.27 Terms of reference	<p>The Councils RECEIVED the terms of reference for the two Councils (JCO057).</p>	
20.28 UW and UWTSD Councils Workplan 2020/21	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the workplans 2020/21 showing the anticipated work for the Joint Council, UWTSD and UW Councils (JCO058).</p> <p>The draft plan was based on standard and expected items. The SD had had an opportunity to consider the work plans and had noted that some flexibility may be required due to the current impact of the Covid-19.</p> <p>The Councils APPROVED the workplans for 2020/21.</p>	
20.29	<p>The COUNCILS CONSIDERED the report of the Chair of Council (JC0059).</p>	

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Report of the Chair	<p>The Chair and members referred to the retirement of Eirlys Pritchard-Jones from the Council and acknowledged her exceptional contribution and support for the work of the University. The Vice-Chancellor thanked Eirlys Pritchard-Jones on behalf of the senior team.</p> <p>Member commended the work of the Vice-Chancellor, officers and staff in responding to the current Covid-19 situation and in ensuring that the campuses were a safe environment for students and staff. They referred to the day of briefings and presentations on 1 October 2020 and expressed their admiration of the staff for embracing the 'new normal' and the way in which radical changes had been managed, demonstrating the University's realistic aspirations for delivering a service to the new world.</p>	
20.30 Report of the Vice-Chancellor	<p>The Councils RECEIVED a presentation from the Vice-Chancellor which focussed on the vision of the two universities and provided an overview of the current position, key priorities and direction of travel for the academic year.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor referred to the challenges of ensuring the safety of students and staff within the current Covid-19 restrictions and articulated some of the issues to be addressed, together with areas of policy and decisions as UWTSD took forward its current Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor noted the importance of demonstrating distinctiveness and value of higher education to both Governments and reinforcing the impact potential of Universities over the next five years. The University would need to develop a proactive and forward looking position with the development of new technical opportunities and infrastructure support for developing enterprise within its communities.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor referred to 'place' making and Civic Mission and outlined the future proposals for individual campuses and city learning centres. He referred to the ongoing curriculum realignment and reported on further revision which had taken place across the Institutes. Officers were also working on establishing more industry-led programmes and innovative research.</p>	

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	<p>The Vice-Chancellor referred to establishing resilience and future proofing the University. He reported on far greater engagement on financial ownership and strategic discussions focussing on outcomes and reaffirming distinctiveness.</p> <p>Members commended the vision of the Vice-Chancellor's presentation and the exciting agenda for the future. Members emphasised the importance for them, as governors, to support and ensure that the University was in a position to achieve the vision and ambitions.</p>	
<p>20.31 Corporate risk Register</p>	<p>The Councils CONSIDERED the Risk Register and recommendations regarding risk appetite (JCO061).</p> <p>The Clerk reported that, following approval of the new Risk Policy, there was a new requirement on the Councils to make an annual determination of the risk appetite in taking forward priorities and strategic planning.</p> <p>Members were referred to the document which provided a definition of risk appetite, an assessment tool and a Senior Directorate recommendation of the risk appetite that might be adopted for the institutional priorities for 2020/21, as set out in <i>Agenda 2020/21</i>.</p> <p>Members also considered the Corporate Risk Register, which had been reviewed and updated by the Senior Directorate since its presentation to the Councils in July 2020. The updates to the register were largely linked to the Covid-19 situation.</p> <p>The Councils AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To CONFIRM the risk appetite recommendation of officers • To CONFIRM the Corporate Risk Register as an appropriate starting position for the year. 	
<p>20.32 Conflicts of interest</p>	<p>No additional conflicts of interest were identified during the course of the meeting.</p>	
<p>20.33 Date and time of next meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting would be held on Thursday 26 November 2020.</p>	